Directions:

1. Find the other members of your group that have the same time period highlighted on the lyric sheet.
2. From the highlighted selection, select the 4 names or events that you think are the most important.
3. Select 2 additional events from that time period that are not mentioned in the song.
4. Identify these 6 in some form (poster, PowerPoint presentation, simple definitions). Nothing fancy, but try to be creative.
5. The song ends in 1989. With the basic structure in mind, update the song to the present (8 lines minimum) and adapt a new chorus. Be creative. It does not have to be Pop. It can be Country, Metal, or dare I say it; Rap.
6. Be prepared to share steps 4 and 5 with the class.
7. It is due_______

Other Members of my Group:

_________________________ Phone:_________________ Email:_____________

_________________________ Phone:_________________ Email:_____________

_________________________ Phone:_________________ Email:_____________

_________________________ Phone:_________________ Email:_____________

_________________________ Phone:_________________ Email:_____________

_________________________ Phone:_________________ Email:_____________
We Didn’t Start The Fire
Billy Joel (Storm Front, 1989)
(Lyrics to go with Lesson 1)

Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnny Ray
South Pacific, Walter Winchell, Joe DiMaggio

Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon, Studebaker, Television
North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn Monroe

Rosenbergs, H Bomb, Sugar Ray, Panmunjom
Brando, The King And I, and The Catcher In The Rye

Eisenhower, Vaccine, England’s got a new queen
Maciano, Liberace, Santayana goodbye

(Chorus) We didn’t start the fire
It was always burning
Since the world’s been turning
We didn’t start the fire
No we didn’t light it
But we tried to fight it

Joseph Stalin, Malenkov, Nasser and Prokofiev
Rockefeller, Campanella, Communist Bloc

Roy Cohn, Juan Peron, Toscanini, Dancron
Dien Bien Phu Falls, Rock Around the Clock

Einstein, James Dean, Brooklyn’s got a winning team
Davy Crockett, Peter Pan, Elvis Presley, Disneyland

Bardot, Budapest, Alabama, Khrushchev
Princess Grace, Peyton Place, Trouble in the Suez

(Chorus)

Little Rock, Pasternak, Mickey Mantle, Kerouac
Sputnik, Chou En-Lai, Bridge On The River Kwai

Lebanon, Charles de Gaulle, California baseball
Starkwether, Homicide, Children of Thalidomide

Buddy Holly, Ben Hur, Space Monkey, Mafia
Hula Hoops, Castro, Edsel is a no-go

U2, Syngman Rhee, payola and Kennedy
Chubby Checker, Psycho, Belgians in the Congo

(Chorus)

Hemingway, Eichman, Stranger in a Strange Land
Dylan, Berlin, Bay of Pigs invasion

Lawrence of Arabia, British Beatlemania
Ole Miss, John Glenn, Liston beats Patterson

Pope Paul, Malcolm X, British Politician sex
J.F.K. blown away, what else do I have to say

(Chorus)

Birth control, Ho Chi Minh, Richard Nixon back again
Moonshot, Woodstock, Watergate, punk rock
Begin, Reagan, Palestine, Terror on the airline
Ayatollah's in Iran, Russians in Afghanistan

Wheel of Fortune, Sally Ride, heavy metal, suicide
Foreign debts, homeless Vets, AIDS, Crack, Bernie Goetz
Hypodermics on the shores, China's under martial law
Rock and Roller cola wars, I can't take it anymore

We didn't start the fire
It was always burning,
Since the world's been turning.
We didn't start the fire
But when we are gone
It will still burn on and on and on.....

(Chorus)