

Mud, yurts and music: It must be Glastonbury!

For the last 45 years on the last weekend in June, dairy farmer Michael Eavis has hosted what is now the world's biggest pop festival on Worthy farm in Somerset. The cows are moved to other quarters, the multiple stages are erected and the thronging crowds are welcomed.

Most of the biggest names in pop music have played at Glastonbury at some point over its 45-year history, from David Bowie to Dolly Parton and Paul McCartney to Beyoncé. The Rolling Stones, U2, Coldplay, Jay Z, Dizzee Rascal – even the heavy metal band Metallica has headlined. Last year there were 2,200 performers on over 100 stages. There was live music (in all its infinite variety); there were DJ's, political speakers, circus acts, magicians, philosophers, children's entertainers, poets, stand-up comedians, healers, dancers, storytellers and puppeteers - a veritable cornucopia of artists.

The Worthy farm site is located at Pilton about seven miles from the town of Glastonbury and not far from the famous Tor. The festival site is set across 1,200 acres in the mystical Vale of Avalon, so trying to cross the site when the thousands of festival-goers are in attendance can take hours. Weather can also hinder progress around the site. It seems that most years there is a downfall which creates the now familiar pictures of water-logged fields and campsites and festival-goers trying to remain cheerful while wading through muddy bogs in Wellingtons.

The Glastonbury music festival has changed beyond all recognition from its inception in 1970, when tickets cost just £1 (including free milk from Eavis's cows) and just 1,500 people attended. These days the price of a standard ticket is £210, plus booking fee. In 1970, festival-goers applied by post to Michael Eavis himself – and now it's all done through booking agents online. In September 2014, the 150,000 tickets available online for Glastonbury 2015 were sold out in less than 30 minutes. And what was just a one-day festival in 1970 is now a three-day extravaganza and is the biggest Greenfield festival in the world. People can bring their own tents with them (and be at risk of a wash-out in the case of very heavy rain), or they can book a pre-erected tent, a tipi or a yurt. Others play safe by driving their own caravans or campervans to the site.

One thing that has remained constant throughout its history is the ethos of the festival. Every year significant amounts of money are raised and donated to Oxfam, WaterAid and Greenpeace who are all 'working together for a cleaner greener fairer Glastonbury'.

Although the festival started in 1970, it has not been held every year. Eavis decided to have fallow years every fifth year in order to let the ground recover – and give his neighbours a rest! The last fallow year was in 2012, so you can expect another quiet June in the Vale of Avalon in 2017. As already mentioned, tickets for this year's festival sold out in a flash – so why not stay at home, avoid the mud and enjoy the music on the BBC!

If you would like to find out more about the Glastonbury festival, then click [here](#).

And if you would like to use the Glastonbury festival as a topic in your lesson, we have provided you with an activity. You'll find it in the following **Teacher's notes** and on the **Worksheet**.

Teacher's notes

Glastonbury hits (level A1 upwards, 20 mins)

- Make copies of **Glastonbury hits**, one for each pair of students.
- On the board write *Glastonbury* and ask students if they know what and where it is.
- Explain that the biggest music festival in the world takes place in Glastonbury and that the town is located in the south west of England near Bath.
- On the board write *3, 45, 100, 210* and *175,000*. Ask students what these numbers have to do with Glastonbury. (It lasts for three days, it has been running for 45 years, it has over 100 stages, a ticket costs £210 and 175,000 people attend the festival.)
- Tell students that many famous bands and musicians have played at Glastonbury. On the board write *Robbie Williams* and ask students which top ten hits he has recorded. (Suggestions: *Feel, Angels, Come undone, She's the one, Let me entertain you, Candy, Rock DJ*)
- Tell students they are going to do a quiz about famous rock and pop musicians who have performed at Glastonbury.
- Give each pair of students a copy of **Glastonbury hits** and tell them to match up the musician or band with the correct hit.

- Check answers together in class.

Key: 1 The Who – g My generation, 2 Stevie Wonder – m You are the sunshine of my life, 3 David Bowie – a Ziggy Stardust, 4 Bob Dylan – d Hey, Mr Tambourine man, 5 Paul McCartney – p Mull of Kintyre, 6 Shirley Bassey – v Goldfinger, 7 Amy Winehouse – j Rehab, 8 Bruce Springsteen – c Born in the USA, 9 Lady Gaga – o Born this way, 10 Rod Stewart – r Sailing, 11 Kylie Minogue – h I should be so lucky, 12 Shakira – b Hips don't lie, 13 Dolly Parton – n Jolene, 14 Rolling Stones – l Satisfaction 15 Lionel Richie – f All night long, 16 U2 – i With or without you, 17 Oasis – e Wonderwall, 18 Beyoncé – q Crazy in Love

- Possible follow-up activities

- In pairs, students discuss which musicians or bands and songs (from the list on the Worksheet) they (don't) like.

- If you have an A1 class, bring in the words to Rod Stewart's *Sailing* (you can find the lyrics [here](#)).

For a higher level class, try Stevie Wonder's *You are the sunshine of my life* (you can find the lyrics [here](#)) or *Mull of Kintyre* by Paul McCartney (the lyrics are [here](#)).

Have a sing song!

- Have a total music lesson: For homework ask each student to bring in a favourite song on CD or portable device with a copy of the words.

Worksheet



Glastonbury hits

Match the musician or band with the right hit song.

	Musicians / Bands		Hit songs
1	The Who	a	Ziggy Stardust
2	Stevie Wonder	b	Hips don't lie
3	David Bowie	c	Born in the USA
4	Bob Dylan	d	Hey, Mr Tambourine man
5	Paul McCartney	e	Wonderwall
6	Shirley Bassey	f	All night long
7	Amy Winehouse	g	My generation
8	Bruce Springsteen	h	I should be so lucky
9	Lady Gaga	i	With or without you
10	Rod Stewart	j	Rehab
11	Kylie Minogue	k	Goldfinger
12	Shakira	l	Satisfaction
13	Dolly Parton	m	You are the sunshine of my life
14	Rolling Stones	n	Jolene
15	Lionel Richie	o	Born this way
16	U2	p	Mull of Kintyre
17	Oasis	q	Crazy in Love
18	Beyoncé	r	Sailing