Heavy Metal History

**Examining the effect of history on popular culture**

**Fact: Many classic metal tunes are based in the history and historical events you studied in this class!**

Your Job:

1. Choose one of the songs listed below. Check the historical event that is presented in the song—make sure you pick a historical event that you are interested in. You are studying how history is shown in the song. You ARE NOT studying about the band!!!!

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Band** | **Song** | **Historical Event** | ✔ |
| Metallica | Disposable Heroes | World War One Trench Warfare |  |
| Iron Maiden | Gangland | 1920s gangsters |  |
| Metallica | One | War Disabilities “Johnny Got His Gun” |  |
| Slayer | Angel of Death | The Holocaust and Dr. Joseph Mengele |  |
| Iron Maiden | Aces High | Battle of Britain (World War two flying aces) |  |
| Megadeth | Rust in Peace… Polaris | Nuclear War and the Polaris Missile |  |

1. Listen to the song and read the lyrics. Think about what the lyrics mean and how they relate to history.
2. Fill in the five W’s chart. You must use at least two different resources for your information. This means it cannot all come from Wikipedia. Please write down where you got your info in the “source” column.
3. Complete the “PQP” worksheet. Please use complete sentences as much as possible.
4. Save your work, print it.

Five W’s Chart

Song\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Five Ws | Historical event: | Source |
| Who |  |  |
| What |  |  |
| When |  |  |
| Where |  |  |
| Why |  |  |

PQP chart:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Positives | Questions | Possibilities |
| **List two accurate historical facts in the song:**  **How do the guitars, drums, and singing reflect the historical event?**  **Any other overall positives** | List any historical mistakes:  How does the music take away from the historical event in any way?  Any other overall negatives? | **Are there any historical facts that you would add to the song?**  **Is there any way that the music could be improved to reflect the historical event**  Are there any other ways the song could be improved |

*Disposable Heroes* by: Metallica

Bodies fill the fields I see, hungry heroes end  
No one to play soldier now, no one to pretend  
Running blind through killing fields, bred to kill them all  
Victim of what said should be  
A servant `til I fall  
  
[Chorus:]  
Soldier boy, made of clay  
Now an empty shell  
Twenty one, only son  
but he served us well  
Bred to kill, not to care  
Do just as we say  
Finished here, Greeting Death  
He's yours to take away  
  
Back to the front  
You will do what I say, when I say  
Back to the front  
You will die when I say, you must die  
Back to the front  
You coward  
You servant  
You blindman  
[End Chorus]  
  
Barking of machinegun fire, does nothing to me now  
Sounding of the clock that ticks, get used to it somehow  
More a man, more stripes you wear, glory seeker trends   
Bodies fill the fields I see  
The slaughter never ends  
  
[Chorus]  
  
{Why, Am I dying?  
Kill, have no fear  
Lie, live off lying  
Hell, Hell is here} x2  
  
I was born for dying  
  
Life planned out before my birth, nothing could I say  
had no chance to see myself, molded day by day  
Looking back I realize, nothing have I done  
left to die with only friend  
Alone I clench my gun  
  
[Chorus]  
  
{Back to the front}x5.



*Gangland* by: Iron Maiden

Shadows may hide you but also may be your grave  
You're running today maybe tomorrow you'll be saved  
You pray for daylight to save you for a while  
You wonder if your children will face the killer's smile  
  
Dead men -- tell no tales  
In Gangland -- murder's up for sale  
Dead men -- tell no tales  
In Gangland -- where jail birds die  
  
Face at the window leers into your own  
But it's only your reflection still you tremble in your bones  
How long can you hide? How long till they come?  
A rat in a trap but you've got to survive  
  
Once you were glad to be free for a while  
The air tasted good and the world was your friend  
Then came the day when the hard times began  
Now your alone but alive for how long?  
  
A knife at your throat another body on the pile  
A contract to keep and it's service with a smile  
Murder for vengeance or murder for gain  
Death on the streets or a blackened out jail  
  
Dead men -- tell no tales  
In Gangland -- murder's up for sale  
Dead men -- tell no tales  
In Gangland -- where jail birds die  
  
In Gangland you tell no tales



Angel of Death by: Slayer

Auschwitz, the meaning of pain  
The way that I want you to die  
Slow death, immense decay  
Showers that cleanse you of your life  
Forced in  
Like cattle  
You run  
Stripped of  
Your life's worth  
Human mice, for the Angel of Death  
Four hundred thousand more to die  
  
Angel of Death  
Monarch to the kingdom of the dead  
  
Sadistic, surgeon of demise  
Sadist of the noblest blood  
Destroying, without mercy  
To benefit the Aryan race  
Surgery, with no anesthesia  
Feel the knife pierce you intensely  
Inferior, no use to mankind  
Strapped down screaming out to die  
  
Angel of Death  
Monarch to the kingdom of the dead  
Infamous butcher,  
Angel of Death  
  
Pumped with fluid, inside your brain  
Pressure in your skull begins pushing through your eyes  
Burning flesh, drips away  
Test of heat burns your skin, your mind starts to boil  
Frigid cold, cracks your limbs  
How long can you last  
In this frozen water burial?  
Sewn together, joining heads  
Just a matter of time  
'Til you rip yourselves apart  
Millions laid out in their  
Crowded tombs  
Sickening ways to achieve  
The holocaust  
  
Seas of blood, bury life  
Smell your death as it burns  
Deep inside of you  
Abacinate, eyes that bleed  
Praying for the end of  
Your wide awake nightmare  
Wings of pain, reach out for you  
His face of death staring down,  
Your blood running cold  
Injecting cells, dying eyes  
Feeding on the screams of  
The mutants he's creating  
Pathetic harmless victims  
Left to die  
Rancid Angel of Death  
Flying free  
  
(LEADS: HANNEMAN, KING, HANNEMAN, KING, HANNEMAN)  
  
Angel of Death  
Monarch to the kingdom of the dead  
Infamous butcher,  
Angel of Death  
  
Angel of Death



*Aces High* by: Iron Maiden

There goes the siren that warns of the air raid,  
Then comes the sound of the guns sending flak.  
Out for the scramble we've got to get airborne,  
Got to get up for the coming attack.  
  
Jump in the cockpit and start up the engines,  
Remove all the wheelblocks there's no time to waste.  
Gathering speed as we head down the runway,  
Got to get airborne before it's too late.  
  
Running, scrambling, fire,  
Rolling, turning, diving, going in again.  
Running, scrambling, fire, Rolling, turning, diving,   
Run, live to fly, fly to live, do or die.  
Won't you run, live to fly, fly to live, Aces high!  
  
Move in to fire at the mainstream of bombers,  
Let off a sharp burst and then turn away.  
Roll over, spin round to come in behind them,  
Move to their blindsides and firing again.  
  
Bandits at 8 O'clock move in behind us,  
Ten ME-109s out of the sun.  
Ascending and turning our spitfires to face them,  
Heading straight for them I press down my guns.  
  
Rolling, turning, diving,  
Rolling, turning, diving, going in again.  
Rolling, turning, diving, Rolling, turning, diving,   
Run, live to fly, fly to live, do or die.  
Won't you run, live to fly, fly to live, Aces high!!!



*Rust In Peace...Polaris* by: Megadeth  
  
Tremble you weakings, cower in fear  
I am your ruler, land, sea and air  
Immense in my girth, erect I stand tall  
I am nuclear murderer I am Polaris  
Ready to pounce at the touch of a button  
My systems locked in on military gluttons  
I rule on land, air and sea  
Pass judgement on humanity  
Winds blow from the bowels of hell  
Will we give warnings, only time will tell  
Satan rears his ugly head, to spit into the wind  
I spread disease like a dog  
Discharge my payload a mile high  
Rotten egg air of death wrestles your nostrils  
Launch the Polaris, the end doesn't scare us  
When will this cease  
The warheads will all rust in peace  
Bomb shelters filled to the brim  
Survival such a silly whim  
World leaders sell missiles cheap  
Your stomach turns, your flesh creeps  
  
High priests of holocaust, fire from the sea  
Nuclear winter spreading disease  
The day of final conflict  
All pay the price  
The third world war  
Rapes peace, takes life  
Back to the start, talk of the part  
When the Earth was cold as ice  
Total dismay as the sun passed away  
And the days where black as night  
  
Eradication of Earth's  
Population loves Polaris



*One* by: Metallica

I can't remember anything  
Cant tell if this is true or dream  
Deep down inside I feel to scream  
This terrible silence stops me  
  
Now that the war is through with me  
Im waking up I can not see  
That there is not much left of me  
Nothing is real but pain now  
  
Hold my breath as I wish for death  
Oh please god,wake me  
  
Back in the womb its much too real  
In pumps life that I must feel  
But cant look forward to reveal  
Look to the time when Ill live  
  
Fed through the tube that sticks in me  
Just like a wartime novelty  
Tied to machines that make me be  
Cut this life off from me  
  
Hold my breath as I wish for death  
Oh please god,wake me  
Now the world is gone Im just one  
Oh god,help me hold my breath as I wish for death  
Oh please God help me  
  
Darkness imprisoning me  
All that I see  
Absolute horror  
I cannot live  
I cannot die  
Trapped in myself  
Body my holding cell  
  
Landmine has taken my sight  
Taken my speech  
Taken my hearing  
Taken my arms  
Taken my legs  
Taken my soul  
Left me with life in hell

