

The punk and goth scenes

An alternative subculture.

The punk movement started in the USA and the UK in the mid-1970s as a reaction to the political and economic situation at the time. There was a recession and many young people didn't have jobs.

So it wasn't surprising that a lot of them became disillusioned with society. This discontent led some young people to rebel against authority. They were concerned with individualism and free thinking and they expressed their ideas and feeling through a new identity, which became known as punk.

Punks used their appearance to express their views. They wore clothes that were unconventional and untidy -ripped clothes, T-shirts with anarchic slogans, leather jackets with studs, tight jeans with a lot of zips, and dresses made out of black bin liners. Punks spiked their hair, often into a Mohican style, and used hair dye in bright colours like neon pink, orange and green. Everyday items like chains and padlocks were worn as jewellery.

Body piercing was also fashionable, particularly in the eyebrows, nose and lips.



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Just as punk fashion aimed to shock people, punk music was loud and angry. The records were often produced by the punk bands themselves, not record companies. The lyrics were usually short and direct and they were shouted, not sung. Anything traditional or conventional-popular culture, music, rock groups, the Government, the monarchy-was attacked by punk musicians.

In some parts of the world, there are still punks with the same look and ideology as those in the 1970s. However, in Britain and many other countries, punk culture has mixed with mainstream fashion and music. In Britain, the supermodel Agyness Deyn sometimes incorporates elements of punk fashion into her look, and in the USA, there are many pop punk bands such as Green Day. Ironically, this mainstream culture is something that the original punks hated and rebelled against.

The Goth scene.

Goth culture developed in the 1980s in Britain from the punk-rock movement. Like the punks , goths are seen by society as rebels. Goths have a very distinctive dark look and they often shock people because of their appearance.

Clothes and jewellery.

Goths define themselves by their dark look. The typical goth will only wear black clothing. They also wear a lot of silver jewellery, especially chains and rings. Some goths , like the punks before them , wear huge black boots and have large piercings. Goth fashion aims to shock people and to make them think .

Hair and makeup.

All goth dye their hair either black or blue or both. A true goth won't leave home

without a lot of black makeup. They wear black eyeliner and often black lipstick and nail varnish as well.

Music.

Goths like dark, heavy music with lyrics about horror, magic and death which create a mysterious atmosphere. Goths listen to bands like The Cure and Nine Inch Nails.

Attitude.

Goth culture is all about attitude. They don't care about what other people think of them. They see society differently and they make up their own minds . Although they look dark and gloomy,a sense of humour is important to most goths.They like to laugh at society and at themselves.

