

# Subcultures built around music

READING

LEVEL  
Intermediate

NUMBER  
B2\_2036R\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English

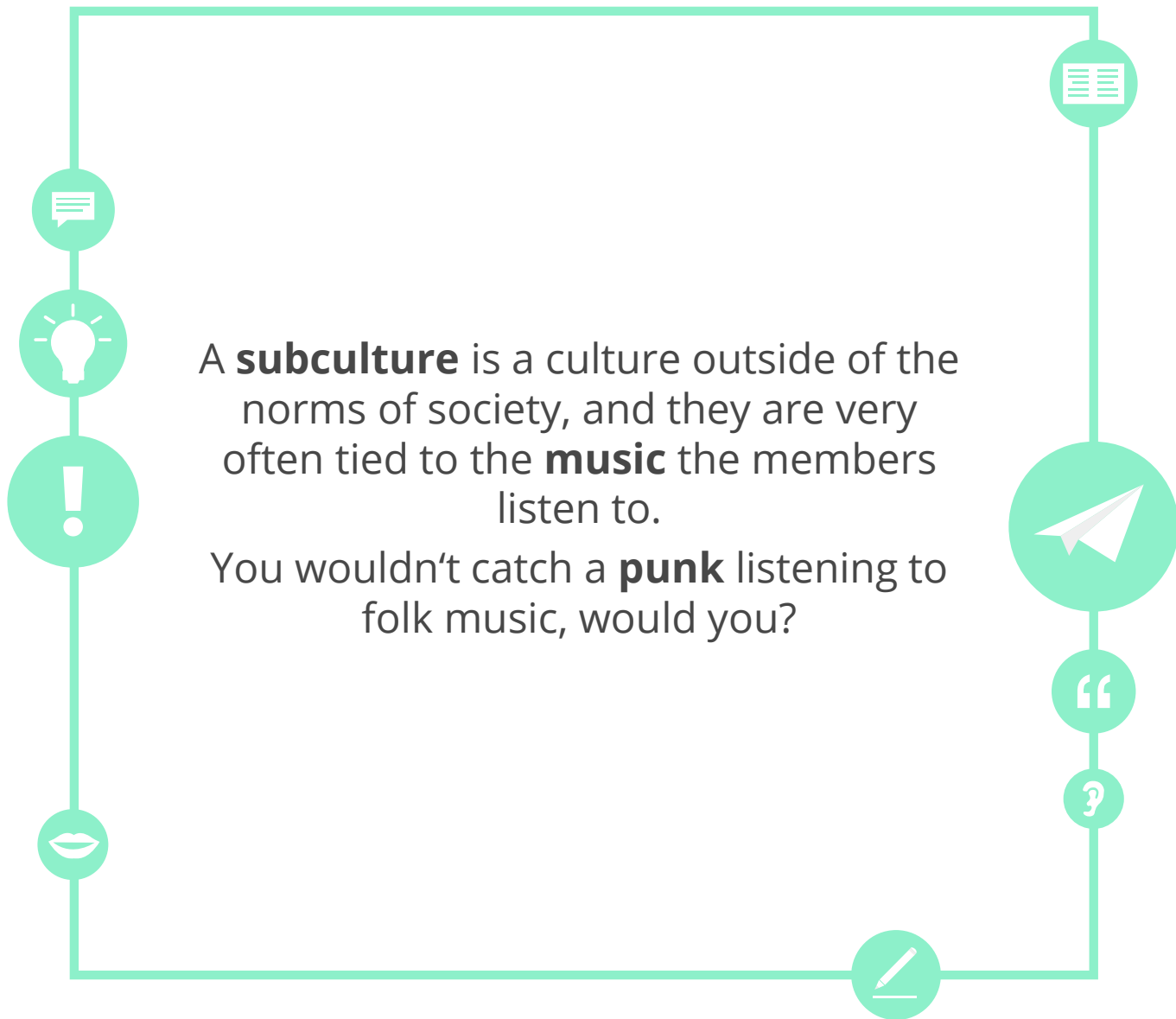




## Goals

- Can read and understand the main points in a text about subcultures built around music.
- Can give my opinion on different subcultures using appropriate vocabulary.







## Vocabulary

**conformist**

**successor**

**introspective**

**startling**

**reject**

**flamboyant**

**thriving**

**embody**





## Vocabulary



A **conformist** accepts and obeys the rules.

Rock and roll was a **successor** to many other types of music.



Gothic music is often very **introspective**.

Brightly coloured clothes can be very **startling**.





## Vocabulary



Punks **rejected** the conformist ideas of their parents.

People wear **flamboyant** clothes during festivals.



Hippie culture **thrived** in the 1960s.

Hippies **embodied** the ideals of peace and love.





## Subcultures built around music

Music has always been a way for people to express themselves. Certain types of music are **associated with** the people who listen to them, from goths and hippies, to punk and heavy metal.

One of the best known **subcultures** related to music are the hippies, who are forever connected with folk and jazz style music, and later rock and **psychedelic** tunes. Hippies first formed a subculture on the west coast of the USA, particularly around San Francisco, but their numbers quickly grew. They were easily **identified** by their long hair and colourful style of dress, which were seen as a **reaction** against the **conformist** elements in society. Hippies were heavily involved in the Vietnam War protests in the United States in the late 1960s. Many hippies also travelled a lot, and there was even a route from Europe to India which was nicknamed the hippie trail as so many people undertook the route by train and bus to reach either Goa in India or Kathmandu in Nepal.





## Musical associations

What kind of music would you associate with these people?







## Speaking

**Answer the questions with your classmates or teacher.**



1

Why do you think the hippie movement developed when it did?

2

Do you think hippies are instantly recognisable?

3

Are there still hippies around today?



## The hippie trail

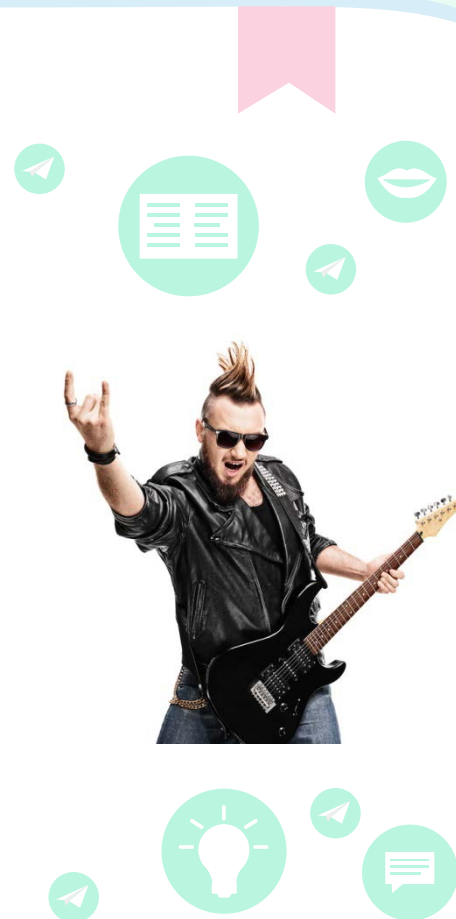
**Have you heard of the hippie trail?**  
**Would you like to do this journey or a similar one?**  
**Why do you think hippies undertook a journey like this?**





## Subcultures built around music

Arriving in the mid-1970s were the punks. With their black clothes and **teased** hairstyles, they could not have looked more different to the laid-back hippies. Punks were and are associated with punk rock, an **aggressive** version of rock music. They wore leather and tartan, skinny jeans and clothes held together by **safety pins** and tape. They **rejected** mainstream and **conventional** views, while staying **authentic** was highly valued. In Peru, punk subculture really **came into its own** in the mid-1980s, as punks there **circulated** illegal cassette recordings of music, which in fact continues to this day as free digital copies are circulated in the country as an expression of the punks being **anti-establishment**.





## Subcultures built around music



Moving on to goths, a subculture which began in England in the 1980s. Gothic rock was a **successor** to punk music and featured dark and **introspective** lyrics. Goths themselves made a **startling** fashion statement in the '80s. Influenced by 19<sup>th</sup> century gothic romance novels, goths often had very pale faces, black hair and black clothes. The goth subculture is somewhat unusual because members often **remain** goths after their teenage years and well into their adult lives. Furthermore, they are also often well-educated and have high-paying jobs, a contrast to the **anti-establishment** punks and hippies.



## Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the vocabulary on the right.

1. Most punks do not hold the authorities in high regard, meaning they are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Using hairspray and a comb, you can \_\_\_\_\_ your hair into a big style.
3. If you examine your own thoughts and feelings you are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In the past, babies' nappies were held together with \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ to a king or queen is usually one of their children.
6. When something becomes very successful we say that it \_\_\_\_\_.

tease

successor

anti-establishment

comes into its own

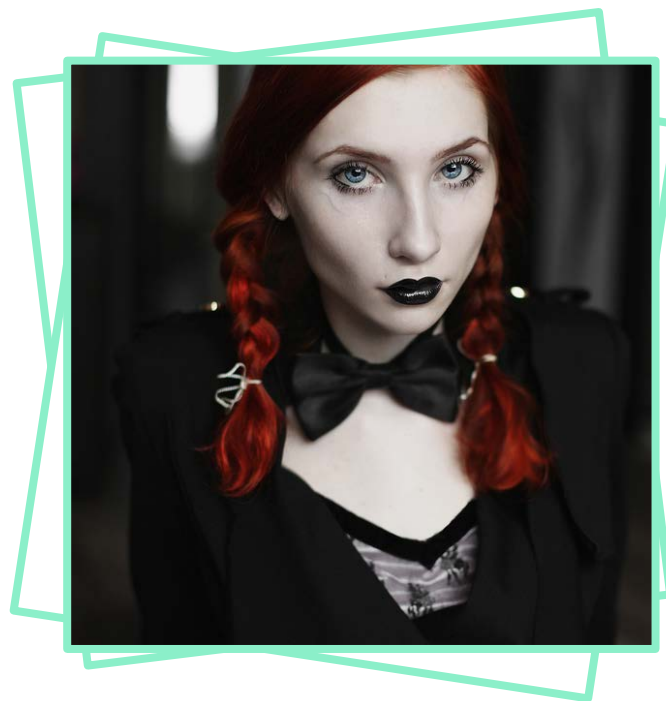
introspective

safety pins



## Punks and goths

**Describe typical punk and goth clothing with your classmates or teacher.**



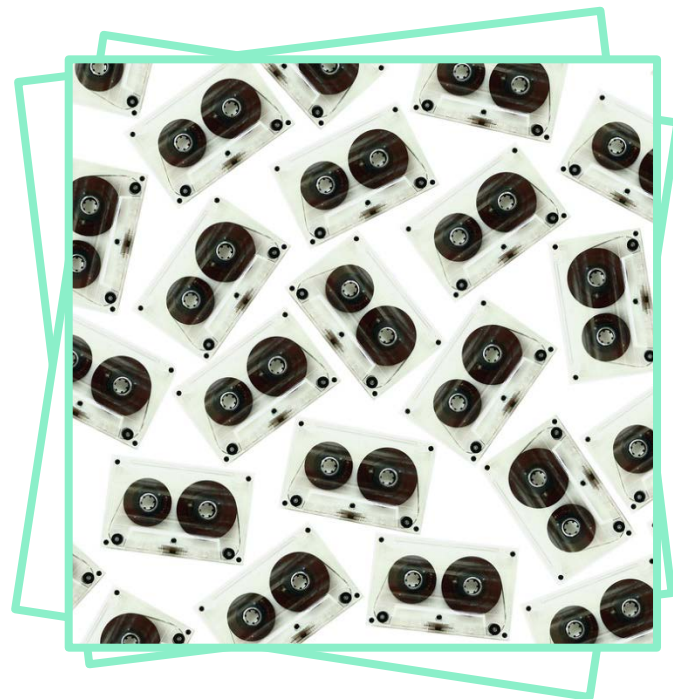




## Anti-establishment

Do you think circulating **music** without paying royalties is an **anti-establishment** act?

In what other ways do you think **punks** are anti-establishment?







## Subcultures built around music

Moving to Africa, we have Botswana's Renegades or the Botswana metalheads, leather-wearing cowboys who love American and **home-grown** metal music. There is a competition in this 1500-strong subculture as to who can look the best or the most **flamboyantly** frightening, and they mix their traditional hunting knives and **animal hides** along with metal band t shirts and of course a leather jacket, a rather warm **accoutrement** in the Kalahari desert. Many of them also love to ride large motorbikes.





## Subcultures built around music



For our last subculture, we are going to look at Japan and a subculture which was **adopted** from the West. Rockabilly was a **thriving** subculture in Japan, where the musical **mash-up** of rock and roll and country remained popular long after it fell out of favour in its birthplace of the USA. Leather jackets and ducktail hair were the uniform of the rockabilly, and very enthusiastic dance moves were one of their **calling cards**.



## Subcultures built around music

Finally, not a subculture but a person **universally despised** by all of those real members of musical subcultures is the **poser**. A poser is a person who tries to fit in with a certain group or lifestyle that they don't really believe in. We can start by looking at the teenagers **derided** by goths as they dress in black but **barely** listen to any gothic music, and buy their clothes in a normal shopping centre (the very thought!). The **poser** is most **associated** with the punk subculture, in which it is commonly recognised that though many people dress like punks they do not really care for the music, nor do they **embody** the values of punk.



## Vocabulary

Do you know these words and phrases from the text?



home-grown

animal hide

accoutrement

adopted

mash-up

calling card

embody



## Speaking

**Do you like any home-grown music?**

**Which styles of music are a mash-up of others?**

**Which styles of music have certain dances as their calling cards?**

**Do you think someone has to embody the values of a subculture to be a true fan of the music?**



## Subcultures

**Which of the subcultures in this lesson do you find the most intriguing?  
Would you like to know more about them?**





## Writing

**For each of the subcultures, write one sentence which sums it up.**

hippie

punk

goth

Botswana's  
Renegades

rockabilly

poser





## Subcultures

**Do you think the subcultures in this lesson have something in common or are they rather different?**



## Posers

Do you think there are **posers**  
to be found in every  
**subculture**?

Why do you think *real fans* get  
so angry with posers?





## Subcultures: good or bad?

**Look at the two sentences below and decide which you agree with more. Discuss your thoughts with your classmates or teacher.**

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Subcultures are dangerous for society as their members don't want to fit in with social norms.

//

//

Having subcultures means that there is a place in society for everyone.

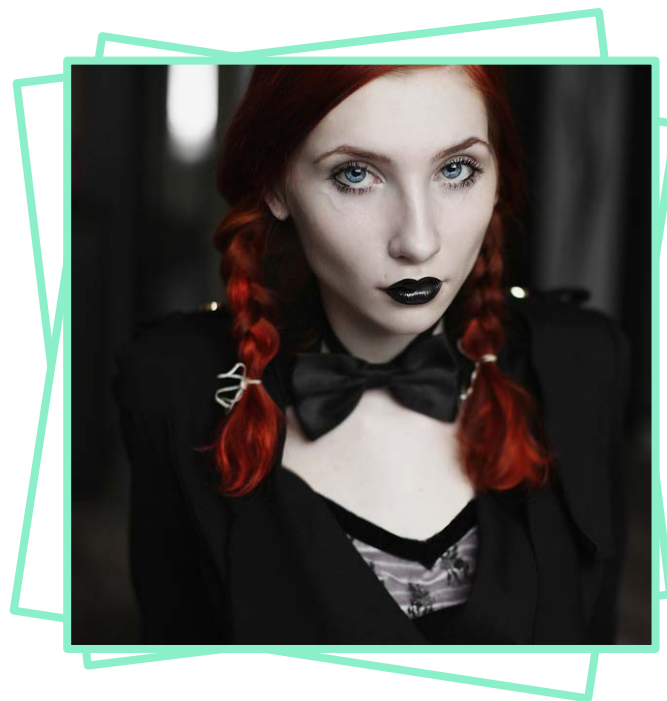
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## Being a part of it

**Can you imagine being a part of any of the subcultures in this lesson?  
If you had to pick one, which would you choose and why?**





## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

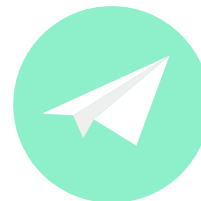
no

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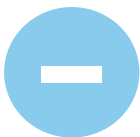
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## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again

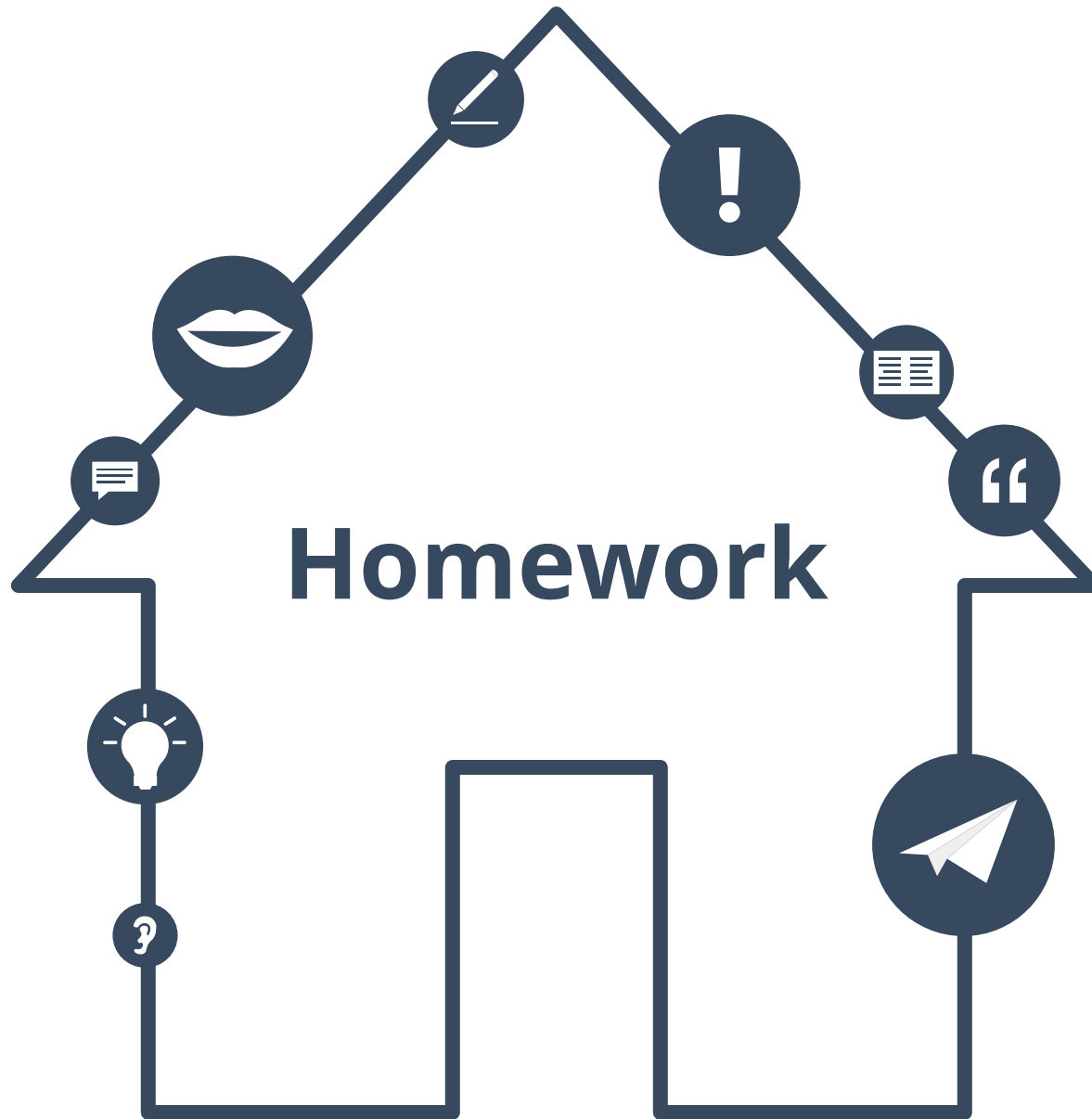


## Answer key

### Activity p. 13

1. anti-establishment, 2. tease, 3. introspective, 4. safety pins, 5. successor, 6. comes into its own







## Fill in the gaps with the words on the right

1. The punk movement in Peru \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1980s.
2. Punks are \_\_\_\_\_, and one of the ways they show this is by sharing music for free.
3. Rockabilly is a \_\_\_\_\_ of rock and roll and country music.
4. A person who tries to fit into a subculture without embodying the ideals is a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Lyrics in gothic songs are often \_\_\_\_\_.

**anti-  
establishment**

**poser**

**mash up**

**introspective**

**came into its  
own**



## Subcultures

**Think about another subculture built around music and write a paragraph about that subculture here. Include details about their dress and behaviour.**

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## Homework answer key

### Activity p. 31

1. Came into its own, 2. anti-establishment, 3. mash up, 4. poser, 5. introspective



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