Roots of Rock & Roll Glossary

**Blues:** A style of music created by African Americans in the South, often with verses of three lines that tell stories in everyday language

**Chorus:** The line or lines that are repeated in music often with the same musical accompaniment

**Country:** A style of music created by Anglo-Americans in the South, often featuring stringed instruments such as fiddles, autoharps, guitars, or dulcimers

**Culture:** The customary beliefs, social patterns, and creative products shared by a group of people

**Doo-wop:** A vocal group harmony style loved by teens in northern cities, where backup singers sing repeated words or vocables

**Gospel:** Religious music of African-American Christians that emerged in urban centers during the early decades of the twentieth century; gospel music informed a style often called “southern gospel” rooted in musical traditions of predominantly white Protestants in the southeastern U.S.

**Great Migration:** Historical term for mass migrations of African Americans from rural areas to cities from around 1915 to 1970

**Harmony:** Two or more different pitches (or notes) that sound at the same time: the parts of a song that accompany the melody (or tune)

**Musical style:** Musical patterns or trends in songs and performances of a number of artists, often used to classify musical genres

**Racial segregation:** The discriminatory separation of people based on racial categories and enforced by laws, institutional policies, and customs

**Region:** An area that includes smaller places, usually sharing similar features of land, weather, and/or customs
**Rock and roll**: African-American slang dating back to the early twentieth century; in the early 1950s, the term came to be used to describe a new form of music, steeped in the blues, rhythm & blues, country and gospel. Today, it refers to a wide variety of popular music.

**Roots**: 1) the parts of plants that provide nutrients; 2) the older music and traditions used to create new music

**Region**: an area that includes smaller places, usually sharing similar features of land, weather, and/or customs

**Rural**: Of or relating to the country, farming, or people in farming communities

**Verse**: A section of lyrics that tells part of the song’s story and is similar to a verse in a poem

**Urban**: Of or relating to a city or heavily populated area