



Hip Hop in the 1980s-1990s

*East v. West
Coast*

East Coast rap
Public Enemy
(1990)

Reflection Questions:

1. What references does the song make to black history/culture?
2. What is the message/tone of the song?



West Coast rap - Compton, CA

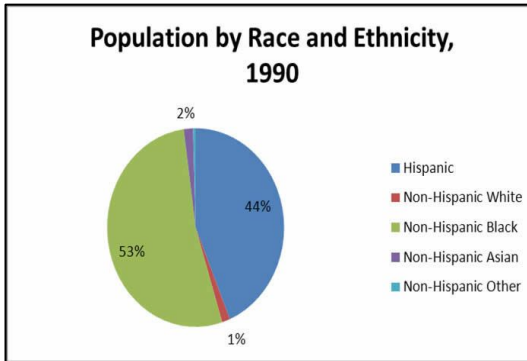
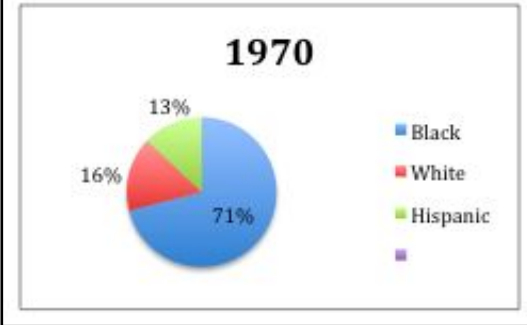
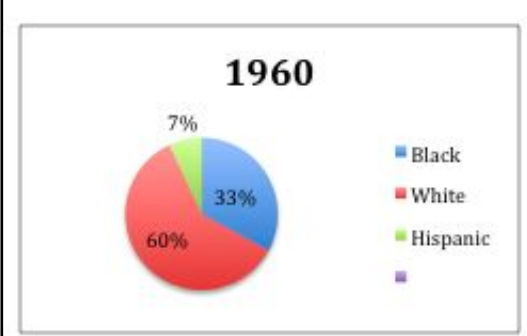
California

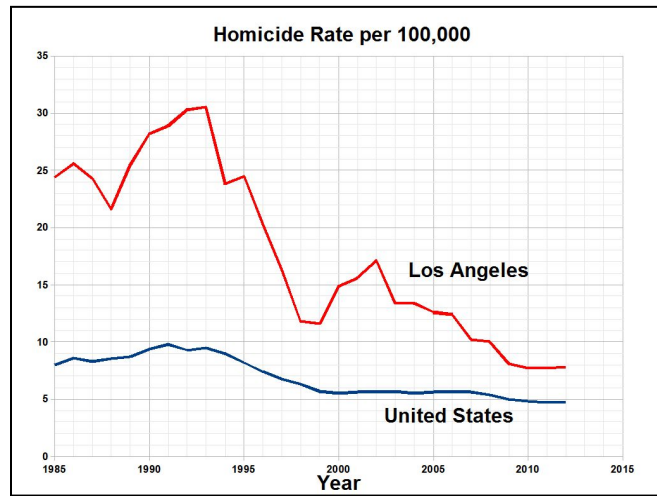


Population: 100,000

Location: southeast of LA, California.

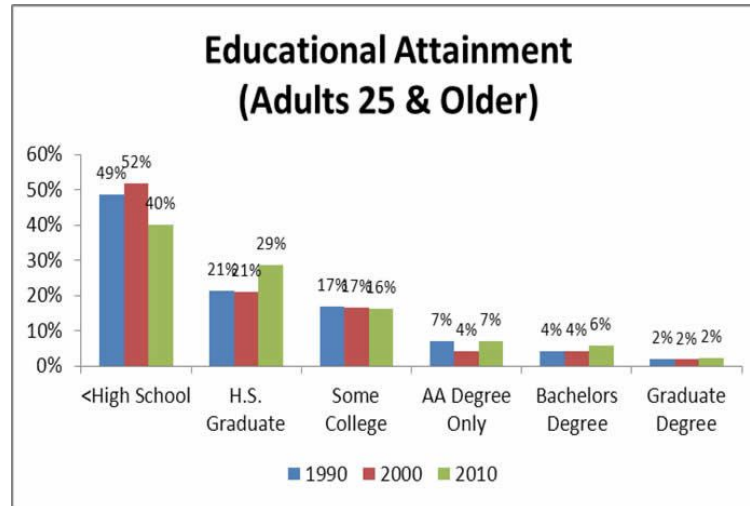
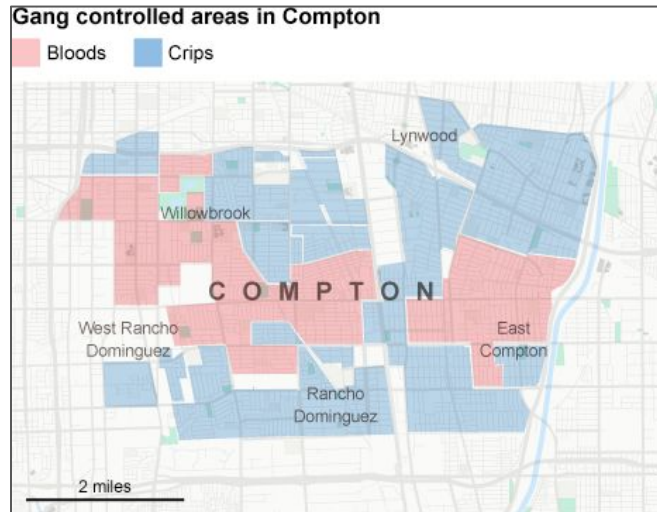
By the 1990s, Compton was no longer a racially diverse city and was predominantly African-American & Latino.





Compton was struggling in the 1980s-90s.

- Crime wave & the crack cocaine epidemic
- Declining educational opportunities
- Gang violence



West Coast rap NWA (1988)

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the song reflect what was going on in Compton at the time?
2. What is the message/ tone of the song?



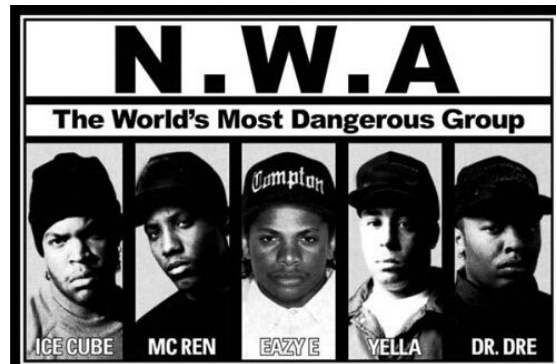
Reflection

Compare/contrast the two songs and their videos.

What is similar and what is different?

Gangsta Rap

- It is a style of hip hop that emphasizes the "gangsta" lifestyle.
 - Profanity
 - Lyrics/imagery about gun-toting young men and inner city violence
- Grew out of the social & political climate on the West Coast (i.e., Compton, where poverty, gang violence, and the crack cocaine epidemic ravaged the city.)



“We actually called it ‘reality rap’ because it reflected what we were going through. We felt backed into a corner, and that nobody cared about our situation and that our only weapon was music.”

- Ice Cube, N.W.A.





Dr. Dre, feat.
Snoop Dogg,
“Nuthin’ But a G
Thang” (1992)

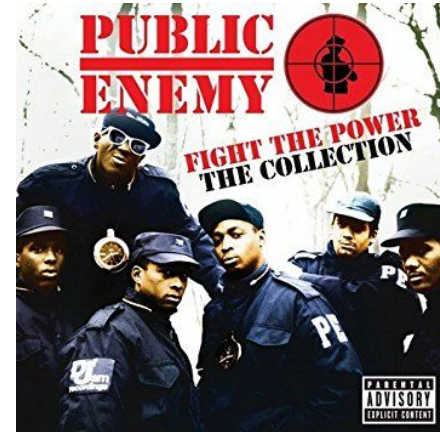
Consider:

How is this video/song an
example of gangsta rap?

What image/attitude does it
embrace?

Socially Conscious Hip Hop

- Responded to the same conditions as Gangsta Rap, but its goal was different.
- Style of hip hop made with the goal to inspire positivity & to challenge the status quo.



2Pac,
“Changes”
(1992)

Consider:

How is this video/
song an example of
socially conscious
hip-hop?

What image/attitude
does it embrace?



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