

# American roots music essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

American Roots Music To me, American roots music is the broad range of genres of music originated from people such as the Native Americans. Different styles of music come from different types of groups of people based on things like morals, traditions and customs, and religion. For example, some Native American tribes have songs to welcome back fighters from battles because they believe that it will calm the soul and mind from the gruesomeness of battles. These songs and traditions will start within one tribe or group of people and will most likely spread to other similar groups of people in the area.

It then becomes a widely known genre of music to many people and becomes the “ roots” of those people from the originating area. Different genres have many different “ roots” such as Country music comes from the south or the Blues which is believed to have originated from the enslaved people from Africa. In some instances, it is difficult to pin point the origin of a certain genre because in most cases, some types of music are created from other types of music with their own unique styles added to it. I have had two, brief experiences with “ roots” music.

Over the summer of 2008 and this passed summer I traveled to Colombia, South America and over the summer of 2009 I went to Australia. While in these places, I listened to the music of the native, indigenous people of those regions. While I was visiting family in Colombia, they took me to an old, traditional city that was home to many of what was left of the Native people from Colombia. While there they played traditional music of the Natives there. It was a genre style called Cumbia, which has now been slightly

changed by more modern people, but in the town they played more traditional authentic music.

I was told it was the first type of music created in Colombia by the indigenous people but that some of the styles were borrowed from the Caribbean and also from Jamaica. Even though it's the "roots" music of the indigenous people of Colombia, it was still borrowed from the styles of other groups of people. During the summer I was in Australia, I was introduced to the music styles of the Aboriginals. The popular, world-wide known instrument is the didgeridoo which is a long pipe-like instrument that uses complex wind circulation to produce sounds.

I went to a play where the actors dressed up as the Aboriginals and played this instruments along with others and their voices. I really liked and was interested in the style of music and the way it flowed. Through the duration of this course, I expect to learn more about the "roots" of most of the popular genres of music originating from America. In addition to learning about the Native Americans, I would like to learn about the types of music such as Blues, Country, Latin, Hip-Hop, and others, as well as how modern music has borrowed styles from these earlier genres.