



Dear Educator:

Thanks to technology, like the Internet, MP3 players, and the smartphone, today's music fans have more choices and innovative ways to access music than ever before. While this is great news for both fans and musicians, it also raises a number of legal and ethical issues. In their eagerness to share and obtain the music they love, many young music fans are unaware of the fact that they may be breaking the law by illegally downloading, ripping, and burning songs.

Music Rules! is a free educational program designed to help lay the foundation for respecting all forms of intellectual property, especially music recordings. Made possible by The Recording Industry Association of America, the program also promotes musical and artistic creativity and encourages students to use computer technology responsibly.

Music Rules! has been developed for students in grades 3 through 8. Two sets of student activity sheets provide corresponding lessons for both grades 3-5 and grades 6-8. The classroom activities for grades 3-5 form a multi-disciplinary unit designed to reinforce skills across the curriculum in math, language arts, citizenship, and music. The activities for grades 6-8 are designed to supplement the technology education curriculum, with projects that involve both desktop software and online research. In addition, the program includes reproducible student certificates, a classroom wall poster, and take-home booklets for parents.

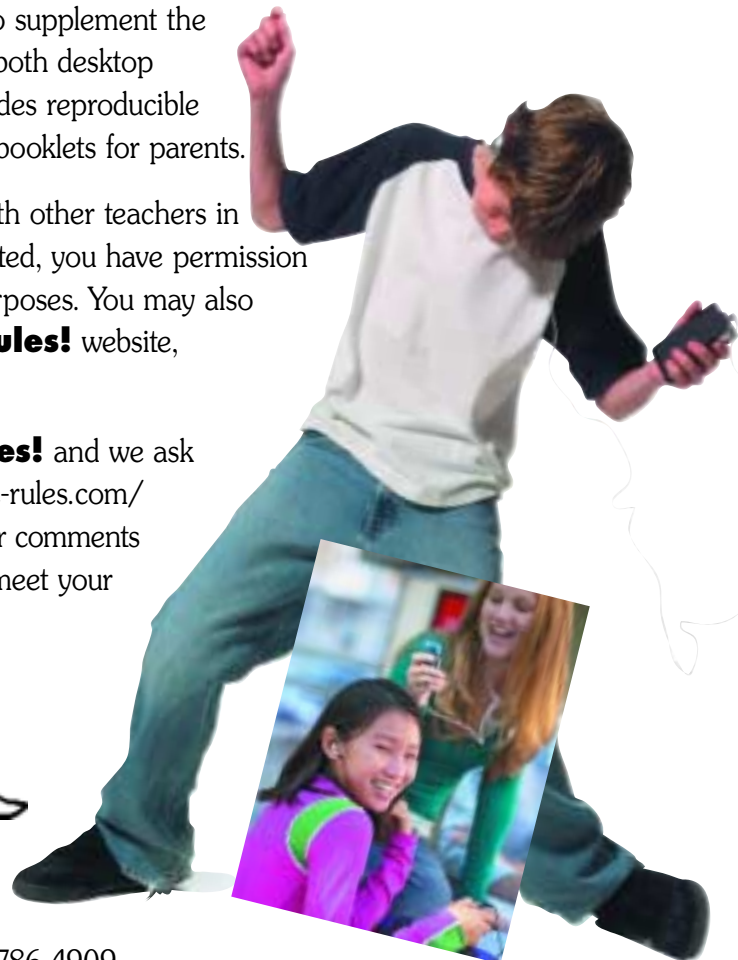
We encourage you to share this educational program with other teachers in your school. Although these teaching materials are copyrighted, you have permission to make as many photocopies as needed for educational purposes. You may also download all components of the program at the **Music Rules!** website, www.music-rules.com.

We hope that you and your students enjoy **Music Rules!** and we ask that you please visit our online feedback page at www.music-rules.com/feedback.html to share your opinions about the program. Your comments are important to us as we continue to develop programs to meet your needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Kinsley".

Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief



Introduction

Music Rules! is a free educational program designed to help lay the foundation for respecting all forms of intellectual property, especially music recordings. The program is made possible by The Recording Industry Association of America and includes engaging classroom activities that encourage students to enjoy music while helping to set guidelines for using technology responsibly.

Target Audience

Music Rules! is designed for students in grades 3-8. Dual-sided activity sheets feature lessons for grades 3-5 on one side and corresponding lessons for grades 6-8 on the other. Lessons for grades 3-5 take an interdisciplinary approach, with classroom activities addressing standards in math, language arts, citizenship, and music. Lessons for grades 6-8 take a technology-based approach, with standards-based classroom activities designed to supplement the computer skills curriculum.

Program Objectives

- To introduce students to the concepts of copyright and intellectual property.
- To help students recognize that taking music without paying for it ("songlifting") is illegal and unfair to others.

- To help students, teachers, and parents set guidelines for using technology like computers and the Internet responsibly.
- To strengthen academic skills in reading, writing, mathematics, citizenship, and computer technology.
- To encourage musical and artistic creativity.

Program Components

- This teacher's guide provides suggestions for presenting the classroom activities, answer keys, follow-up activities to enhance learning, and a resource list.
- Two sets of four reproducible student activity sheets, one with lessons for grades 3-5, the other with corresponding lessons for grades 6-8.
- Reproducible certificates to acknowledge each student's success in completing the program.
- A full-color wall poster.
- A supply of take-home booklets to inform parents about the program and reinforce the home/school connection.
- A teacher response card. You must return this card to remain eligible to receive free YMI programs in the future.

- A website – www.music-rules.com – with downloadable PDFs of all program components, information for parents, and an online educator feedback form.

Using the Program Components

- Photocopy the reproducible activity sheets appropriate for your grade level to provide a complete set for every student in your class. At the same time, make a master copy of the complete program to share with other teachers in your school.
- The classroom activities have been designed for use in the order presented, but you may adjust the order to fit your teaching style and your students' needs.
- Display the enclosed poster in your classroom to introduce the program and generate student interest. Keep the poster on display as a long-term reinforcement of the program's lessons.
- Share your opinion of this program by visiting the **Music Rules!** feedback page at www.music-rules.com/feedback.html. Your comments help assure that YMI programs meet your needs and those of your students.

Some Basic Terms and Concepts

Burning

Creating your own, custom CD using your computer.

Counterfeit Recordings

Illegal copies of sound recordings produced with unauthorized reproductions of the original packaging, label, and trademark in order to deceive consumers. See "pirate recordings."

DMCA Notice

A notice issued to an Internet Service Provider (ISP) under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act when copyright infringement is detected on its network. Such notices can trigger removal of infringing content and denial of Internet access to computer users who persist in copyright infringement.

Fair Use

Under U.S. copyright law, "fair use" allows someone to reproduce or make use of a portion of a copyrighted work without permission under certain conditions. Examples of fair use generally include criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research.

"Grokster" Ruling

In *MGM v. Grokster* (2005), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that peer-to-peer file sharing companies can be sued for encouraging people to illegally swap songs and movies over the Internet. The individuals who use peer-to-peer sites to upload and download copyrighted music without permission can also

be sued or prosecuted, including parents of under-age violators, who can be held responsible for what happens on the family computer even if they themselves are not involved in the illegal activity.

Legal Downloading

Using authorized online services such as iTunes®, Rhapsody®, and Yahoo! Music™ to download music recordings, usually for a per-song or subscription fee.

MP3 and MP3 Player

An MP3 file is a common audio format for consumer audio storage. An MP3 player is a device, for example, an iPod™, that stores and plays MP3 audio files.

Online Piracy

The process of uploading a copyrighted sound recording without permission and making it available to the public, or downloading a copyrighted sound recording without permission.

Peer-to-Peer (P2P) File Sharing

One of the major vehicles for online piracy, the most common peer-to-peer (P2P) model involves using unauthorized file-sharing software that allows users to store files on their own computers and make them available for network members to download. Such file-sharing software can compromise computer security because it gives other network members direct access to one's hard drive and

the private information (e.g., tax and medical records) that may be stored there. It also makes computers more vulnerable to viruses and can include spyware, which feeds information about an individual's computer use to spammers and other online opportunists.

Pirate Recordings

Illegal copies of sound recordings made without the copyright holder's permission. See "counterfeit recordings."

Ripping

The process of copying audio or video content to a hard disk.

Songlifting

A general term for making and/or distributing illegal copies of copyrighted sound recordings.

Streaming

How online audio and video files are distributed without downloading.

U.S. Copyright Law

The federal law that protects copyright owners from the unauthorized reproduction, adaptation, performance, display, or distribution of original creative works.

For additional terms and definitions see "A Copyright Glossary" on page 6 of the *Educator's Guide to Copyright* at the Copyright Alliance Education Foundation website, www.copyrightfoundation.org/curriculum?key=for_educators.

Activities for Grades 3-5

Activity One

Music Rules!

Objectives

- To introduce and explore the concept of “songlifting.”
- To reinforce mathematics skills in calculating large numbers and using tables to organize and analyze data.

Setup

Begin the activity with a class discussion about the importance of music in students’ lives, building on the worksheet’s opening paragraph. Invite students to name their favorite songs and singers, and to explain what makes them so appealing. Take a show of hands on the different ways students listen to recorded music – CD, MP3 player (e.g., iPod™, SansDisk Sansa®, Creative Zen, etc.), computer, cell phone, etc. – and briefly discuss the pros and cons of each one. Then have students talk about their experiences buying music in stores and online.

Write the word **songlifting** on the chalkboard and ask students what they think it means. Have them read the definition of “songlifters” on the worksheet, then expand on this definition by having students share their own ideas, opinions, and experiences. Explain that in this activity they will be using their math skills to investigate songlifting and find out how big a problem it really is.

Part 1

This part of the activity should help students recognize how songlifting, though it might seem harmless at first, can quickly become a large-scale problem. Use the chalkboard to lead students through the calculation on the worksheet, or have them complete it individually. If time permits, repeat the calculation by having students choose a realistic number of songs they would take if they could get them all for free. Adding desire to the equation in this way can further dramatize why songlifting can have an enormous economic impact.

Answers

Total number of songs lifted = 7,800,000;
Total cost of songs lifted = \$7,722,000.

Part 2

This part of the activity is designed to make students (and families) more aware of songlifting that may occur in their own lives. Review the survey form in class, explaining the types of songlifting described in each column:

- **Copy music from other people’s CDs:** This can involve copying music files to a hard drive (“ripping”) and/or making a duplicate CD (“burning”).
- **Take music from other people on the Internet:** This usually involves using file-sharing software to download music stored on another person’s computer.

- **Give away copies of your music on CDs:** This involves using a computer to “burn” a duplicate CD.

Have students conduct the survey as homework, emphasizing that they should only collect information, not names. Use the chalkboard to compile their findings and investigate trends. For example: Which is the most common type of songlifting? Which age group has the most songlifters? Have students use the results of their survey to determine whether or not songlifting is a serious problem.

Take-Home Booklet

Have students give the take-home booklet to a parent before they conduct their surveys. It provides information about the **Music Rules!** program and background on the potential risks and consequences of songlifting.

Follow-Up Activities

1. Have students create graphs based on their survey findings – for example, a bar graph comparing the occurrence of different types of songlifting, or a pie chart showing the proportion of songlifters in different age groups.
2. Reinforce mathematical reasoning skills by having students write a short op-ed style reply to the claim that “there’s no harm in lifting a couple of songs now and then.”

Activity Two

Meet the Music Makers

Objectives

- To raise awareness of the many people affected by songlifting.
- To reinforce reading comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Setup

Begin this activity with a class discussion about how music is produced. Invite students to share what they have learned about the music business from entertainment news shows and shows like *American Idol*. Talk about some of the steps involved in making a hit song and some of the people involved in making a singer into a star. Then explain that in this activity they will follow the music making process from start to finish, meeting some of the music makers who work behind the scenes to give us the music we love.

Part 1

This part of the activity presents the story of a hypothetical singer’s rise to stardom. Have students read the story (individually or as a group), reminding them to underline all the music makers named along the way. Then have them complete the comprehension questions and review the answers in a class discussion.

Answers

1-c; 2-d; 3-b; 4-a.

Part 2

In this part of the activity, students use

critical thinking and research skills to create their own lists of behind-the-scenes music makers. To help them get started, focus on the final stages of Shynna’s rise to fame and the manufacture and sale of her hit album. Ask students to name some people who might work in this part of the music business (e.g., machine operator, printer, packager, truck driver, store manager, cashier, online order handler, etc.). Talk about how these people might be affected by songlifting, then have students work individually or in small groups to list other music makers unnamed in the story. Encourage students to expand their lists by referring to the credits on CDs they have at home.

Follow-Up Activities

1. To help students recognize how many people are hurt by songlifting, create a comprehensive list of music makers drawn from the worksheet story and students’ own research. Use this list to examine the common assumption that songlifting only affects superstars (who are usually too wealthy to notice).
2. Highlight the variety of career opportunities available in the music industry by having students research one behind-the-scenes music maker and write a brief description of that job. See the resource list at the end of this guide for websites with information about careers in music.

Activity Three

It’s the Law

Objectives

- To inform students about copyright laws that protect intellectual property.
- To reinforce critical thinking and decision-making skills within the context of citizenship and character education.

Setup

Begin by asking students if they have ever heard of the term “intellectual property.” What do they think it means? Explain that intellectual property usually refers to something that begins as a thought or idea, which is then expressed in a tangible form, like a book, a picture, or a music recording. Have students brainstorm other examples of intellectual property.

Next, draw the copyright symbol (©) on the chalkboard. Ask if students know what this symbol means and where they might have seen it (books, posters, CDs, etc.). Explain that the copyright symbol is used to identify the owner of a piece of intellectual property and serves as a reminder that it is illegal for anyone to copy or distribute that property without the owner’s permission. Students should understand that copyright law automatically protects intellectual property whether or not it is marked with the copyright symbol. You might also inform them that our nation’s founders included copyright protection in the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 8), believing that it would

encourage creativity by giving the creators of intellectual property an exclusive right to profit from their artistic talents.

Conclude this introduction by using the opening paragraphs and “Now You © It” section of the worksheet to reinforce the concepts of copyright protection and intellectual property.

Part 1

In this part of the activity, students apply the basic principles of copyright to several song-lifting scenarios in order to determine who is breaking the law. Have students read the scenarios aloud and work as a group to reach a decision on each one. For scenarios that involve songlifting, ask students how they might dissuade that person from breaking the law.

Answers

1. Steve is a songlifter because he is using other people's CDs to make illegal copies of music that is protected by copyright.
2. Caitlin is not a songlifter because personal use is permitted when music fans buy their music. Caitlin can copy her music onto her hard drive and her MP3 player. Caitlin can even burn a CD with her own special mix of music she has purchased.
3. Beka is a songlifter because she is making illegal copies of copyrighted songs when she takes music from other people's computers. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled unanimously that file-sharing companies can be sued for encouraging people to illegally exchange songs and movies over the Internet. Individuals who use unauthorized file-sharing sites to upload and download copyrighted music without permission can also be sued or prosecuted, including parents, who can be held responsible for what happens on the family computer even if they themselves are not involved in the illegal activity. In addition to these risks, Beka's file sharing makes her family computer vulnerable to intruders, viruses, and spyware.
4. Sam is not a songlifter because the record companies have given him permission to play their copyrighted music on his computer by making the sample tracks available on their websites.

Part 2

In this part of the activity students create their own songlifting situations and present them as skits in class. Have students work in small groups to brainstorm their skits, using the ideas provided on the worksheet to get started. As each group presents its skit, invite the class to explore alternative ways to handle each situation and show respect for the law.

Follow-Up Activities

1. Use the “Now You © It” section of the activity to have students conduct a copyright scavenger hunt at home. Create a comprehensive list of all the items they find marked

with a copyright symbol, then organize these items into different categories (texts, images, movies, games, software, music recordings, etc.) to help students understand the many forms of intellectual property and the broad scope of copyright protection.

2. Invite your school librarian and/or media specialist to talk with students about copyright and the concept of intellectual property. Take this opportunity to inform students about the related concept of academic plagiarism and the importance of citing sources in their schoolwork.

Activity Four

Make Your Own Music

Objectives

- To provide firsthand understanding of the value of intellectual property.
- To strengthen creative writing, artistic, and musical skills.

Setup

Begin by telling students that they are going to have the chance to create and copyright their own original songs. Explain that they will work in small groups to compose songs that tell other kids why songlifting is wrong, then create CD covers for their songs. If classroom resources permit, students might also record their own CDs to share with family and friends.

Part 1

Generate enthusiasm for this part of the activity by performing the rap verses on the worksheet (or have a student perform them). Then review and discuss the brainstorming ideas to stimulate students' creative thinking. Divide the class into small groups to compose and rehearse their songs.

Part 2

Have students use the space provided on the worksheet to design CD covers for their songs. Point out the copyright symbol in the design space and have students complete this copyright notice by filling in your class name. If possible, work with your school's media specialist to record the students' songs and copy them onto CD, one for each student, to share with family and friends.

Pledge Certificate

Conclude the program with a music party at which students perform their songs and talk about the talent, effort, and creative energy that went into them. Have students reflect on how they would feel if someone “lifted” their songs without permission. Then distribute personalized copies of the **Music Rules!** pledge certificate and have students sign the pledge.

Follow-Up Activities

1. Make arrangements to perform your students' songs at a school assembly or on the school P.A. system. If you record the songs, you might also make copies of the CD available in your school library.

2. To reinforce respect for intellectual property, modify this activity to have students create and copyright their own books, posters, videos, and computer presentations.

Activities for Grades 6-8

Activity One

Music Rules!

Objectives

- To introduce and explore the concept of “songlifting.”
- To supplement instruction in the use of spreadsheet software.

Setup

Begin the activity with a class discussion about the importance of music in students' lives, building on the worksheet's opening paragraph. Invite students to name their favorite songs and singers, and to explain what makes them so appealing. Take a show of hands on the different ways students listen to recorded music – CD, MP3 player (e.g., iPod™, SansDisk Sansa®, Creative Zen, etc.), computer, cell phone, etc. – and briefly discuss the pros and cons of each one. Then have students talk about their experiences buying music in stores and online.

Write the word **songlifting** on the chalkboard and ask students what they think it means. Have them read the definition of “songlifters” on the worksheet, then expand on this definition by having students share their own ideas, opinions, and experiences. Explain that in this activity they will be using spreadsheet software to investigate songlifting and find out how big a problem it really is.

Part 1

This part of the activity should help students recognize how songlifting, though it might seem harmless at first, can quickly become a large-scale problem. Have students complete the calculations on the worksheet using spreadsheet software or a calculator. If time permits, repeat the first calculation by having students choose a realistic number of songs they would take if they could get them all for free. Adding desire to the equation in this way can further dramatize why songlifting can have an enormous economic impact.

Answers

- Total number of songs lifted = 7,800,000; Total cost of songs lifted = \$7722,000.
- \$926,640,000 (i.e., nearly a billion dollars).



Part 2

This part of the activity is designed to make students (and families) more aware of songlifting that may occur in their own lives. Review the survey form in class, explaining the types of songlifting described in each column:

- **Copied music from other people's CDs:** This can involve copying music files to a hard drive ("ripping") and/or making a duplicate CD ("burning").
- **Taken music from other people on the Internet:** This usually involves using file-sharing software to download music stored on another person's computer.
- **Given away copies of your music on CD:** This involves using a computer to "burn" a duplicate CD.

Have students conduct the survey as homework, emphasizing that they should only collect information, not names. Compile their findings on a computer spreadsheet, then guide students in using the software to answer the trends questions provided on the worksheet. Conclude by having students draw on the results of their survey to show whether or not songlifting is a serious problem.

Take-Home Booklet

Have students give this booklet to a parent before they conduct their surveys. It provides information about the **Music Rules!** program and background on the potential risks and consequences of songlifting.

Follow-Up Activities

1. Have students use the spreadsheet software's charting feature to create graphs of their survey findings – for example, a bar graph comparing the occurrence of different types of songlifting, or a pie chart showing the percentage of songlifters by age and gender.
2. Have students conduct an Internet search for additional data on the extent and impact of songlifting, then use spreadsheet software to compare these national trends to those they uncovered in their own community. Suggested search terms: *illegal downloading, music piracy, file sharing*. Also see the resource list at the end of this guide for websites with information on this topic.

Activity Two

Meet the Music Makers

Objectives

- To raise awareness of the many people affected by songlifting.
- To supplement instruction in the use of computer presentation software and reinforce Internet search skills.

Setup

Begin this activity with a class discussion about how music is produced. Invite students to share what they have learned about the music business from entertainment news shows and shows like *American Idol*. Talk about some of

the steps involved in making a hit song and some of the people involved in making a singer into a star. Then explain that in this activity they will follow the music making process from start to finish, meeting some of the music makers who work behind the scenes to give us the music we love.

Part 1

In this part of the activity, students read about a hypothetical singer's rise to stardom, then plan how to translate this narrative into a computer presentation that will highlight the many behind-the-scenes music makers who helped this singer become a star. As students read the story, remind them to underline all the music makers named along the way. Then have them use the miniature slide show spaces provided on the worksheet to group these music makers according to the parts they play in the CD production process. Encourage students to add music makers who go unnamed in the story but still played a part in creating this "overnight sensation."

Answers

1. **Talent Spotters:** club owner, music scout, record company executive, mom.
2. **Tune Crafters:** music producer, songwriter, arranger, singer.
3. **Recording Artists:** music producer, sound engineer, backup vocalist, instrumentalist, singer.
4. **Buzz Builders:** music producer, publicist, designer, photographer, magazine publisher, poster distributor, music critic, radio DJ, music video broadcaster, TV talk show host, music and video websites, blogger, singer.
5. **Disc Wranglers:** CD manufacturer, machine operator, printer, packager, shipping manager, truck driver.
6. **Hit Merchants:** store manager, sales clerk, cashier, online vendor, online order handler, mail carrier.

Part 2

This part of the activity invites students to focus on one behind-the-scenes music maker, using an Internet search engine to gather information and graphics for a computer presentation profiling that person's job. Students might include in their profiles background on the education and training required for the job and details about specific job responsibilities. (See the resource list at the end of this guide for websites with information about people who work in the music industry.) Students can complete this part of the activity as homework or in small groups, depending on available class time and computer resources. Have students show their finished presentations in class and talk about how songlifting can hurt the music makers they have profiled.

Follow-Up Activities

1. To help students recognize how many people are hurt by songlifting, create a comprehensive list of music makers drawn from the worksheet story and students' own research. Use this list to examine the common assumption that songlifting only affects superstars (who are usually too wealthy to notice).
2. As a class, produce the computer presentation students planned in Part 1 of this activity. Have students work in groups to create each section of the presentation, with individual slides for each music maker. Then combine these sections into a comprehensive tour through "hitsville."

Activity Three

It's the Law

Objectives

- To inform students about copyright laws that protect intellectual property.
- To supplement instruction in the responsible use of computer technology and reinforce Internet search skills.

Setup

Begin by asking students if they have ever heard of the term "intellectual property." What do they think it means? Explain that intellectual property usually refers to something that begins as a thought or idea which is then expressed in a tangible form, like a book, a website, or a music recording. Have students brainstorm other examples of intellectual property.

Next, draw the copyright symbol (©) on the chalkboard. Ask if students know what this symbol means and where they have seen it. Explain that the copyright symbol is used to identify the owner of a piece of intellectual property and serves as a reminder that it is illegal for anyone to copy or distribute that property without the owner's permission. Students should understand that copyright law automatically protects intellectual property whether or not it is marked with the copyright symbol. You might also inform them that our nation's founders included copyright protection in the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 8), believing that it would encourage creativity by giving the creators of intellectual property an exclusive right to profit from their artistic talents.

Conclude this introduction by using the opening paragraphs and "Now You © It" section of the worksheet to reinforce the concepts of copyright protection and intellectual property.



Part 1

In this part of the activity students apply the basic principles of copyright to several songlifting situations in order to determine who is breaking the law and why. Have students complete this part of the activity individually, then review and discuss the answers as a class. As part of this discussion, ask students how they might address each situation and help these kids realize that they are breaking the law.

Answers

1-c Distributing copies of copyrighted music is illegal. It does not matter whether or not Steve sells the copies he makes, or whether he paid for the music he is giving away. Steve and his friends are breaking the law by trading copies of copyrighted music.

2-a Caitlin is not a songlifter because personal use is permitted when music fans buy their music. Caitlin can copy her music onto her hard drive and her MP3 player. Caitlin can even burn a CD with her own special mix of music that she has purchased.

3-b Beka is a songlifter because she is making illegal copies of copyrighted songs when she takes music from other people's computers. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled unanimously that file-sharing companies can be sued for encouraging people to illegally exchange songs and movies over the Internet. Individuals who use unauthorized file-sharing sites to upload and download copyrighted music without permission can also be sued or prosecuted, including parents, who can be held responsible for what happens on the family computer even if they themselves are not involved in the illegal activity. In addition to these risks, Beka's file sharing makes her family computer vulnerable to intruders, viruses, and spyware that can feed information about her online life to spammers and other Internet opportunists.

4-b Visitors have implicit permission to enjoy the music made available on record company and other authorized websites. It doesn't matter whether the recording is high quality or low quality, only that it comes with the copyright holder's permission.

Part 2

In this part of the activity, students use the News feature of an Internet search engine to find reports on the consequences and risks of songlifting. If necessary, demonstrate this feature on your search engine of choice, using one of the suggested keywords provided on the worksheet. Encourage students to branch out beyond this set of keywords in order to track down reports on efforts at schools and colleges to prevent songlifting on their computer networks, and the damage done by computer viruses and spyware downloaded through file-sharing software. Have students work in small groups to complete this part of the activity, and

remind them to bookmark their sources so that they can easily summarize their research and present it in a report to the rest of the class.

Follow-Up Activities

1. Use the "Now You © It" section of the activity to have students conduct a copyright scavenger hunt at home. Create a list of all the items they find marked with a copyright symbol, then organize these items into different categories (texts, images, movies, games, software, music recordings, etc.) to help students understand the many forms of intellectual property and the broad scope of copyright protection.
2. Have students draw on their research to produce an email newsletter on the risks of songlifting and other illegal or irresponsible uses of computer technology. Distribute this newsletter to all faculty and students at your school.

Activity Four

Make Your Own Music

Objectives

- To provide firsthand understanding of the value of intellectual property.
- To strengthen creative writing, artistic, and musical skills.
- To provide practice in the use of music, graphics, and desktop publishing software.

Setup

Begin by telling students that they are going to have the chance to create and copyright their own original songs. Explain that they will work in small groups to compose songs that tell other kids why songlifting is wrong. They will then form an in-class record company and (depending on your resources) use computer software to record their songs, design CD labels and covers, and produce a promotional campaign.

Part 1

Generate enthusiasm for this part of the activity by performing the rap verses on the worksheet (or have a student perform them). Then review and discuss the brainstorming ideas to stimulate students' creative thinking. Divide the class into small groups to compose and rehearse their songs.

Part 2

To kick off this part of the activity, have students choose a name for their in-class record company. Then fill out the roster of music making responsibilities by inviting students to volunteer for each job. When your company is organized, have the student performers work with your producer to prepare their songs. Then, depending on your classroom resources, have your sound engineers record the songs using music software, while your publicist and designers use graphics software to create a CD label, CD cover, and promotional posters. (Be

sure your design team includes a copyright notice on the CD label and cover.) Finally, your manufacturing team can use appropriate software to burn copies of the CD and print the labels, covers, and posters. Then get everyone involved in assembling the finished packages and putting your posters on display around the school.

Checklist Certificate

Conclude the program with a music party at which students perform their songs and talk about all the talent, effort, and creative energy that went into producing them. Have students reflect on how they would feel if someone "lifted" their songs without permission. Then distribute copies of the **Music Rules!** checklist certificate and review the guidelines it provides.

Follow-Up Activities

1. Perform your students' songs at a school assembly or on the school P.A. system. If you produce a CD, you might also make copies of it available in your school library.
2. Invite your school librarian to talk with students about copyright and the concept of intellectual property, particularly in relation to online research. Take this opportunity to inform students about the related concept of academic plagiarism and the importance of citing sources in their schoolwork.

Online Resources

Careers in Music

<http://musicians.about.com/library/musicjobs/descriptions/blDescriptionsmain.htm>

Careers in Music (a brochure from the National Association for Music Education)

www.menc.org/documents/CIM2.pdf

Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the U.S. Department of Justice Criminal Division

www.cybercrime.gov

The Copyright Alliance Education Foundation

www.copyrightfoundation.org

FTC Consumer Alert: P2P File-Sharing: Evaluate the Risks

www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt128.shtm

i-SAFE (offers a school assembly on intellectual property issues)

www.isafe.org

Legal Music Sites

www.riaa.com/toolsforparents.php?content_selector=legal_music_sites

Music Career Resources

www.berklee.edu/careers/resources.html

Music Matters

www.whymusicmatters.org

Music Professions

<http://library.thinkquest.org/15413/professions/professions.htm>

Music United

www.musicunited.org

The Pew Internet & American Life Project

www.pewinternet.org

Recording Industry Association of America

www.riaa.com

United States Copyright Office

www.copyright.gov

Activity One Music Rules!



Most of us listen to music every day, starting from the time when we first snuggled down to a lullaby. Music is part of our lives. And the more we listen, the more important music becomes for us. By now you've probably got your own music – favorite songs and favorite singers. And you know the best places to buy your music, too, whether you listen on CD, an MP3 player, or your cell phone.

Some kids, however – and even some grown-ups – don't get their music the right way. They are **songlifters**, people who take songs without paying for them. Some songlifters copy music from other people's CDs. Some use the Internet to copy music from other people's computers. Either way, songlifting is like shoplifting, and that means it's wrong.



Part 1

Songlifting is a big problem. To see why, imagine that everyone your age took just a couple of songs. That might not seem like much, but when you add it all up, you'd be taking millions of dollars of music. See for yourself by completing the calculation below.

Number of kids my age*	3,900,000
Number of songs each kid takes	x 2
<hr/>	
Total number of songs lifted	
Cost of each song**	99¢
<hr/>	
Total cost of songs lifted \$	

* According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are about 39 million children for each age level from ages 8-13.
** Typical cost to download a song legally online.

Part 2

Now find out if songlifting is a real problem in your community. Use this chart to interview family members and friends about where they get their music. Bring your findings back to class and combine them with those of your classmates. Use your data to figure out how much songlifting occurs among the people you know.

Do you ever ...			
People Interviewed	Copy music from other people's CDs or playlists?	Take music from other people on the Internet?	Give away copies of your music?
1. Age ____			
2. Age ____			
3. Age ____			
4. Age ____			
5. Age ____			



Activity Two

Meet the Music Makers

You've seen how songlifting can quickly grow into a very big problem, costing lots and lots of money. But you might not realize that songlifting hurts lots of people, too. Here's a chance to meet some of those people and learn how they help make the music we love.

Part 1

Most of the people who make our music never appear in magazines or on TV. They work behind the scenes, providing the know-how to create a hit tune. You'll meet some of these music makers in this story about a make-believe singer who became an overnight sensation. As you read, underline each music maker who played a part in this star's success. Then answer the questions below.

Circle the correct answer

1 Which of these music makers helped Shayna create the tunes for her debut album?

- a.** club owner **c.** songwriter
b. music critic **d.** her mom

2 Which of these music makers helped Shayna record her songs?

- a.** photographer **c.** music scout
b. factory worker **d.** sound engineer

3 Which of these music makers helped fans learn about Shayna's music?

- a.** arranger **c.** backup vocalist
b. publicist **d.** store cashier

4 How long do you think it really took for Shayna to become an overnight sensation?

- a.** years **c.** weeks
b. months **d.** days

Did You Know?

For every hit album, there are nine more that never make it. But the hits actually help those other artists. With a hit, the record company can afford to give another group of newcomers their chance at stardom.

So when hits get songlifted, lots of other artists lose out, too.

Part 2

As you can see, lots of people lose out every time a songlifter takes a song. And there are lots more who are not even mentioned in this story.

Think about all the steps involved in getting a song into your music library. Then, on the back of this sheet, list some of these unnamed music makers. To help you get started, look at the credits for your favorite album. Compare lists in class and talk about how each person you've listed helps give us the music we love.

Music rules!**Overnight Stardom: The Inside Story**

How does a singer become a superstar? It takes talent, hard work, and help from dozens of behind-the-scenes hit makers. Here's how it happened for today's top star, Shayna.

"I started out singing in little clubs across the country," Shayna remembers, "Then one night a music scout saw my act and asked for a demo. Luckily, my mom had taped some of my songs, so he sent that off to his record label, and they loved my sound."

Shayna's record company set her up with Kozmo Kelly, a top music producer, who would guide her through the process of making an album. Kozmo brought in a team of songwriters to create new tunes for Shayna's debut, and arrangers to compose backup music and vocals that would show off Shayna's special sound. "It took months to get everything just right," Shayna recalls. Then Kozmo took Shayna into the studio.

"I had only seen recording studios on TV," Shayna says. "The real thing is a lot more complicated. The sound engineers record everything separately – my singing, the backup vocals, the other musicians – then they mix it all together with computers. That

way you can add instruments or special effects to get a sound that's really fresh."

Kozmo, Shayna, and the sound engineers worked for months to make every song on her album a stand-out. Meanwhile, Kozmo was working with a publicist at the record company to plan a campaign that would turn Shayna into a star. They brought in a designer and photographer to create a unique look for her album cover. They produced ads and posters. They set up interviews with music critics around the country and arranged for Shayna to showcase her talent on radio and TV. "It was amazing!" Shayna exclaims. "I never realized how much work goes into getting a good tune out there so it can become a hit."

By the time Shayna's album was released, its title-track, *Be Serious*, was a monster hit. More than a million copies have sold in stores and online, plus another million fans have paid to download the title tune. "I was so embarrassed when my mom showed up to tape me at that club," Shayna says, "but now I know I couldn't have done it without her, or without Kozmo and all the other music pros who helped me achieve my dream."

Activity Three

It's the Law

Part 1

Take a look at these scenarios. See if you can spot the songlifters who are breaking the copyright law. Then talk in class about how you would help these kids understand that what they are doing is wrong.



If you take a close look at a CD, you'll probably find these words in tiny type somewhere on the disc or booklet:

**FBI Anti-Piracy
Warning:
Unauthorized
copying is
punishable under
federal law.**

This is a reminder that music recordings are protected by copyright law. It is illegal for anyone to make a copy of that recording without permission from the people who created it. Books, poems, pictures, movies, computer software, websites, and many other creative works are also protected by copyright. In fact, your own drawings and writings are protected by copyright. They are your intellectual property – made up out of your ideas – and no one has the right to make copies without your permission.

1

Steve has borrowed songs from all his friends and copied them onto blank discs to create his own super music collection.



2

Caitlin wants to listen to music as much as possible. She copies all the music she buys online onto blank CDs so she can listen to her music when her friends come over. And she copies the music she has on CD onto her MP3 player so she can listen to her music when driving in the car with her family.



3 Beka started using software that lets you download songs for free from other people's computers. Now other people are downloading songs from her computer, and she's worried they might start snooping into her private information or give her computer a virus.

4 Sam likes to listen to songs online. Sometimes he spends hours playing the sample tracks on record company websites.



Part 2

Now work with a group of classmates to come up with your own songlifting scenarios. Use the ideas below to get started. Then present your scenario as a skit for the rest of the class.

- Someone gives you a homemade copy of your favorite singer's greatest hits for your birthday.
- Your computer keeps crashing after a friend shows you how to share songs with other music fans using software that connects your computers.
- The same day your best friend asks you to give him a copy of the song you just bought, you see a TV report about how songlifting is making it harder for newcomers to make a career in music.

Now You © It!

The copyright symbol – © – lets people know when something is protected by copyright law. See how many items you can find with the copyright symbol in your home and classroom. But remember: Even when you don't see the copyright symbol, intellectual property is always protected by law.

**Music
rules!**



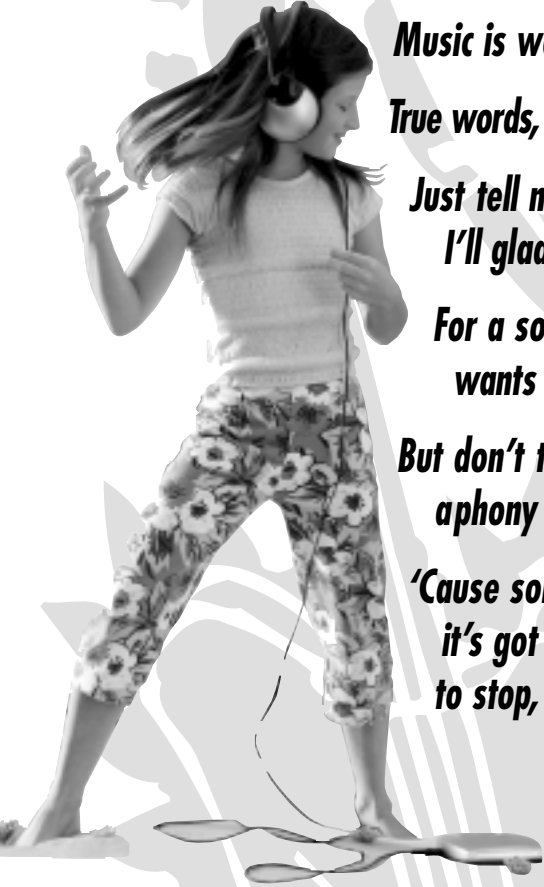
Activity Four

Make Your Own Music

You've learned why songlifting is wrong. Now here's a chance to help stop it. Use your own musical talents to create a song that tells other kids the right way to get the music they love.

Part 1

Begin by composing lyrics and a tune for your song. Here's the first verse of a rap about songlifting that you can use to get started. Or you can brainstorm lyrics for your own kind of song using the ideas listed below. Write your song lyrics on the back of this sheet or a separate piece of paper.



Music is worth it, if you're asking me –

True words, new rhythms, sweet melody –

***Just tell me where to get it and
I'll gladly pay***

***For a song that says what my heart
wants to say.***

***But don't try to fool me with
aphony copy,***

***'Cause songlifting's wrong, and
it's got
to stop, see?***

Brainstorming Ideas

- Songlifters take millions of dollars of music each year.
- Songlifters hurt all kinds of music makers, not just the stars.
- Songlifters keep new artists from getting their chance at stardom.
- Songlifters are breaking the law.
- Songlifters can get other people in trouble by sharing illegal music.
- Songlifters can get computer viruses when they illegally download online.
- Songlifters don't respect other people's intellectual property.

Part 2

Now pretend that you're ready for the studio. Get together with your classmates to rehearse your song and perform it. You might even record your song and make copies to share with family and friends. It's your intellectual property, so you've got the right to make copies. Use the space provided here to design an album cover for your song. And remember to include the copyright symbol, so everyone knows who it belongs to.

**Music
rules!**



© _____
All rights reserved. FBI ANTI-PIRACY WARNING: UNAUTHORIZED COPYING IS PUNISHABLE UNDER FEDERAL LAW.



Music rules!



This is to certify that

(student name)

has learned the rules against songlifting and pledges to:

- ▶ **Respect all forms of intellectual property.**
- ▶ **Obey the copyright laws that protect intellectual property.**
- ▶ **Always use computer technology responsibly.**
- ▶ **Always use Internet technology safely.**
- ▶ **Never accept illegal copies of songs online or on disc.**

(student signature)

(teacher signature)

(parent signature)

Activity One

Music Rules!

If you think about it, you've probably listened to music every day of your life, starting from the time when you first snuggled down to a lullaby. That's thousands and thousands of songs, tunes, melodies, and jingles. And the more you listen, the more important music becomes. By now you've probably got your own music – your favorite songs and favorite singers – that you listen to on a CD, MP3 player, or your cell phone. And you know the best places to buy your kind of music.

But some kids – and even some adults – don't always get their music the right way. They are **songlifters**, people who take songs without paying for them. Sometimes songlifters copy music from other people's CDs. Sometimes they use the Internet to download music from other people's computers. Either way, songlifting is like shoplifting, and that means it's wrong.



Part 1

Songlifting is a big problem. To see why, imagine that everyone your age took just a couple of songs. That might not seem like much, but when you add it all up, you'd be taking millions of dollars of music. See for yourself by completing the calculation below.

Number of kids my age ¹	3,900,000
Number of songs each kid takes	x 2
Total number of songs lifted	
Cost of each song ²	.99
Total cost of songs lifted \$	

Now consider this: According to one recent survey³, there are at least 18 million adult songlifters in the United States. If each one takes only one song a week, how many millions of dollars of music are these songlifters taking illegally each year?

Part 2

- Is songlifting a problem in your community? You can find out with spreadsheet software.
- First, use this chart to survey your family and friends. Bring your findings back to class
- and combine them with those of your classmates. Then use spreadsheet software to analyze the data for answers to the questions below.

In the past month, how many times have you...			
People Interviewed	Copied music from other people's CDs or playlists?	Downloaded music from other people on the Internet?	Given away copies of your music?
1. Age ____ Gender ____			
2. Age ____ Gender ____			
3. Age ____ Gender ____			
4. Age ____ Gender ____			
5. Age ____ Gender ____			

Songlifting Trends

- 1. What percentage of the people you surveyed admit to some type of songlifting?
- 2. Is songlifting more common among males or females? What are the percentages?
- 3. Is songlifting more common among kids or adults? What are the percentages for each age group?
- 4. Which type of songlifting is most common among the people you surveyed?
- 5. Estimate the number of music recordings songlifted in one year by the people you surveyed, and the annual cost of the music these songlifters take illegally.

¹ According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are about 3.9 million children for each age level from ages 8-13.
² Typical cost to download a song legally online. ³ Pew Internet & American Life Project Tracking Survey, January 2005.
 ©2010 Recording Industry Association of America. Created by YMI.



Activity Two Meet the Music Makers

You've seen that songlifting is a very big problem, costing millions of dollars. But you might not realize that songlifting hurts lots of people, not just the big stars. Here's a chance to meet some of those people and learn how they help make the music we love.

Part 1 Most of the people who make our music never appear in magazines or on TV. They work behind the scenes, providing the know-how to create a hit tune. You'll meet some of these music makers in this story about a make-believe singer who became an overnight sensation. As you read, underline each music maker who played a part in this star's success. Then use the spaces below to plan a computer presentation that introduces all the music makers involved in creating a hit.



Overnight Stardom: The Inside Story

How does a singer become a superstar? It takes talent, hard work, and help from dozens of behind-the-scenes hit makers. Here's how it happened for today's top star, Shayna.

"I started out singing in little clubs across the country," Shayna remembers, "Then one night a music scout saw my act and asked for a demo. Luckily, my mom had taped some of my songs, so he sent that off to his record label, and they loved my sound."

Shayna's record company set her up with Kozmo Kelly, a top music producer, who would guide her through the process of making an album. Kozmo brought in a team of songwriters to create new tunes for Shayna's debut, and top arrangers to compose backup music and vocals that would show off Shayna's special sound. "It took months to get everything just right," Shayna recalls. Then Kozmo took Shayna into the studio.

"I had only seen recording studios on TV," Shayna says. "The real thing is a lot more complicated. The sound engineers record everything separately – my singing, the backup vocals, the other musicians – then they mix it all together with computers. That way you can add instruments or

special effects to get a sound that's really fresh."

Kozmo, Shayna, and the sound engineers worked for months to make every song a stand-out. Meanwhile, Kozmo was working with a publicist at the record company to plan a campaign that would turn Shayna into a star. They brought in a designer and photographer to create a unique look for her album cover. They produced ads and posters. They set up interviews with music critics around the country and arranged for Shayna to showcase her talent on radio and TV. "It was amazing!" Shayna exclaims. "I never realized how much work goes into getting a good tune out there so it can become a hit."

By the time Shayna's album was released, its title-track, *Be Serious*, was a monster hit. More than a million copies have sold in stores and online, plus another million fans have paid to download the title tune. "I was so embarrassed when my mom showed up to tape me at that club," Shayna says, "but now I know I couldn't have done it without her, or without Kozmo and all the other music pros who helped me achieve my dream."



1. Talent Spotters



2. Tune Crafters



3. Recording Artists



4. Buzz Builders



5. Disc Wranglers



6. Hit Merchants

Part 2 As you can see, lots of people lose out every time a songlifter takes a song. And there are lots more who are not even mentioned in this story. Use an Internet search engine to learn more about all the music makers involved in getting a great song to you. Then choose one music maker and gather in-depth information and graphics to create a computer presentation profile of that job.

Did You Know?

For every hit CD, there are nine more that never make it. But the hits actually help those other artists. With a hit, the record company can afford to give another group of newcomers their chance at stardom. So when hits get songlifted, lots of other artists lose out, too.

Music rules!



Activity Three

It's the Law

Part 1

If you take a close look at a CD, you'll probably find these words in tiny type somewhere on the disc or booklet:

FBI Anti-Piracy Warning: Unauthorized copying is punishable under federal law.

This is a reminder that music recordings are protected by copyright law. It is illegal for anyone to make a copy of that recording without permission from the people who created it. Books, poems, pictures, movies, computer software, websites, and many other creative works are also protected by copyright. In fact, your own drawings and writings are protected by copyright. They are your intellectual property – made up out of your ideas – and no one has the right to make copies without your permission.

Here's a chance to find out how much you know about the laws against songlifting. Read the description of each situation, then check off the answer you think is right. Compare answers in a class discussion, and talk about how you would help the kids who are songlifters understand that what they are doing is wrong.

1. Steve has a super music collection. He borrows music from all his friends and burns copies for himself. He also burns copies of the music he buys and gives them to his friends.

- a. Steve is not a songlifter because he isn't selling the music he copies.
- b. Steve is songlifting when he copies his friends' music, but it's OK for him to give away copies of the music he buys.
- c. Steve and his friends are all songlifters because they are giving each other copies of music that is protected by copyright.

2. Caitlin wants to listen to music as much as possible. She copies all the music she buys online onto blank CDs so she can listen to her music when her friends come over to hang out. And she downloads the music she buys onto her

Part 2 Now get together with a group of classmates to find out more about the consequences of songlifting. Use the News feature on an Internet search engine to find reports on what can happen when a songlifter get caught, or when students use a school computer network for songlifting, or when a songlifter downloads spyware or a computer virus. Try some of the keywords provided here to get started. Then organize your research for a class presentation.

Songlifting in the News:

counterfeit music file sharing
 illegal downloading music copyright
 illegal CD copies music piracy
 Supreme Court Grokster decision

MP3 player so she can listen when driving in the car with her family.

- a. Caitlin is not a songlifter because she only copies music she buys and uses the copies herself.
- b. Caitlin is a songlifter because she is making copies of copyrighted music.
- c. Caitlin is songlifting when she copies music from CDs but not when she copies the music she buys online.

3. Beka gets all her music with a file-sharing program that lets her download songs from other people's computers all over the world.

- a. Beka is not a songlifter because she is just sharing songs with other music fans.
- b. Beka is a songlifter and could be letting snoops into her computer or downloading a

virus every time she takes a song.

- c. Beka is not a songlifter because file-sharing programs can be legal.

4. Sam likes to listen to songs online and spends hours playing the sample tracks on record company websites.

- a. Sam is a songlifter because he never pays for the music he listens to.
- b. Sam is not a songlifter because the record company is giving him permission to listen to its music on his computer.
- c. Sam is not a songlifter because sample tracks are lower quality than the real music on a CD.

Now You © It!

The copyright symbol – © – lets people know when something is protected by copyright law. See how many items you can find with the copyright symbol in your home and classroom. But remember: Even when you don't see the copyright symbol, intellectual property is always protected by law.



Activity Four

Make Your Own Music

You've learned why songlifting is wrong. Now here's a chance to help stop it. Use your own musical talents and computer skills to create a song that tells other kids the right way to get the music they love.

Part 1

Begin by composing lyrics and a tune for your song. Here's the first verse of a rap about songlifting that you can use to get started. Or you can brainstorm lyrics for your own kind of song using the ideas listed here. Write your lyrics on the back of this sheet or a separate piece of paper.

***Music is worth it, if you're asking me –
True words, new rhythms, sweet melody –
Just tell me where to get it and I'll gladly pay
For a song that says what my heart wants to say.
But don't try to fool me with a phony copy,
'Cause songlifting's wrong, and it's got to stop, see?***

Part 2

Now form an imaginary in-class record company to produce an album of your best songs to share with family and friends. First, organize your company using this chart to assign roles to every member of your class. Then, depending on the computer software you have available, record your songs and create an album cover and promotional campaign. And don't forget to protect your recording with a copyright notice, so everyone knows who it belongs to.

Brainstorming Ideas

- Songlifters take millions of dollars of music each year.
- Songlifters hurt all kinds of music makers, not just the stars.
- Songlifters keep new artists from getting their chance at stardom.
- Songlifters are breaking the law.
- Songlifters can get other people in trouble by sharing illegal music.
- Songlifters can get computer viruses when they illegally download online.
- Songlifters don't respect other people's intellectual property.

(Record Company Name)

Music Makers	Class Members
Producer Decides on the style and sound for each song and manages the creative process.	
Vocalists Sing the song lyrics and backup vocals.	
Musicians Provide the musical accompaniment using instruments or computer software.	
Sound Engineers Use software to record, mix, and balance all elements of the song.	
Publicist Decides on a look for the album and organizes a campaign to promote it.	
Designers Use graphics software to create the album cover, CD label, and posters.	
Manufacturers Use software to burn copies of the CD and print the covers and labels, then put the whole package together for delivery.	



Music rules!

Now that you've learned the rules against songlifting, use this checklist to steer clear of illegal music and stay safe online.

- Respect all forms of intellectual property that you find on the Internet – text, images, videos, software, and songs.
- Look for permission from the copyright holder before downloading any free music that you find on the Internet.
- Avoid using unauthorized file-sharing software so that you keep your computer safe from viruses and your personal information safe from snoops and spyware.
- Delete any music that you receive by email and remind the person who sent it that sending copies of copyrighted music is illegal.
- Never accept a homemade CD or audio file that contains copyrighted music and remind the person who made it that he or she is breaking the law.
- Never provide personal information online without a parent's permission.





Dear Parent:

Your child is participating in **Music Rules!**, an educational program designed to help lay the foundation for respecting all forms of intellectual property, especially music recordings. Made possible by the Recording Industry Association of America, this program also promotes musical and artistic creativity and encourages children to use computer technology responsibly.

In school your child is learning the rules against “songlifting” – a new term for making copies of music recordings without paying for them. Like shoplifting, songlifting is illegal, and as your child learns why, he or she will also learn the basic principles of copyright protection and how they apply to all types of intellectual property.

This booklet is designed to help you reinforce and build on these lessons at home. On the back cover you will find guidelines for keeping your home computer free of illegally copied songs, games, videos, and software. Inside, the booklet opens up to form a mini-poster that lists ten tips for keeping your family safe on the Internet. Read through these watchwords with your child, talk about each point, then hang the mini-poster near your home computer as a reminder to everyone that caution and common sense are as important as curiosity whenever you venture online.



Internet Safety Checklist

Keep Your Family Safe Online

1 Never provide personal information online without a parent's permission.

This includes registering for clubs, placing orders, exchanging information in chat rooms, and exchanging photographs with strangers by e-mail.

2 Let a parent respond to intimidating e-mail.

Watch out for bogus warnings that you must immediately confirm your password or pay a huge bill, as well as personal threats and harassment.

3 Tell a parent about invitations to meet in person.

Online friends who want to meet in person might not be as nice as you imagine.

4 Share the fun you find online.

Talk about your online friends and take a parent along to websites you discover. Let them know what you are doing online and help them have as much fun as you do.

5 Steer clear of inappropriate content.

Tell a parent when you find a website that makes you uncomfortable, and check with a parent if you think a game might be too violent or a song too suggestive.

6 Be friendly but don't be fooled.

People are not always who they seem online. Someone who says he's your age might really be years older. Tell a parent if you think you're talking to a pretender.

7 Don't always believe your eyes.

Not everything you read online is true. Websites that seem informative can be out of date or extremely biased. And offers that seem too good to be true probably are.

8 Get permission to download.

It's possible that a free game or piece of software actually carries a virus that could wreck the family computer. Check with a parent before taking the chance.

9 Avoid unauthorized file-sharing software.

This software may contain spyware that will feed information about your online life to Internet opportunists, and it can let strangers snoop through your personal information.

10 Always show respect for intellectual property.

Remember that it is illegal to make or take copies of online songs, games, videos, and software unless you have the copyright holder's permission.

Music rules!

Questions about Copyright

Can I make copies of the CDs and other music I purchase?

Most people today listen to music in many different formats – on CD, the computer, MP3 player, or cell phone. Personal use is permitted when music fans buy their music. Typically, fans make copies in several different formats and even combine different songs to make their own special mixes. But you cannot give the copies you make to anyone else – that is a violation of copyright.

Can I make copies of music that I borrow?

It is illegal to make copies of other people's CDs or music files without the copyright holder's permission. Likewise, it is illegal to make copies of your own music for other people. You can play the music that you buy and make copies for your own personal use, but the content itself remains the intellectual property of the copyright holders.

Can I use file-sharing software to exchange music with other computers?

Although file-sharing software can be legal, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled unanimously that file-sharing companies can be held responsible for encouraging people to illegally exchange copyrighted material over the Internet in this way. Individuals who use file-sharing sites to upload and download copyrighted music without permission can also be sued or prosecuted. In addition to these risks, file-sharing software gives others direct access to your computer hard drive and any private information, such as medical and financial records, that may be stored there. File-sharing software also makes computers more vulnerable to viruses, and may contain spyware, which is designed to feed information about your online activities to a third party, impeding your computer's performance in the process.

Can illegal file-sharing be detected?

Yes. Watchdog agencies that monitor the Internet can identify those who engage in illegal file-sharing and may notify their Internet Service Provider about this activity.

What are the consequences of illegal copying?

Criminal penalties for violating copyright can run up to 5 years in prison and/or \$250,000 in fines, and these penalties apply even when the violation does not involve financial or commercial gain. Copyright violators can also be sued for damages in civil court, including the parents of under-age violators, even if they were unaware of their child's actions.

For more information

Visit the Music Rules! website at www.music-rules.com to download a ten-page parent guide titled "Young People, Music & the Internet" and for links to other useful online resources.