

The Rise of Disco

I. Roots of Disco – Music

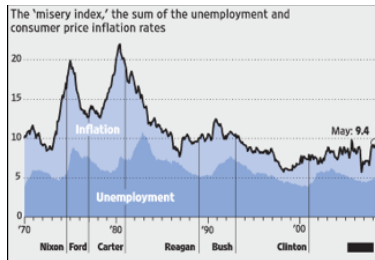
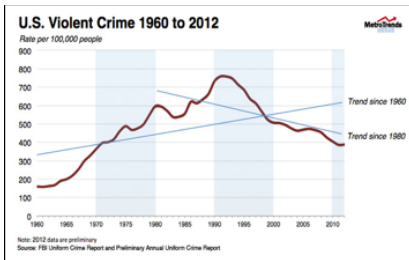
a. Disco came out of _____ - owners were looking for something to take the place of expensive live acts.

II. Early Audience for Disco:

a. _____: early disco clubs were a safe space for gay men to get together and dance.

b. _____ and _____: disco offered a home and a voice for these two groups. (Music up to the mid-'70s was very white male dominated - disco broke that mold.)

III. Roots of disco – economic & political changes



a. What can we say about the economy and politics in the 1970s?

b. How do you think a troubled economy/politics helped the rise of disco?

c. Disco provided an escape from “the general depression and drabness of the political and musical atmosphere of the ‘70s.”

IV. Disco Moves into the Mainstream

- a. Mainstream radio started playing disco in the mid-1970s
- b. Popular disco artists included the Village People, Diana Ross, and the Bee Gees.
- c. At first, disco was an outlet for LGBT people & women. BUT by the mid-1970s, disco was mainstream and targeted at which group of people? _____

d. *Saturday Night Fever*

How did *Saturday Night Fever* help to make disco popular in mainstream, heterosexual culture?

- e. The term “disco” came from the French term “discotheque.” Disco was more than a type of music. It was also _____

f. **Dancing**

- i. Dancing was central to disco.
- ii. Popular dances: _____

- g. Clubs – the Discotheque

- i. What kinds of decor were common at discotheques? (LIST)

h. **Disco Fashion**

- i. Disco fashion was a form of expression:
 - 1. Acceptance of many different styles of dress
 - 2. Emphasis on individualism
- ii. What were some of the popular styles? (LIST a few): _____

i. **Disco Music**

- i. Donna Summer (the Queen of disco), know for her 17 minute song, “Love to Love you Baby”

ii. **The Village People**

1. Named for what? _____, an area with a large gay population, where the modern Gay Rights Movement started with the Stonewall Riots.
2. Known for their popular songs, “YMCA,” “Macho Man,” and “In the Navy.”
3. How do the Village People reflect common stereotypes about gay men?

4. What was important about the Village People’s success?

V. **The Death of Disco**

- a. What criticisms did many have of disco? (LIST)

- b. **Disco Demolition Derby**: anti-disco rally organized by a hard rock radio DJ. Anti-disco fans burned more than 100,000 disco albums at Detroit's Tiger Stadium as a mid-game promotion.