

John Lennon was born during World War II. John was a member of the famous British band called the Beatles. John was born on October 9th, 1940, in Liverpool. When he was four years old, his parents separated and he lived with his aunt Mimi. His father missed most of his life when he was little. But his mother remarried and she visited him and Mimi regularly. John's mother Julia taught him how to play piano and purchased his first guitar. He enjoyed art; he thought he could go to college for art.

John Lennon became famous with Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney and George Harrison. All of them were in a band that was named the Beatles. But before the Beatles, there were of course other bands that John Lennon was in. John was performing with his skiffle group called the Quarrymen at a church picnic. That's when he met Paul. Later John invited Paul to join Quarrymen. Soon John and Paul were soon writing songs together. By the end of the year Paul convinced John to let George join the Quarrymen. Then the Quarrymen became Johnny and the Moondogs. In 1960 Stu Sutcliffe joined and Stu was the bassist. That's when the name became the Silver Beatles, soon to be the Beatles. Tommy Moore was the drummer until Pete Best replaced Tommy. After Pete replaced Tommy, they went to Hamburg, Germany. Then George went home because he was being underage and lacking a work permit. By then their 30 weeks on stages of Hamburg beer houses. They debuted at the Cavern Club on Mathew Street in Liverpool, that started their 300 performances there over the next couple of years. A year later after Stu joined, he left to become a painter, then Paul went to bass. In 1961 Brian Epstein went into the Cavern Club after the amount of people that wanted their single My Bonnie, and then Brian became their manager. Brian Epstein was also an owner of a record store. Decca records passed on the Beatles after their audition. Dick Rowe is now known as the man who gave away the Beatles. That year Stu Sutcliffe died because of a brain hemorrhage in Hamburg.

The Beatles were the first British band that made it big in the United States. How they got to the United States, you asked, it started with their appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show in February 1964. After their appearance, they went back to Britain to film *A Hard Day's Night* and getting ready for their first world tour. A year later they filmed *Help!*. That June the Queen announced to the Beatles that they would be named a Member of the Order of the British Empire. Two months after they performed to 55,600 fans at Shea Stadium in New York. Setting a new record for the largest concert audience in musical history. Then they went back to England to record *Rubber Soul*. A year later Beatlemania was losing fans. John said that we were "more popular than Jesus." That statement made people burn their records in the U.S. The Beatles stopped touring after their August 29, 1966 concert at San Francisco's Candlestick Park. After the year-long break, the Beatles went back to recording with *Penny Lane/Strawberry Fields Forever*. Followed by Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. In May 1968 the Beatles launch Apple Corps, Ltd. Apple Corps include Apple Records in London. In November of 1968 the Beatles released the *White Album*. A year later they released *Abbey Road*. In April of 1970 Paul announces that he is leaving the Beatles due to business, personal and musical differences. That same year *Let It Be* is released followed by *Let It Be* film. In June of that year *The Long and Winding Road* becomes the last #1 single.

I'm going to start talking about this person this person is named Mark David Chapman. He shot and killed John Lennon outside of John's apartment on December 8 1980. He was sentenced to 20 years in jail. In 1980 Mark purchased Double Fantasy at a record store. Two days later Mark waited outside of John's apartment building. Mark watched as John exited his apartment at approximately at 5:50 p.m. John was on the way to his recording studio. Mark went up to John with the album and John signed it happily. Mark then placed his signed album in a planter. Around 10:30 John returned home. This time Mark was after much more than a autograph. Mark raises the gun and fired hitting him four times in the back and shoulder. John's wife Yoko witnessed it. An hour later John was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

In conclusion John Lennon is a hero to me because he lived with out his dad and his mom. He lived through World war II. He tried to go to college. He toured the world. He was in a famous band. He was against violence. He is a hero to me.