

This is a modern American history lesson for younger secondary students. It will be focused on the Presidency of George W. Bush, looking at the key aspects of his time in office and assessing his legacy, paying special attention to Hurricane Katrina. It will explore Bush's administration through descriptions offered by hip-hop artists, both in music and off-record, therefore demonstrating how the hip-hop community – and by extension, the wider African-American community – regarded Bush. Students will then learn about George W. Bush, the work of some hip-hop artists at the time of his Presidency and the politicised musical response of artists to this particular President.

Class content:

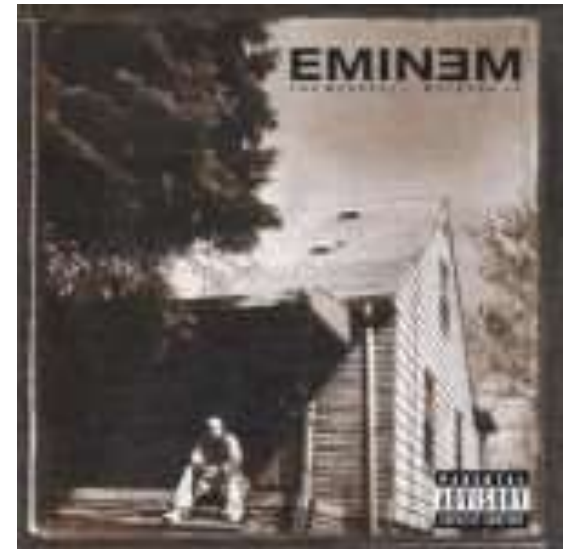
1. Firstly, students will be asked to look at the album covers on Slide 1. A prize will be awarded to the first person to correctly guess what connects the three albums. Answer: they were all released in the year 2000. 5-10 minutes.
2. They will be told the answer also happens to be the year that Bush was elected (shown on Slide 2). In groups, they are to discuss for 5 minutes anything they can immediately share with the class that they know about the ex-President. Sharing will take up to 5 minutes.
3. During Slide 3, the teacher will take the time to go through the major events of the Bush presidency starting with the controversial election, then going on to mention with detail 9/11, the Iraq War, re-election in 2004, Hurricane Katrina and the economic downturn in the last two years of his term. 10-15 minutes.
4. Slide 4 shows a still of Kanye West from his famous live NBC moment. Students are tested to see if they know the second half of the quote "George

Bush doesn't care about black people", before asking them why he would have said this. The following slide shows some pictures of Katrina devastation – what do they notice about the images? What race are the victims? 5 minutes.

5. Explanation of events in Katrina on Slide 6. 5 minutes
6. Lil Wayne's 'Georgia... Bush': in groups, study the verse provided in Slide 7. Wayne is from LO, released song 2006. One group focus on theme of 'America' in verse; one group talk about the characters and groups present; one talk about the tone and sentiment. Correction: "fash out" should be "fat shout". Possible things to mention – does "in the boot at the bottom" have double meaning? Do the "rappers that helped out... calling y'all" include Kanye – if so, do we see solidarity in hip-hop in this moment? Does the racial reference in the song tell us about how black people viewed Bush's Presidency? Including discussion no more than 15 mins.
7. Next week: We will be looking closely at George Bush and the Iraq War. For homework, you must select one of the songs from Slide 8, write a paragraph summarising the song's political message and accusations towards Bush – include a statistic that supports any of the claims made by the rapper.
8. Final slide – All these rappers at some point went after Bush, and there are many more. His Presidency, and especially his treatment of Katrina, resulted in widespread musical protest from hip-hop community. Will we see something similar with current administration?



?



2000 AD

?



?

George Bush
According to
Hip-Hop



2000 Election

- Initial speculation of Gore victory
- Florida – 537 votes
- Gore wins popular vote by half a million; Bush wins Electoral College (first time in 112 years)
- Supreme Court prevent recount in Bush vs Gore



9/11, 2001

- Attacks on WTC and Pentagon
- ‘War on Terror’: Afghanistan

2003

- Iraq war

2004

- Election victory over Kerry

2005

- Hurricane Katrina

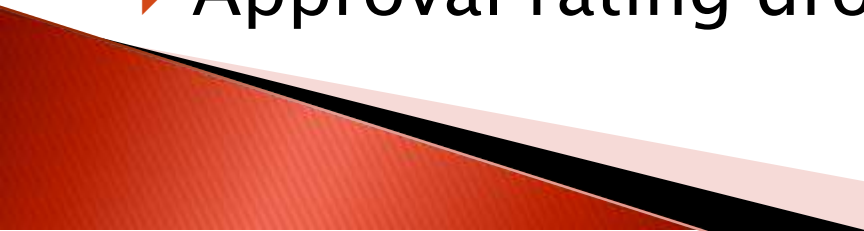
2007/8

- Subprime mortgage crisis, recession and bailout



**“George Bush
doesn’t**



- ▶ Aug 29 – Miss., Alabama, Louisiana
 - ▶ 125 mph > 9 metre high storm surge > spread for 400 miles
 - ▶ \$100bn, hundreds of thousands lose homes, over a thousand lose lives
 - ▶ New Orleans – 67% African-American
 - ▶ Television
 - ▶ Bush? On holiday in Texas. Slow return to White House to oversee federal action
 - ▶ Approval rating drops to 42%
- 

Lil Wayne – Georgia... Bush



Now

I was born in the boot at the bottom of the map

New Orleans baby, now the white house hating, trying to wash away like we not on the map

Wait, have you heard the latest, they saying you gotta have paper if you trying to come back

Niggas thinking it's a wrap, see we can't hustle in they trap, we ain't from (Georgia)

Now it's them dead bodies, them lost houses, the mayor say don't worry 'bout it

And the children have been scarred, no one's here to care 'bout 'em

And fash out, to all the rappers that helped out

Yea we like it they calling y'all, but fuck president (Georgia) Bush

We see them Confederate flags, you know what it is

A white cracker motherfucker that probably voted for him

And no he ain't gonna drop no dollars, but he do drop bombs

R.I.P. Tay cause he died in the storm, fuck president (Georgia) Bush

See us in ya city man, give us a pound

Cause if a nigga still moving then he holding it down

I had two Jags, but I lost both them bi-tch-es

I'm from N.O. the N.O. Yea!

Iraq War – Homework

- ▶ Dead Prez – Propaganda
- ▶ Beastie Boys – In A World Gone Mad
- ▶ LL Cool J – Mr. President
- ▶ Flobots – Fight with Tools
- ▶ Eminem – Mosh





“George Bush is the most insanest motherf***er that ever motherf***ing lived” – Ol’ Dirty Bastard