

**Celebrate the Century 1980s - Hip Hop Culture**  
**Scott #3190o Designed by Carl Herrman**  
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The Cachet Art on the cover depicts "Salt 'N' Pepa," one of the most successful Rap groups of all time. In 1989 they became the first Rap Group ever to be nominated for and win a Grammy.

Hip Hop originated in the South Bronx, New York during the seventies. It is made up of four parts: *Breakdancing*, *DeeJaying*, *EmCeeing*, and *Graffiti*.

During the seventies, the South Bronx experienced major deterioration. Factories were closed and apartments razed to make way for the Cross Bronx Expressway. Federal Assistance was also decreased, and white residents were fleeing to the suburbs.

The area became an economic wasteland and the remaining residents, primarily African and Hispanic Americans, received virtually no outside financial support.

It was against this background that the Hip Hop culture was born. African American and Hispanic youths who had no recreation halls or community centers to dance in, began to use the streets. Musicians who could not afford instruments improvised using their stereo equipment and turntables in new and innovative ways. Youthful artists created stunning mural and fresco paintings on the buildings and subways of the Bronx. DJ Kool Herc (Clive Campbell) first brought his sounds to the Bronx in 1969 and is known as the father of Hip Hop. In 1978 the term *Rap Music* was coined by the music industry. The first commercial rap record was released in 1979 by the Sugar Hill Gang.

In the 1980s Hip Hop culture gained national popularity and commercial success with such artists as: Kurtis Blow, Afrika Bambaataa, Grandmaster Flash, and ICE T.

B-Boys.com is a wonderful resource for obtaining further information concerning Hip Hop.

**Sources:**

*Encyclopedia Britannica*

*Encyclopedia Africana*