The USA – a music city tour

1 Leggi il brano e scrivi sulla cartina i nomi delle città e i tipi di musica del riquadro.

Detroit Nashville New York Seattle

country and western grunge rock hip hop Motown

Detroit, Michigan, in the north-east of the USA, was once famous because of its car factories. Its nickname was Motor City. A lot of migrants, mostly black, came to the factories to get jobs. In 1959 a songwriter called Berry Gordy left his job at one of the factories and started a record label called Motown Records. He created the first girl group and boy bands, and described the music as ‘the sound of young America’. The music was fun, easy-to-remember pop songs. All the singers were black, smart and good-looking, and some were very young. Michael Jackson was originally a Motown artist with his brothers in the band, The Jackson Five. Other great Motown stars included Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye.

Nashville, the capital of Tennessee, is also the capital of country and western music. In the 1920s, a national radio programme called The Grand Ole Opry began there. It became a very popular live show. Many country and western singers, including Elvis Presley, started their careers on this show.

Country and western music developed from the folk music of immigrants to the USA during the nineteenth century. The immigrants came from Eastern Europe and made their homes in the south of the USA, in the state of Tennessee. The immigrants sang sad songs about their lives in a new country – songs about love, hard work and suffering.

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2 Rispondi alle domande. 

1. Where did the first country and western singers come from?

2. What is The Grand Ole Opry?

3. When did the Motown record label begin?

4. What was Detroit’s nickname?

5. Which Motown group was Michael Jackson in?

6. What does ‘rapping’ mean?

7. How did hip hop spread around the world in the 1980s?

8. What two music genres developed into grunge rock?

3. Ascolta la canzone. Decidi a quale genere musicale appartiene: se al country and western, al Motown, all’hip hop o al grunge.

4. Project Prepara una presentazione orale sui tuoi gusti musicali. Prendi degli appunti usando le seguenti domande per aiutarti. Parla per circa 2 minuti.

- What are your favourite types of music?
- Why do you like them?
- Which particular singers and bands do you like?
- Are there any types of music that you don’t like?
- Why don’t you like them?

Look!

Assicurati di saper fare degli esempi durante una presentazione orale.

- for example per esempio
  I really like relaxing classical music, for example, music by Mozart or Chopin.

- like come/quaie
  My favourite singers are American hip hop artists like De La Soul.