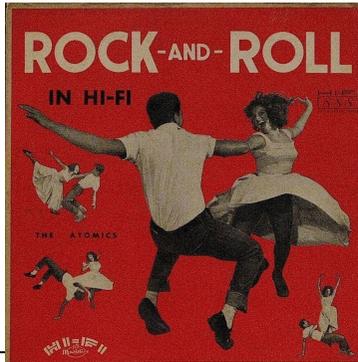


Factors that influenced its inception	Significant artists/bands/producers	Important recordings/performances/events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock 'n' roll has many roots - gospel, blues, country - dating back to the nineteenth century and before, but the emergence of rock 'n' roll really began with the social and economic changes stemming from the Second World War. Through <i>rock 'n' roll</i>, young people began searching for an identity. Before the 50s and Rock 'n' Roll, there was no such thing as a 'teenager' – young people listened to whatever their parents did. Rock 'n' Roll gave them the opportunity to have their own music, clothing, style and identity – the rebellious age of the teenager had begun. Amplified instruments were gradually becoming available, and this meant that electric guitar and bass soon became dominant, with the guitar become the solo instrument Was heard in live dance halls, on juke boxes in coffee bars and on radio and was associated with dances such as the jive and the twist. Rock and Roll music was frequently associated with rebellion, and was popular with teenagers – a group who had only just developed their own identity. 	<p>Chuck Berry: Influenced by blues and country, played a major part in the fusion or rock 'n' roll from R 'n' B and hillbilly</p> <p>Bill Haley & The Comets: Uninhibited dancing style appealed to teenage audience as it represented rebellion. Took Rock 'n' Roll outside of America, by touring Europe and Australia</p> <p>Elvis Presley: Brought Rock 'n' Roll to both black and white audiences, achieving success in the R 'n' B and Country charts simultaneously</p> <p>Sam Philips: Producer and owner of Sun Records. Often referred to as 'The Father of Rock 'n' Roll, owing to his role in nurturing new talent and having 'discovered' many of the earliest Rock 'n' Roll Artists.</p> <p>Jerry Lee Lewis: Developed a distinctive style, influenced by R and B, Boogie Woogie and Gospel. Moved rock 'n' roll away from guitars to a piano-based sound</p> <p>Eddie Cochran: He experimented with multi-track recording and over dubbing in early 1960s</p> <p>Gene Vincent: Considered to be Rockabilly's greatest vocalist</p> <p>Little Richard: One of the first Rock and Roll singers in America.</p> <p>Buddy Holly: One of the pioneers of early rock and roll. Holly managed to bridge the racial divide that marked music in America along with Elvis and Chuck Berry.</p> <p>Alan Freed: DJ who started broadcasting <i>Moondog's Rock n Roll Party</i> in 1952</p>	<p>'Rocket 88', (1951): a precursor of rock 'n' roll, aimed solely at black audience</p> <p>1953: Alan Freed organized an R&B stage show at the Cleveland Arena.</p> <p>1954: 'That's alright', Elvis Presley: Elvis' 1st release.</p> <p>'Honey Don't', Carl Perkins: One of the first original Rock 'n' Roll songs.</p> <p>'Ain't that a shame', Fats Domino (1955): 1st record to breakthrough to white audience/market in the pop charts, making him a Rock 'n' Roll star.</p> <p>'Maybellene', Chuck Berry: his first hit – a year before Elvis became famous, was popular across a wide spectrum of the population, both black and white, and particularly a teenage audience</p> <p>'Rock around the Clock', Bill Haley & The Comets: is considered the first rock 'n' roll hit, and was popularised by the 1955 film 'Blackboard Jungle', thus introducing rock 'n' roll to a wider audience through the medium of cinema. It was again used in the 1956 film 'Rock Around the Clock'</p> <p>1956: Elvis signs for RCA, recording 'Heartbreak Hotel' – his 1st international hit – his sound became more commercialized.</p> <p>1955-9: Boom years for record industry where Rock'n' Roll becomes more internationally known.</p>

Imagery & fashion associated with the style

Associated fashions included narrow lapels on jackets and drain-pipe trousers, white socks, string ties, cowlick hair, full ballerina-length skirts, "waspy" belts, flat slip-on shoes, pony tails.



Musical Features

Usually uses 12-bar blues structure based on a repeated sequence using three chords, with Walking bass lines. Basic rock beat developed from jazz, and also featured strong back beat on 2 and 4, as in country. 'Shuffle rhythm' with slightly swung quavers was also common. Energetic delivery with screams and shouts, simple lyrics, scat singing (a type of jazz singing where nonsense syllables are used – e.g. doo wah) and the use of the blues scale. Backing vocals often in unison. Less improvisation than in rhythm and blues and country, and a developing verse – chorus structure, though this was still based on the 12 bar blues chord sequence. Call and response between vocal and guitar or piano.