



The Beatles

Read this Wikipedia article about the Beatles and try to guess what the missing words are. The initial letter of the word has been left to help you.

Then check with the key on the next page.

The Beatles were an English rock band, (1) f..... in Liverpool in 1960. They are one of the most commercially (2) s..... and critically (3) a..... acts in the history of popular music. From 1962, the group (4) c..... of **John Lennon** (rhythm guitar, vocals), **Paul McCartney** (bass guitar, vocals), **George Harrison** (lead guitar, vocals) and **Ringo Starr** (drums, vocals). Rooted in skiffle and 50s rock and roll, the group later worked in many genres (5) r..... from pop ballads to psychedelic rock, often incorporating classical and other elements in innovative (6) w..... The nature of their (7) e..... popularity, which first emerged as "Beatlemania", transformed as their songwriting (8) g..... in sophistication. They came to be (9) p..... as the embodiment of ideals of the social and cultural revolutions of the 1960s.

Initially a five-piece line-up of Lennon, McCartney, Harrison, **Stuart Sutcliffe** (bass) and **Pete Best** (drums), they (10) b..... their reputation playing clubs in Liverpool and Hamburg over a three-year period from 1960. Sutcliffe left the group in 1961, and Best was (11) r..... by Starr the following year. (12) M..... into a professional outfit by their manager, **Brian Epstein**, their musical potential was (13) e..... by the creativity of producer **George Martin**. They (14) a..... mainstream success in the United Kingdom in late 1962, with their first single, "Love Me Do". (15) G..... international popularity over the course of the next year, they toured (16) e..... until 1966, then retreated to the recording studio until their break-up in 1970. Each then found success in independent musical careers. Lennon was murdered outside his home in New York City in 1980, and Harrison died of cancer in 2001. McCartney and Starr remain active.

During their studio years, they produced what critics (17) c..... some of their finest material including the album Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967), (18) w..... regarded as a masterpiece. They are the best-selling band in the history of popular music, and four decades after their break-up, their recordings are still in (19) d..... They have had more number one albums on the UK charts and have held the top spot longer than any other musical act. They have sold more albums in the United States than any other artist. The Beatles were collectively (20) i..... in *Time* magazine's compilation of the 20th century's 100 most influential people.



Answer Key

1. formed
2. successful
3. acclaimed
4. consisted
5. ranging
6. ways
7. enormous
8. grew
9. perceived
10. built
11. replaced
12. Moulded
13. enhanced
14. achieved
15. Gaining
16. extensively
17. consider
18. widely
19. demand
20. included

