

What Makes a Band Rock?

Rock bands are everywhere! Everybody wants to be a Rock Star and have lots of screaming fans, but how much do we know about what goes into making a band? What would we need to create one? What do the instruments do? What do the players do? Each member of a rock band has a different role to play and a different important job to do in order for the band to sound good. Each band is slightly different but the basic make up of a rock band is:

- 1 bass guitar player
- 1 rhythm guitar player
- 1 lead guitar player
- 1 drummer
- One or more singers.



These players all work together to create the music we hear every day. When a band is playing each member has responsibility for a different section of the music:

The singer	Sings the words and keeps the melody (tune).
The lead guitarist	Takes solos and plays some tunes and riffs.
The rhythm guitarist	Plays the chords.
The bass guitar player	Plays the bass notes of the chords and sometimes an 'ostinato' (repeated line).
The drummer	Keeps the beat and plays drum rhythms and fills.

1. Which of these instruments or roles do you think is the most important to a band?

2. Discuss your answer with the people around you.

3. Explain in detail why you think it is the most important.

4. Which instrument or role do you think would be the most fun and why?

5. Name 4 of your favourite bands:

6. There are many other instruments that can be used in rock bands
 - See if you can name 3 or 4.

7. There are 3 ways that a band can learn a new piece of music.

- a). They buy some sheet music and read the notes.
- b). They listen to the song and copy it.
- c). They make up their own original piece of music.

Task:

You and 4 of your friends decide to start a rock band.

Band Name: _____

Band Members:

_____	playing	_____
_____	playing	_____
_____	playing	_____
_____	playing	_____
_____	playing	_____

After your band has been working together for a while you make a decision to try and write all your own songs. Describe the process that you think your band would go through to write their own piece of music.


