**Britpop**

Britpop emerged from the British [independent music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_music) scene of the early 1990s and was characterised by bands influenced by British guitar pop music of the 1960s and 1970s. It was a reaction to various musical and cultural trends in the late 1980s and early 1990s, particularly the [grunge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grunge) phenomenon from the United States. As these bands became more popular in the UK, new British groups such as Suede and Blur launched the movement by providing an alternate, more British type of popular music.

They were influenced by British guitar music of the past and wrote about uniquely British topics and concerns.

These bands were soon joined by others including [Oasis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oasis_%28band%29), [Pulp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulp_%28band%29), [Supergrass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supergrass), [Sleeper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sleeper_%28band%29), [Elastica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elastica) and [The Verve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Verve).

Britpop groups brought British alternative rock into the mainstream and formed the backbone of a larger British cultural movement called [Cool Britannia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cool_Britannia).

The Beatles, The Kinks, The Smiths and The Stone Roses are amongst the bands that influenced the Britpop movement.

* Britpop groups were defined by being focused on bands rather than solo artists.
* They had a typical rock band line up of drums/bass/guitar/vocals (and sometimes keyboards).
* They wrote original material, played their own instruments and sang in regional British accents.
* They often wrote about British places, landmarks and fashion trends.
* The lyrics were meant to be relevant to British young people of their own generation.
* Britpop bands denounced grunge as irrelevant and having nothing to say about their lives.

[Damon Albarn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damon_Albarn) of Blur summed up the attitude in 1993 when after being asked if Blur were an "anti-grunge band" he said, "Well, that's good. If punk was about getting rid of hippies, then I'm getting rid of grunge."

**Blur vs Oasis**

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A chart battle between Blur and Oasis dubbed "The Battle of Britpop" brought Britpop to the forefront of the British press in 1995. The bands had initially praised each other but over the course of the year tensions between the two began to grow. It came to a climax when Oasis released their single "[Roll With It](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roll_with_It_%28Oasis_song%29)" and Blur released their single "[Country House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country_House)" on the same day. Many saw this as not only a battle between two songs but a battle between two bands, two British classes and two British regions. Oasis were taken as representing the North of England, while Blur represented the South. Blur won the battle of the bands, selling 274,000 copies to Oasis' 216,000 - the songs charting at number one and number two respectively. However, in the long run Oasis became more commercially successful than Blur. Unlike Blur, Oasis were able to achieve sustained sales in the United States thanks to the singles "Wonderwall" and "Champagne Supernova". Oasis's second album [*(What's the Story) Morning Glory?*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%28What%27s_the_Story%29_Morning_Glory%3F) (1995) eventually sold over four million copies in the UK, becoming the third best-selling album in British history.

**The End**

As the movement began to slow down, many acts began to falter and broke up. The popularity of the pop group the [Spice Girls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spice_Girls) has been seen as having "snatched the spirit of the age from those responsible for Britpop." Even after Britpop had ended, bands like [Travis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travis_%28band%29), [Stereophonics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereophonics) and [Coldplay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coldplay), influenced by Britpop acts, were some of the most successful rock acts of the late 1990s and early 2000s.

**Questions:**

1. When did Britpop emerge?
2. What was it a reaction to and why?
3. Name 8 Britpop bands.
4. Who influenced Britpop?
5. What is the typical line up of a Britpop band?
6. What did Britpop bands think about Grunge?
7. What 2 singled were released on the same day?
8. Who won The Battle of Britpop?
9. When did The Battle of Britpop happen?
10. Why did Britpop end?