The Beatles took the world by storm. The music, clothes, hairstyles, and mannerisms of this singing group greatly influenced the young. Some older people didn’t understand the appeal of the Beatles. They were alarmed by the effect the group had on their children.

The Beatles were four young men. Paul McCartney, John Lennon, and George Harrison played guitars, and Ringo Starr played the drums. McCartney and Lennon were probably the most musically talented. The two of them wrote most of the songs the Beatles sang.

The Beatles began in Liverpool, England. They all grew up and went to school in the area. Paul, George, and John all attended a private school, Liverpool Institute, at one time or another.

At 15, McCartney graduated from the institute. That year, he met Lennon, who was still at the school. The two became a team. They were billed as the Nurk Twins. They played clubs around the Liverpool area. In August 1958, they were joined by Harrison. The following year, Stuart Sutcliffe and drummer Peter Best joined. The group became known as the Quarrymen, then the Moondogs, the Moonshiners, and the Silver Beatles. Finally, they became known as the Beatles, because of their four-four beat.

They toured Scotland and Germany with some success. While they were in Germany, Sutcliffe died suddenly of a brain tumor. Later, Best was replaced by Starr. The group that would gain worldwide fame was thus formed.

In October 1961, the Beatles were “discovered.” A young Liverpool businessman, Brian Epstein, visited the Cavern. The Beatles were playing. Epstein liked what he heard. He figured he could make stars out of

(continued)
The Beatles

the Beatles. Epstein became their manager. He got bookings for them at the best nightclubs and concert halls. He got them on television. And he arranged for a record contract.

In America, their records were sold through **Capitol** Records. Soon, songs written by McCartney and Lennon and sung by the Beatles were topping the best-seller lists on both sides of the Atlantic.

Everybody wanted to hear and see the Beatles. They performed at the London Palladium in October 1963. The next month, they played for the royal family at the Prince of Wales Theater.

The Beatles came to the United States in February 1964. They played to packed audiences. There was such excitement at the concerts that some people became hysterical.

The Beatles' music was unusual. McCartney and Lennon used old musical forms set in new patterns. Other **rock and roll** groups began copying the style. Later, even pop musicians used the new patterns created by the Beatles.

Queen Elizabeth II included the Beatles on her birthday honors list on June 11, 1965. She also awarded them membership in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Beatles made their motion picture debut in *A Hard Day's Night*. This movie was made in the style of the old silent slapstick comedies. The film, released in 1964, was a hit. In it, the Beatles made good music. They were funny, too. They followed this success with a second movie. It was called *Help!*

By the spring of 1966, the Beatles had written 88 songs over a three-year period. In the first five years, sales of their records neared $500 million.

The Beatles' tours took them to all parts of the world. Their popularity spread even to communist countries. Young men everywhere copied their hairstyle and mod English fashions. When the Beatles arrived in the United States, they were met by thousands of screaming fans. Fans bought records, pictures, and T-shirts. They loved the Beatles. Their devotion was called Beatlemania.

(continued)
In 1967, Epstein died. He had been the driving force behind the Beatles. He had set up and taken care of all business matters. The Beatles owned a huge corporation, **Apple Corps, Ltd.**, which Epstein had run. The Beatles liked to make music. But they were not interested in running this giant company. They hired a new manager. But not everyone was satisfied.

The Beatles made a new album called **Abbey Road**. It was a great success. It seemed they had left their problems behind them. Reports started, however, that McCartney had died. The rumors said that he had been replaced by a double. This strange report was untrue.

About this time, the four young men began to go different ways. Each began to make albums on his own instead of with the group. Personal and legal problems finally pulled the Beatles apart in 1971.

Fans kept hoping the Beatles would settle their problems and get back together. But that didn't happen. It was a shock to the world when Lennon was assassinated in 1980.

The Beatles were leaders in popular music. They brought new ideas to music. They wrote some of the top songs of the time. No other group or single musician was as well loved as the Beatles were during their years together.
The Beatles

1. B
   E
   A
   T
   L
   E
   M
   A
   N
   I
   A

1. One of the last albums by the Beatles.
2. Country from which the Beatles came.
3. George ___ played the guitar.
4. Ringo ___ played the drums.
5. John ___ was one of the Nurk Twins.
6. The Beatles were discovered by Brian ___.
7. Paul ___ wrote songs for the Beatles.
8. ___ Records put out the Beatles' songs in the United States.
9. The Beatles were copied by other ___ groups.
10. The Beatles first played in the area of ___, England.
11. Their big corporation was called ___, Ltd.