

# WHEN FANS



## Justin Bieber

**Does this singer need a break from his fans?**

**J**ustin Bieber has something to say to his enthusiastic fans.

"I just need a little privacy," he tweeted recently.

It's not that the 17-year-old singer doesn't love the millions of young people—mainly girls—who have made him one of the most successful young singers of all time.

It's just that after two years of being famous, he's getting a little . . . frustrated.

You can't really blame him. Since releasing his first album in 2010, the guy can't walk down the street without crowds of screaming girls following him. Last year, when he arrived at an airport, an exuberant fan knocked over his mom and stole Bieber's hat.

There's something about Justin Bieber

that turns perfectly intelligent girls into irrepressible, blubbering babies. The media even have a name for this hysteria: Bieber Fever.

Bieber wanted to be a singing star since he was a little boy growing up in the gritty Canadian town of Stratford, Ontario. Raised by his young single mom, there was no money for music lessons.

But Bieber taught himself to play piano, trumpet, drums, and guitar. Before long, he was writing his own songs and performing on the sidewalks of his town and in talent shows. His mother videotaped his performances and posted them on YouTube to share with her extended family.

This is how he was first discovered, at age 13, by music executive Scooter Braun. Success wasn't immediate. Bieber was too young to perform in nightclubs and bars, and radio stations wouldn't play his music. So Bieber used YouTube and Twitter to win followers. The strategy worked. Fans were captivated by songs like "One Time" and "Baby," which celebrate young love. The girls also loved his shiny bowl-shape haircut. Last year, he was the second most highly paid young performer in America.

Critics have doubts about whether Justin Bieber will stand the test of time. Adults mostly feel apathy toward the young star. Few adults even listen to his music. But for Bieber's exultant young fans, there seems to be no cure for Bieber Fever. ■

# GO WILD!

**WORD NERD** is excited! Look out for at least 8 words that are about EXCITEMENT in these two articles. As a bonus, find one word that means the opposite!



The Beatles (left to right):  
Paul McCartney, George  
Harrison, Ringo Starr,  
and John Lennon



## The Beatles

In the 1960s, teens went crazy for this British band

**N**obody had ever seen anything like it—crowds of teenage girls, all screaming and crying, their faces twisted as if they were in terrible pain. Did they all have a serious illness?

No, these girls were just expressing their zealous love for their favorite band, a group called the Beatles. Just the sight of these four British rockers sent the girls into a state of euphoria. A newspaper writer even thought of a word for it: Beatlemania.

The four young band members had all grown up in England, in a grimy town called Liverpool. They perfected their sound working in small clubs and then released their first single in 1962. Critics liked the band.

Nobody was prepared for what would

happen when the Beatles first arrived in the U.S. They were an instant sensation.

Teen girls were elated. They loved the Beatles' songs and their unique "mop top" haircuts.

The band couldn't go anywhere in the U.S. without police protection. At their concerts, it was hard to hear the music over the sound of screaming girls.

Beatles singer and guitarist Paul McCartney once called dealing with mobs of crazed fans "murder."

But the band accepted the throngs of jubilant admirers as a small price to pay for its enormous success. The group had 20 No. 1 songs in the U.S. Even today, their songs, mostly about the joys of love, continue to win listeners. Most critics consider the band one of the greatest of all time. It seems that those ecstatic fans had good taste. ■

### COMPARE & CONTRAST

Some things never change, but some things do! Find five similarities and five differences between the two pop sensations. Choose what you think is the most significant of each and support your answers with details from the articles.

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