The Beatles Story

Teacher Notes

(For key areas of the exhibition – please allow 1 hour to explore the exhibition)

Introduction
- Birth dates of the Beatles
- Skiffle: Homemade instruments using jugs, washboards, tea chests, string and brooms. There may also have been guitars and piano’s used.
- Music being influenced by American Blues and Jazz from the 1920’s

The Quarrymen
- John Lennon had his own ideas about forming a skiffle band with his mates and decided to call themselves the ‘Quarrymen’ after Quarrybank High School.
- Performed their first gig at Woolton Village Garden Fete.
- John Lennon and Paul McCartney meet for the first time.
- George Harrison performed a track called ‘Raunchy’ on his guitar for John Lennon who was so impressed he invited George to join the band.
- Stuart Sutcliffe, John’s friend from art college, joined The Quarrymen.

Casbah
- The Casbah Coffee Club was a house in West Derby owned by Pete Best’s mother, Mona.
- The Beatles performed here as The Quarrymen, John, Paul and George and Stuart. (no drummer!) Pete Best plays the drums becomes the drummer for The Beatles.

Hamburg
- John, Paul, George, Stuart and Pete travel to Hamburg for the first time.
- See Ringo for the first time as the drummer for Rory Storm and the Hurricanes.
- Stuart meets Astrid Kirchherr and falls in love. Leaves the band to concentrate on Art College. Later, sadly dies from a brain haemorrhage.
- The Beatles visited Hamburg 5 times throughout their time together as a band.
- They performed at a club called the Kaiserkeller and The Indra.
- They were known as the ‘Beat Brothers’ as it was felt the German audience would find them being called the Beatles too confusing!

Merseybeat
- Note the typewriter (no computers here!) and the old fashioned telephone.
- Bill Harry was the founder of the Merseybeat Newspaper and the first issue was published in 1961. Merseybeat was the equivalent of a music magazine today.
- There were over 4000 music groups working in Merseyside during this time!
- Adverts for concerts, musical instruments, interviews and any news related to Merseyside music and musical influences.
- See the examples on the wall of the Merseybeat Newspaper.
- The Beatles take America by storm and on their 2nd tour in 1965 they play at Shea Stadium in New York to 55,000 fans.
- The Beatles are awarded their MBE’s from the Queen in 1965.
- 1963 – 1965 the Beatles World Tours.
Eleanor Rigby/Sgt Pepper room

- **Strawberry Field** was a Salvation Army children’s home in Liverpool, round the corner from where John Lennon was brought up. He used to play in the grounds that surrounded it. It is still there but is now used as an artist studio and other community projects.
- The Beatles wrote their song about ‘Strawberry Fields’ in 1966.
- **Eleanor Rigby** grave: the one here was donated to the Beatles Story after being used in the Beatles come-back video, ‘Free as a Bird’ in 1995. Her name comes from a number of influences that Paul had at the time of writing the song.
- The **Sgt. Pepper** album cover was created by Peter Blake in 1967 for the Beatles 8th album, Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band.
- **Peter Blake** was part of a movement called Pop Art and worked alongside David Hockney, exhibiting in the ‘Young Contemporaries’ exhibition in 1961.
- The album cover features 59 people, all of whom were chosen by the Beatles as their icons. (see the list on the wall).

Yellow Submarine

- Yellow Submarine is one of the most well known of the Beatles songs and is from the ‘Revolver’ album. The cover for the Revolver album was designed by Klaus Voormann, another popular artist from the 60’s and a friend to the Beatles.
- Psychedelic was a term used to describe a brightly coloured or patterned object and was adopted by ‘hippies’ and a message of peace usually went with it.
- Yellow Submarine was a full length film animation released in 1968 and is thought to be the first film based entirely on a song.
- The song and the film were a hit all over the world, selling over a million copies.
- Brief plot of the film:

  *Pepperland* is a cheerful music loving paradise under the sea, protected by *Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band*. It becomes under attack by the *Blue Meanies*, who hate music. They trap the band inside a bubble and drain all the colour from Pepperland.

  The Lord Mayor of Pepperland sends a soldier, Old Fred, whom the mayor calls *Young Fred*, in a *Yellow Submarine* to get help. Fred travels to Liverpool and follows a depressed *Ringo* and persuades him to help. Ringo collect his mates; John, Paul and George and they travel back to Pepperland in the Yellow Submarine, passing through several different worlds:

  **Sea of Time:** Time flows back and forth to the song, *'When I'm 64'*
  **Sea of Science:** To the song, *'Only a Northern Song'*
  **Sea of Monsters:** Where the group encounter the, *'Vacuum Cleaner Beast'*.
  **Sea of Nothing:** Where they meet ‘No Where Man’ named Hilllary Boob Ph.D and sing ‘Nowhere Man’.
  **Foothills of the Headlands:** (sea of heads) where they are separated from the Yellow Submarine and John sings *'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds'*.  
  **Sea of Holes:** Jeremy (No Where Man) is kidnapped by a Blue Meanie.

  They jump on a green hole which turns into *'The Sea of Green'* , transporting them to Pepperland. They release the band from the bubble and colour returns to Pepperland and the Blue Meanies retreat.
  
  John extends a hand of friendship to the Chief Blue Meanie and he has a change of heart and they all live happily ever after.

  The ‘real’ Beatles return home from their adventure, singing *'All Together Now'*. 
# The Beatles Story
## Teacher Notes

### Apple
- After the death of Brian Epstein, The Beatles form their own company, Apple Corps Ltd and began to manage themselves.
- They formed 6 different divisions within the company, Apple Records being the most successful.
- The Beatles announce their breakup and perform a 20 minute impromptu performance on top of the Apple building.

### Going Solo

This area has four zones dedicated to each of the Beatles with video footage that the children can watch. There is written information on the walls about each of the solo careers of the Beatles and what they did after the breakup of the Beatles. (see the fact file on the wall for each area).

#### Paul McCartney:
- Formed a group after The Beatles called ‘Wings’
- He is becomes the founder of LIPA – Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.
- Started to develop more as an artist, with a number of exhibitions of his work.
- Worked with the Royal Philharmonic writing classical music.
- Paul is a strict vegetarian.

#### Ringo Starr:
- Real name Richard Starkey.
- He was a big Country and Western fan.
- He started a furniture store with his friend Robin Cruikshank and created some of his own avant-garde designs and sold them.
- Ringo formed the ‘All-Starr Band’.
- He also participated in a ‘Concert for Bangladesh’.
- Ringo appeared in many films, including Blindman, The Magic Christian, Caveman, That’ll Be The Day and Son of Dracula (a rock and roll version of Dracula).

#### George Harrison:
- George was the first of the Beatles to have a number one hit with ‘My Sweet Lord’. (playing)
- He produced Handmade Films Company and jointly created Black Adder, Monty Python (Life of Brian), and the films Time Bandits and Withnail and I.
- He was in a group in the 1980’s called The Traveling Wilburys, (travelling spelt the American way because there were only 2 Brits and 3 Americans!). Members of the group were George Harrison, Roy Orbison, Jeff Lynne, Tom Petty and Bob Dylan.
- George was heavily influenced by India and was known as being the most spiritual of the Beatles.
- He was involved with a ‘Concert for Bangladesh’, to aid the starving in Bangladesh after the war.
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**John Lennon:**
- John had produced and recorded 3 albums with Yoko Ono before the breakup of the Beatles.
- The Plastic Ono band was formed before the Beatles broke up (John Lennon, Eric Clapton, Keith Moon, Ringo Starr and Klaus Voormann, to name a few).
- John Lennon was ordered to leave America on political grounds (President Nixon and the FBI spied on John) Nixon was concerned about his re-election campaign. This went on for 3 years until John was allowed to stay in America. (There were issues surrounding drug allegations).
- 8th December 1980 John Lennon was shot in the back 5 times outside his home in New York by crazed fan, Mark David Chapmen, whom he had earlier signed his autograph for.
- The cabinet contains a pair of John Lennon’s glasses. They are insured for over £1m!

## Imagine
- Imagine was released in 1971 and written by John Lennon.
- The white piano is a replica of the one that features in the video to Imagine.
- The children can listen to the song and read the words on the wall.
- Some of John’s original artwork is displayed on the wall, more original artwork can be seen in the art area inside the Discovery Zone.

Please take some time to visit our special exhibition, ‘The Beatles in India’

This exhibition explores the time the band spent at an ‘ashram’ (a religious retreat) in Rishikesh in the North of India at the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains.

**End of exhibition**

## NOTES: