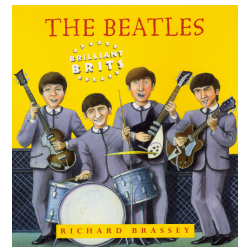


The Beatles by Richard BRASSEY
(Orion Children's Books, 2003)



In this book collection, Richard Brassey writes about different **“Brilliant Brits”**. This book is about **the Beatles**. He has also written about other famous British people. The back cover mentions **Henry VIII, Shakespeare, King Arthur, Boudicca, David Beckham, Queen Victoria, Guy Fawkes ...**

Pages 1 & 2 : Introduction :

The four Beatles, in order of their ages (oldest to youngest) were :

1. **Ringo Star**
2. **John Lennon**
3. **Paul McCartney**
4. **George Harrison**

Number of number 1 songs : **17**

Number of people who watched them on TV? **400 million**

The reason why the Beatles couldn't hear themselves play? **Their fans screamed so loud.**

Give 3 nicknames given to the Beatles:

1. **The Fab Four**
2. **The Loveable Moptops**
3. **The Toppermost of the Poppermost.**

Where and when were the four Beatles born? **In Liverpool, during WW2**

John's middle name? **Winston**

Name given in honour of: **The British Prime Minister during WW2, Winston Churchill**

What did Ringo's mother do during air-raids? **She hid under the stairs.**

Vocabulary : Find the English words for:

Second World War / WW2	<i>2ème Guerre Mondiale</i>	tough /tʌf/	<i>difficile/dur</i>
air-raid	<i>raid aérien</i>	peace	<i>paix</i>
bombing	<i>bombardements</i>	hope	<i>espoir</i>

What is the English expression for “à l'envers” : **upside down**

Tick the correct definition of *dodge* : ☐ find ☐ fight ☐ hit ☒ **avoid**

Pages 3 & 4 : John and Paul's childhoods :

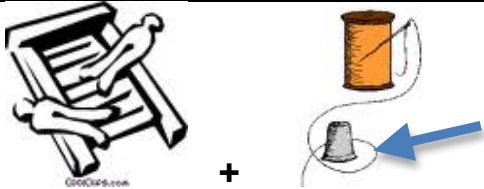

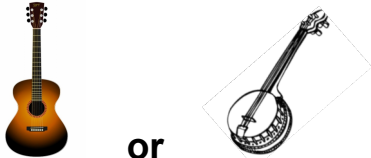
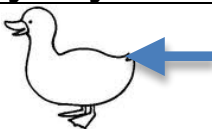
	John	Paul
Address :	251 Menlove Avenue	20 Forthlin Road
Lived with :	Aunt Mimi	Parents, and brother Mike
Attitude at school :	Bad, acted like a clown	Good, enjoyed singing
Musical instrument :	Guitar	Guitar
His mother died :	Killed in a road accident	When Paul was 15




Vocabulary : Find the English words for:

to split up	<i>se séparer</i>	hopeless	<i>nul, incompetent</i>
an orphanage	<i>orphelinat</i>	failure	<i>échec</i>
to slip through the fence	<i>se glisser à travers la clôture</i>	to turn down	<i>refuser</i>
to surround	<i>entourer</i>	to apply	<i>postuler</i>
(school) reports	<i>bulletins (scolaires)</i>	choir	<i>chœur, chorale</i>

Page 5: Skiffle music was popular in England in the: ☐ 1930's ☒ **1950's** ☐ 1970's

Skiffle music was : ☒ **easy to play** ☐ difficult to play.

Skiffle instrument	Name in English	Translation in French
	Percussion made from : Washboard and thimble	Planche à laver + Dé à coudre
	"Tea chest bass" (double bass) /beɪs/ made from: a large box + a broom handle + a piece of string	Contrebasse - coffre à thé (Grosse boîte en bois + manche à balai + ficelle)
 or	Guitar or banjo	Guitare ou banjo
Teddy Boy Outfit	Name in English	Translation in French
 Hair like a	Ducktail hairstyle	Coiffure en forme de queue de canard

		String bow tie	Nœud papillon à cordes
		Long drape jacket	Veste longue drapé
	This is a drainpipe (long and narrow)		Pantalon très étroit
			Chaussures pointues "winklepicker"

What are the names of these American rock 'n' roll singers :



Elvis Presley



Buddy Holly



Little Richard



Chuck Berry

Page 6 : The Quarrymen Who did what? **John** (J) or **Paul** (P)? :

Quarrybank was the name of **John**'s school. **The Quarrymen** was the name of **John**'s skiffle group. In 1956, **Paul** saw this group play at a church fete. When singing, if he couldn't remember the words to the songs, **John** invented new ones, which **Paul** thought was very clever. **Paul** showed **John** some new chords. **John** was impressed with **Paul** because **Paul** could play the guitar upside down. **John** asked **Paul** to join his group.

Vocabulary : Find the English words for:

clever	intelligent	left-handed	gaucher
chord	accord	upside-down	à l'envers





Pages 7 & 8 : New members Who did what ? **John** (J), **Paul** (P) or **George** (G) :

Paul and **John** liked composing songs, and they would practise at **Paul**'s house. **Paul** went to the same school as **George** but they were not in the same class or year. It was **Paul** who introduced **George** to **John**. Then, because **George** knew a lot of guitar chords, **Paul** and **John** asked him to join their band.

Put these sentences into **chronological order** :

- **1** The group was getting popular.
- **2** John left school.
- **3** John started Art College.
- **4** Stu joined the group.
- **5** Stu bought a bass /beɪs/ guitar, but couldn't play it very well.
- **6** The group was invited to play in Germany.
- **7** Pete joined the group, as drummer.
- **8** They started to use the name of the **Beatles** (like beetles, but with an a)
- **9** The group went to play in Germany.

Vocabulary : Musicians and insects...

	A guitarist plays the guitar		A drummer plays the drums.
	This is a cricket		This is a beetle

Find a synonym for *rhythm, pulse* : **beat**

Page 9 : Germany. True or false ? (If false, underline the mistake and correct it).

In Hamburg, the Beatles had short working days. ☐ True ☒ **False** (Correction: **long, 8 hour**)

They had lots of practice playing together. ☒ **True** ☐ False

They were asked to play on a record. ☒ **True** ☐ False

The record was called My Sonnie. ☐ True ☒ **False** (Correction: **My Bonnie**)

Pete met a girl called Astrid. ☐ True ☒ **False** (Correction: **Stu**)

Astrid had the idea for a new hairstyle. ☒ **True** ☐ False

Only Paul kept his hair greased back. ☐ True ☒ **False** (Correction: **Pete**)

George stayed on in Hamburg. ☐ True ☒ **False** (Correction: **Stu**)

John became the bass guitarist. ☐ True ☒ **False** (Correction: **Paul**)

They started playing in a club called The Cave. ☐ True ☒ **False** (Correction: **The Cavern**)

When they played, lots of people came. ☒ **True** ☐ False

Vocabulary : Find the English words for :

stage	scène	record	disque
mop	balai à franges	greased back	gominé

Page 10 : The manager. Put the story into the right chronological order of events:

- **2** The record shop manager, called Brian Epstein, didn't know *My Bonnie*.
- **8** The record shop manager offered to become the Beatles' manager.
- **4** The record shop manager went to see the Beatles play.
- **3** The record shop manager found out where the Beatles were playing.
- **6** The record shop manager met the Beatles in his office.
- **1** Customers asked to buy *My Bonnie* in a Liverpool record shop.
- **5** The record shop manager thought the Beatles looked bad, but played well.
- **7** The record shop manager was cross with Paul, because he was late.

Vocabulary : Find the English words for :

manager	agent	look dirty	avoir l'air sale
round the corner	au coin de la rue	office	bureau
fuss	agitation	be late	être en retard
look scruffy	être mal habillé	be annoyed	être en colère

Page 11 : The producer. Who is **he**? Brian Epstein (B.E.), or George Martin (G.M), and put the story into the right order!

- **4 He** listened to some recordings of the Beatles. **G.M.**
- **1 He** made the Beatles look smart. **B.E.**
- **7 He** took 2 months to decide to make a record with them. **G.M.**
- **2 He** set up concerts for the Beatles to play in. **B.E.**
- **8 He** thought Pete, the drummer, should be replaced. **G.M.**
- **3 He** visited London record companies. **B.E.**
- **5 He** thought the Beatles' recordings were "very interesting". **G.M.**
- **6** The Beatles went to play at the Abbey Road Studios for **him**. **G.M.**

Page 12 : The new drummer.

Drummer's real name :	Richard STARKEY
Drummer's nickname :	Ringo
Reason for this nickname :	He wore lots of rings.
Drummer's address :	10 Admiral Grove.
Health during childhood :	Not good : sickly
Where he started playing the drums:	In hospital

Vocabulary : Find the English words for :

tiny house	<i>maison minuscule</i>	to be on tour	<i>être en tournée</i>
sickly child	<i>enfant malade</i>	was meant to be	<i>était censé être</i>
to record	<i>enregistrer</i>	audience	<i>public, spectateurs</i>
to reach	<i>atteindre</i>	go crazy for	<i>adorer, être fou de</i>
charts	<i>le top 50</i>	to get applause	<i>applaudir</i>

Pages 12-14 : The Beatles' records :

	Name of song	Position in the pop charts
1 st record	Love Me Do	17
2 nd record*	Please Please Me	1
3 rd record**	She Loves You	1
4 th record***	I Want to Hold Your Hand	1

*When this song came out, the Beatles were on tour with a singer called **Helen Sharp**

The Beatles were invited to sing this song on a **T.V. Show at the London Palladium, then they were invited to sing at the **Royal Variety Show** in front of the Queen Mother. This TV performance was seen by **26 million** people. It was the beginning of "*Beatle Mania*."

***With this song, the Beatles were invited to appear in the States on the **Ed Sullivan Show**. Afterwards, at the British **Embassy** some people even tried to get some of the Beatles' **hair** as souvenirs!

Vocabulary pages 13 & 14 : Find the English words for :

when word got out	<i>quand tout le monde savait que</i>	jewellery	<i>bijoux</i>
to keep arriving	<i>ne pas cesser d'arriver</i>	to be about to (do sth)	<i>être sur le point (de faire)</i>
outside	<i>dehors</i>	a huge crowd	<i>une énorme foule</i>
to scream loud	<i>crier très fort</i>	fans	<i>supporteurs</i>
to rehearse	<i>répéter</i>	to beg	<i>supplier, prier</i>
suddenly	<i>soudainement</i>	to greet	<i>accueillir</i>
to appear	<i>apparaître</i>	hardly any	<i>presqu'aucun</i>
a few weeks later	<i>quelques semaines plus tard</i>	to take place	<i>avoir lieu</i>
cheap seats	<i>places bon marché</i>	posh people	<i>des gens snobs / BCBG</i>
to clap	<i>applaudir</i>	to get carried away	<i>se laisser emporter</i>
to rattle	<i>secouer (en faisant du bruit)</i>	to snip	<i>couper (avec un mouvement rapide)</i>

Pages 15 & 16 : Beatlemania :

How long did *Beatlemania* last ? **Beatlemania lasted for three years.**

Which film showed what *Beatlemania* was like ? **A Hard Day's Night.**

When was this film made ? **In 1964**

Name 6 different Beatle souvenirs that you could buy : **You could buy :**

- 1. Beatle dolls**
- 2. Beatle wigs**
- 3. boots**
- 4. dresses**
- 5. sheets**
- 6. pillowcases**

Where could you read about what the Beatles said and did? **In the newspapers.**

Where did Beatle songs always go in the pop charts? **Straight to (directly to) number one.**

What did fans do when they heard them play? **They screamed!**

What did fans do when they discovered that George liked jelly babies? **They began pelting the stage with them!**

Vocabulary : Find the English words for :

doll	<i>poupée</i>	hair-do	<i>coiffure</i>
wig	<i>perruque</i>	jelly babies	
sheets	<i>draps</i>	soft	<i>moelleux</i>
pillowcases	<i>taies d'oreiller</i>	jelly beans	
everywhere	<i>partout</i>	hard	<i>dur</i>
hardly be heard	<i>à peine entendu</i>	to hurt	<i>blessé</i>

Page 17 : Important moments Complete the story :

In **1966**, the Beatles stopped **performing** and recorded “**Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band**” This album was revolutionary. It experimented with new **sounds** like tapes played **backwards** and **Indian** instruments. It changed pop music forever.

In June **1967** the Beatles appeared on the first global TV show that linked the world by satellite, and sang **All You Need Is Love** to an audience of **400** million. At the time, American soldiers were fighting a war in **Vietnam**, and the Beatle’s message of **love** and **peace** exactly reflected public opinion.

Vocabulary : Find the English words for :



stadium	<i>stade</i>	tape	<i>cassette</i>
to feel trapped	<i>se sentir piégé</i>	to play backwards	<i>jouer à l'envers</i>
to give up	<i>abandonner</i>	to link	<i>relier, connecter</i>

Page 18: Songwriters. Who did what ? Write Paul (**P**) or John (**J**), or both (**B**) ?

- Recognised as an exceptional songwriter **B**
- Wrote hundreds of songs **B**
- Gradually got better at writing songs **B**
- Had interesting ideas **B**
- Wrote 'Yesterday' **P**
- Wrote 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds' **J**

Vocabulary : Find the English words for :

tune	mélodie	sky	ciel
scrambled eggs	 œufs brouillés	diamond	diamant
to fit with	aller bien avec	looking glass	miroir
a painting	peinture	dreamlike	onirique

Pages 19 & 20 : Inspiration for some of the best Beatle songs :

1. Penny Lane : **local shopping street**
2. I am the Walrus : **playground rhyme sung by the boys**
3. Strawberry Field : **the orphanage near Aunt Mimi's house**
4. Eleanor Rigby : **name on gravestone in a churchyard.**

Vocabulary : Find the English words for :

childhood memory	souvenir d'enfance	to upset	embêter
shelter	abri	ocean liner	paquebot
landmark	point de repère	amazing	incroyable
roundabout	rond-point	to make up / invent	créer / inventer
barber shop	 barbier	to notice	remarquer
playground rhyme	comptine	churchyard	cimetière
walrus	 morse	gravestone	pierre tombale



Pages 21 & 22 : The beginning of the end. Complete the story about events from August '67:

Bad news ☹ and good news 😊 :

- ❖ ☹ All four Beatles were beginning to get bored with life as a "Beatle". So they started to see an Indian **guru** (teacher) called the **Maharishi** who taught them how to meditate.
- ❖ ☹ Brian Epstein died of an accidental drug overdose, by taking **sleeping pills**.
- ❖ ☹ He was the Beatles' manager and they **relied** on him to organise everything.
- ❖ ☹ The Beatles' new film "**The Magical Mystery Tour**" was not a **success**.
- ❖ ☹ The Beatles were all following their **own interests** and were **drifting apart**.
- ❖ ☹ They all got **married**.
- ❖ 😊 The cartoon called "**Yellow Submarine**" was a **hit**.
- ❖ 😊 They made **two** more great albums :



This is the album **cover** for "**Abbey Road**" which shows a picture of them on the **pedestrian crossing** outside the Abbey Road **Studios**. **Tourists** come from all over the **world** to be photographed in the same place.



Their last album is called **Let It Be**. During the making of this album, the Beatles **performed** for the last time together on the **roof** of their offices in London. They made so much **noise** that the neighbours complained to the **police** !

Vocabulary Pages 21 & 22: Find the English words for :

sleeping pills	<i>somnifères</i>	roof	<i>toit</i>
to rely on someone	<i>compter sur qqn</i>	to perform	<i>se produire</i>
success/hit	<i>succès/hit</i>	loud	<i>fort, bruyant</i>
pedestrian crossing	<i>passage piéton</i>	to split up	<i>se séparer</i>

Page 23 : After they split up. Who did what? Paul (P), John (J), George (G) or Ringo (R)?

- Died from cancer in 2002 : **G**
- Started a new band, called Wings : **P**
- Campaigned for world peace : **J**
- Made some films : **R**
- Was murdered in 1980 : **J**
- Was knighted by the Queen in 1997 : **P**
- Recorded his voice for the cartoon *Thomas the Tank Engine* : **R**
- Married Yoko Ono : **J**
- Continued writing songs : **J, P, G and R.**

Writing Task : Create another booklet for the **Brilliant Brits** collection (or the **Amazing Americans**, or even the **Fabulous French**...) that gives a biography of a famous person (living or dead). **The book must :**

- be suitable for children, so simple to understand,
- give anecdotes, and/or amusing, interesting information,
- and contain illustrations (if you wish, like a cartoon, as in Brassey's book).

If you lack inspiration, you can do a “remake” of Brassey's *The Beatles*.

The book will be written in class, but you can prepare your ideas, make research notes, and draw your pictures at home.

Why not do research into a **Liverpudlian Legend** or enlarge to another Merseysider of your choice? How about :

- **William Gladstone**, former prime minister,
- **Ken Dodd**, extremely well known stand up comedian and musician in the UK
- **Alexei Sayle** stand up TV comedian, highly controversial writer, actor in Hollywood films
- **Cilla Black**, famous singer and TV presenter
- **Clive Barker**, famous horror fiction writer. Directed the film 'Hellraiser' based on his own book 'Hellbound'
- **David Yip**, actor ('Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom' & James Bond's 'A View to a Kill')
- **Jimmy Tarbuck**, famous comedian and TV presenter
- **Wayne Rooney**, arguably one of the most famous footballers in the world today
- **Steven Gerrard**, probably the most loved footballer to ever grow up in Liverpool.
- **Atomic Kitten**, English girl group from Liverpool with singers Natasha Hamilton, Liz McClarnon, and Jenny Frost who replaced Kerry Katona
- **Ian McCulloch**, lead singer of Echo and the Bunnymen