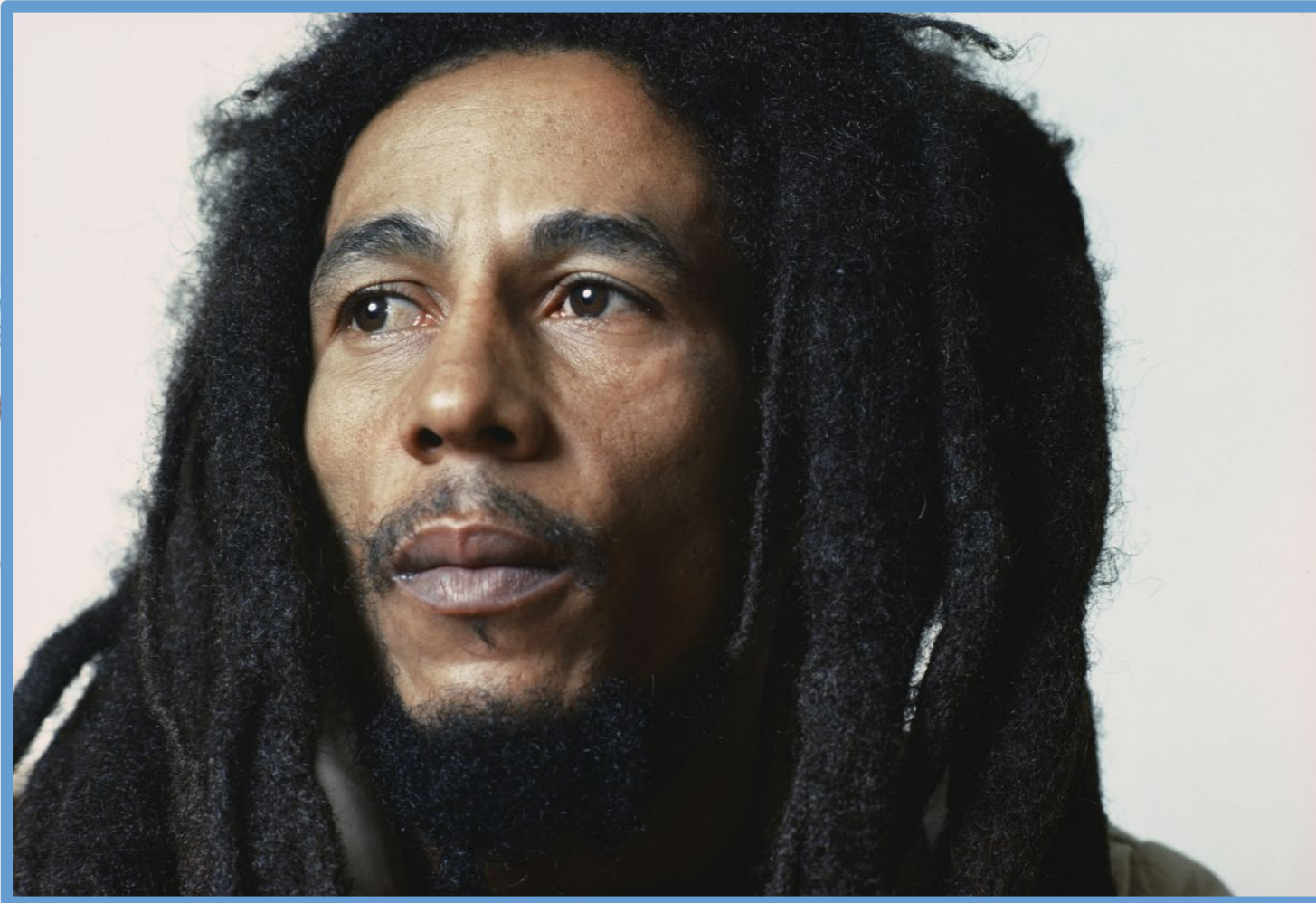




# Bob Marley

Composer of the Week



Bob Marley  
(1945-1981)





Born in Nine  
Mile, Jamaica,  
1945



Died in Miami,  
Florida, USA  
1981

Bob Marley was a Jamaican singer, song-writer and musician. He was a pioneer of **reggae** and made Jamaican music famous all over the world.

He is seen as a global figure in popular culture to this day.

**Reggae** is based on Jamaican dance music. The music has a strong bass and off-beat rhythms and the songs are often about news, gossip, politics and social awareness.

A background illustration of a tree with a brown trunk and green foliage. Various musical notes and instruments are scattered around the tree. A blue square is in the bottom left corner.

Bob Marley was born in the hill country of Jamaica to a white English father and a black Jamaican mother.

He lived in the Kingston slum known as Trench Town in the early 1960's, and this is when he formed **The Wailers** with his childhood friend Bunny Livingston (Bunny Wailer) and Peter Tosh.

This gave him a deep understanding of the lives of the poor and underprivileged people living in Jamaica at the time.

Bob realised that he could try and change people's lives by telling their story in his songs.

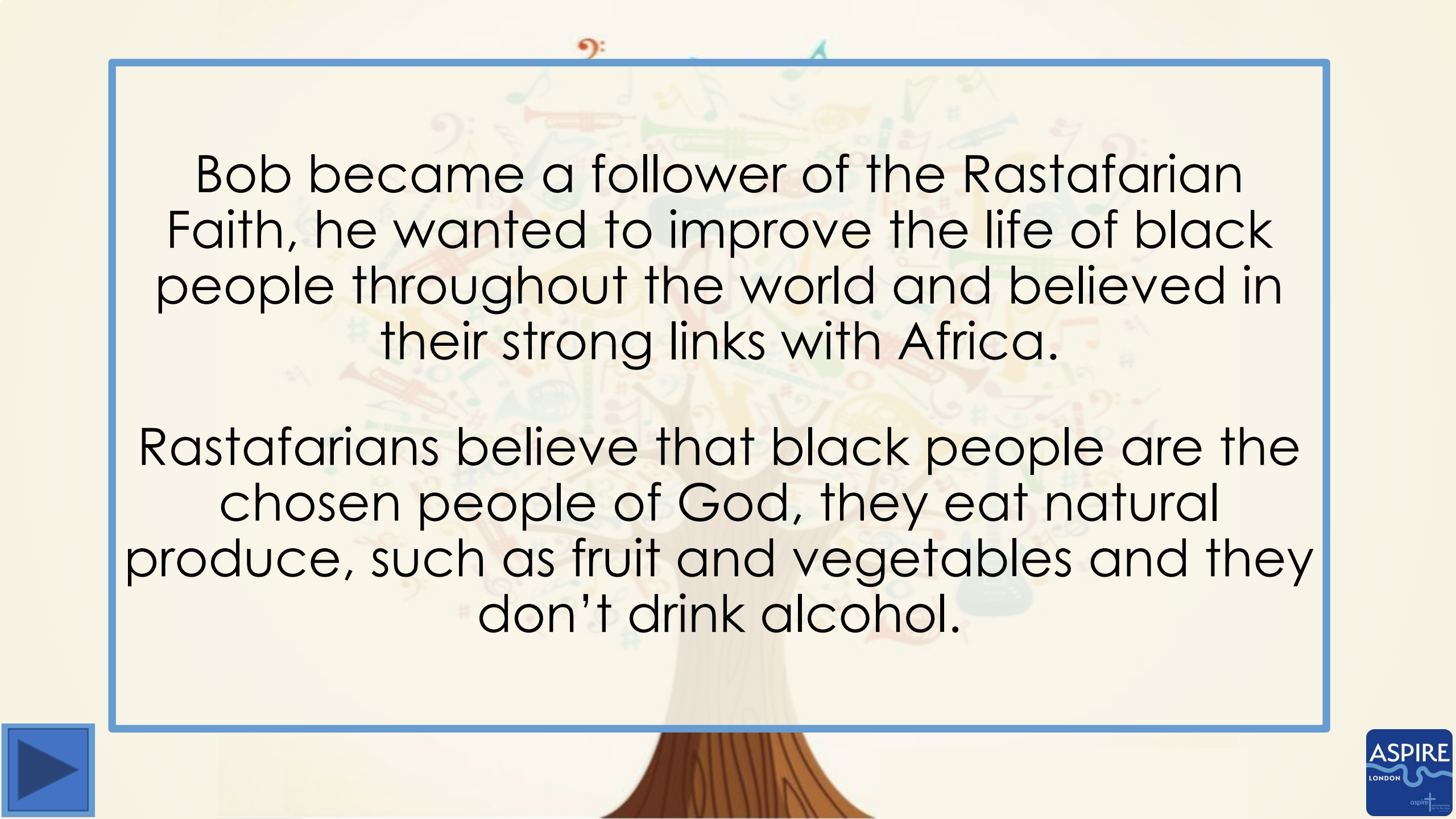


Even though Bob Marley wrote this song, **No Woman, No Cry**, he made sure that songwriter credits were also given to his friend Vincent Ford.

Vincent ran a soup kitchen, making food for the poor in Trench Town, the ghetto of Kingston, Jamaica where Marley grew up.

These royalty payments, given to Vincent Ford, enabled the soup kitchen to continue.



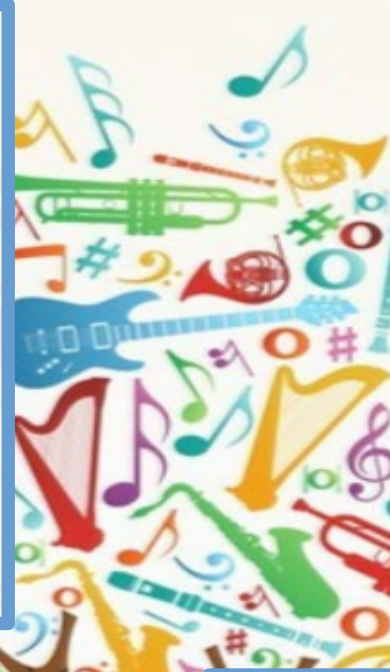
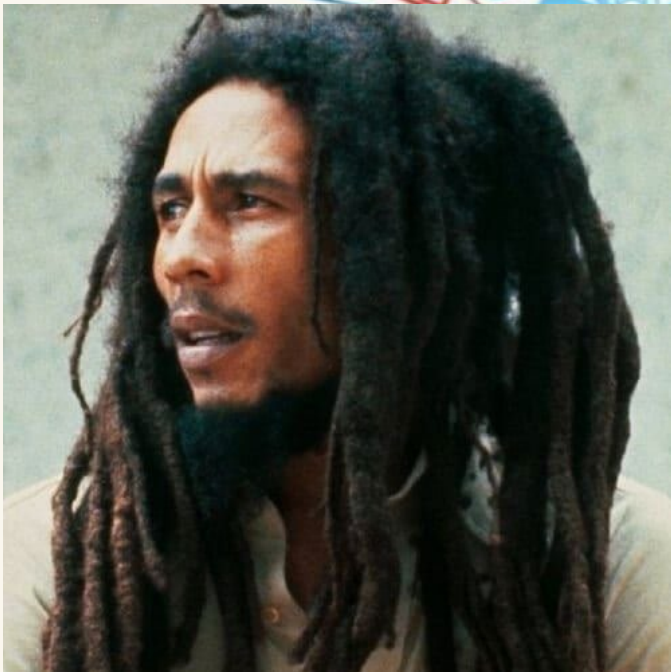
The background of the slide features a light beige color with a faint, artistic illustration of a tree trunk at the bottom center. Scattered across the background are various musical notes and instruments, including a trumpet, a saxophone, and a double bass, rendered in soft, pastel colors like blue, green, and orange.

Bob became a follower of the Rastafarian Faith, he wanted to improve the life of black people throughout the world and believed in their strong links with Africa.

Rastafarians believe that black people are the chosen people of God, they eat natural produce, such as fruit and vegetables and they don't drink alcohol.



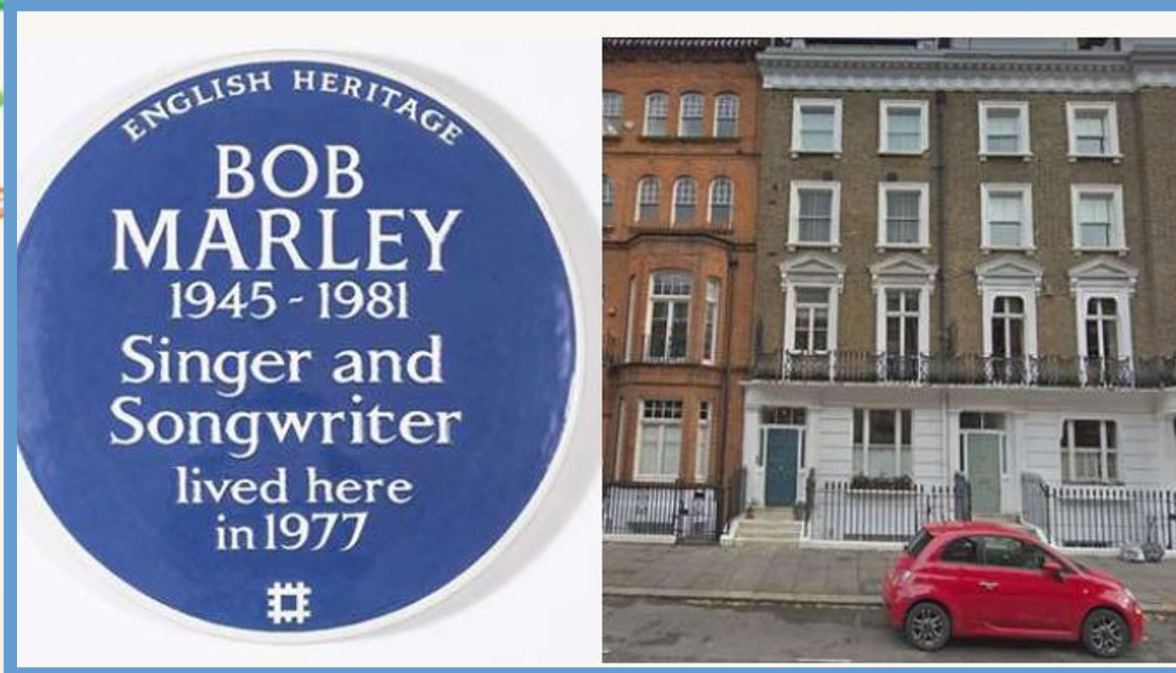
Rastafarians are forbidden to cut their hair, instead, they grow it and twist it into dreadlocks



The lion is the symbol of Rastafari.  
Rastafarians' dreadlocks represent the lion's mane.

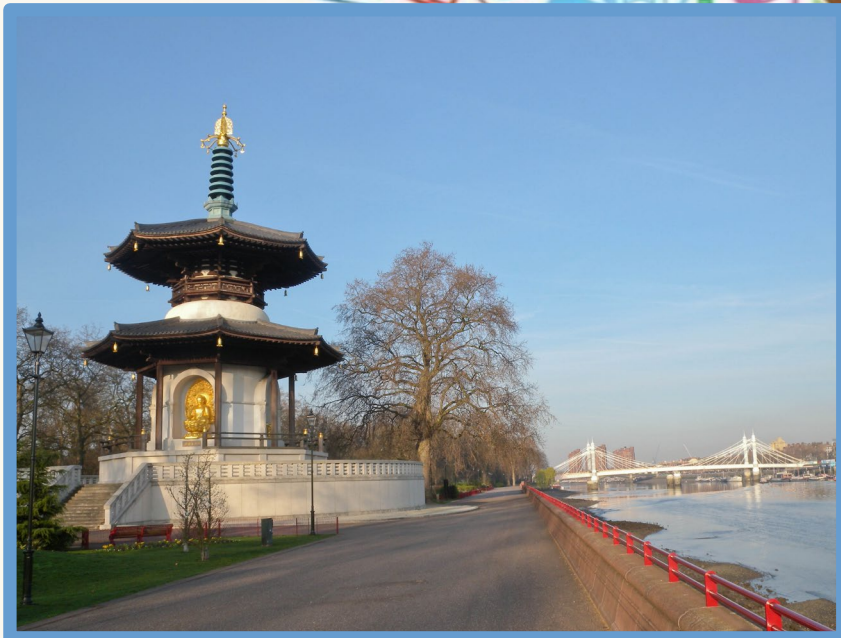
Due to his political beliefs, Bob was the victim of an assassination attempt in Jamaica so, in 1976, he moved to London.

He lived at 42 Oakley Street in Chelsea.



Bob loved football, it's said that he played football in Battersea Park with his bandmates every morning and went to the recording studio in the afternoon.

He supported Tottenham Hotspur.



While he was in London he recorded one of his best albums **Exodus**. This song is called **Jamming**.

**Jamming** is when musicians get together to play informally - a kind of making it up as they go along - but here, Bob also uses '**jamming**' to mean getting along with each other in love and unity.





In 1980 Bob Marley played a concert at the Crystal Palace Bowl, very close to us.

Bob Marley was very interested in nature. This song, **Three Little Birds**, is possibly his most famous. It is said to have been inspired by three canaries who used to sit on his windowsill every morning.

Others say it was named after **I Three**, Bob's backing group.



Bob Marley ranks as one of the best-selling music artists of all time, with estimated sales of more than 75 million records worldwide

ONE GOOD THING  
ABOUT MUSIC, WHEN  
IT HITS YOU, YOU  
FEEL NO PAIN.  
- BOB MARLEY

