

Name _____

Eric Clapton: The Guitar Legend

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Eric Clapton was heavily influenced by blues artists like Robert Johnson and B.B. King. He adopted their expressive techniques, including soulful bends and melodic phrasing, which became central to his blues-based guitar style.
2. Cream, co-founded by Eric Clapton, revolutionized rock music with their mix of blues, rock, and psychedelic sounds. They popularized the power trio format and improvisational jams. Iconic songs include "Sunshine of Your Love," "White Room," and "Crossroads."
3. Eric Clapton wrote "Tears in Heaven" after the death of his son, Conor, who fell from a high-rise window. The song's poignant lyrics and emotional delivery express Clapton's grief, making it one of his most personal and significant songs.
4. Clapton's use of the Fender Stratocaster and his "woman tone" create a warm, smooth sound. This tone, achieved by rolling off the treble, complements his expressive playing style, defined by fluid phrasing and emotional vibrato.
5. Eric Clapton founded the Crossroads Centre, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility, after overcoming his own struggles with addiction. Through benefit concerts and other charitable efforts, he has raised awareness and support for addiction recovery, demonstrating the importance of musicians using their influence for social causes.

