

The Black Art Gallery

Race of Sample Artists

Genres in Each Region

Reverence to Rappers

Through Time and
Space

Jay-Z's Library of Bla..



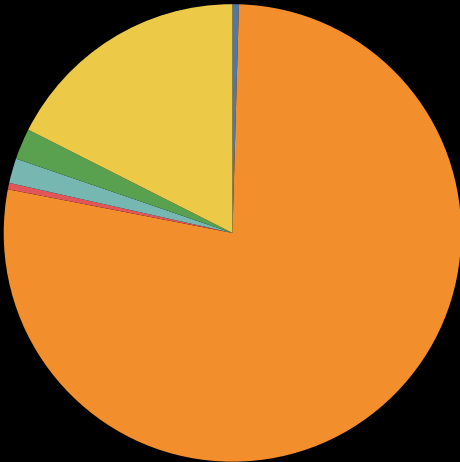
Jay-Z's role in archiving and celebrating Black artists throu..

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Jay - Z samples Black artists more than any other race. His albums serve as a sort of archive of Black art as his appreciation of other artists and their sounds influence his music and plays a part in the preservation and growth of Black art.

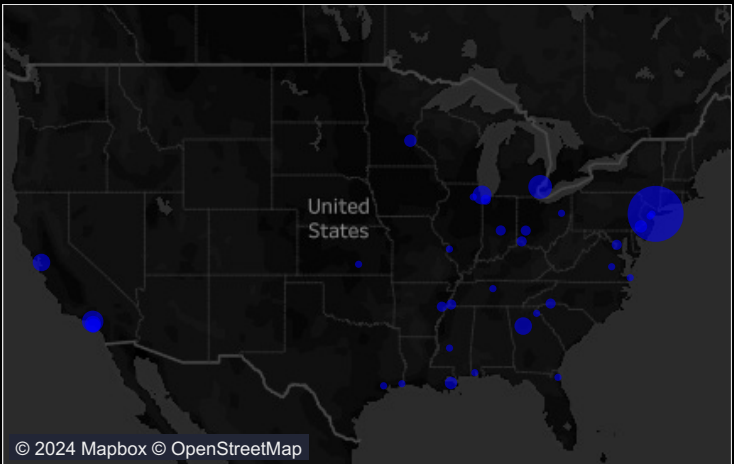
Racial Makeup of Jay-Z's Sample Artists

- Sample Artist Race
- Arab
 - Black
 - Indian
 - Latino
 - Mixed Group
 - White



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The Black artists sampled in Jay-Z songs come from various regions and many different genres. These regional sounds are the vital ingredient in Jay-Z's music and hip hop in general. The diverse ancestry of Jay-Z's sound allows for it to be appreciated globally, but the undeniably Black music that make up his songs creates a unique perspective for those in the Black community who may catch references or sounds others miss.



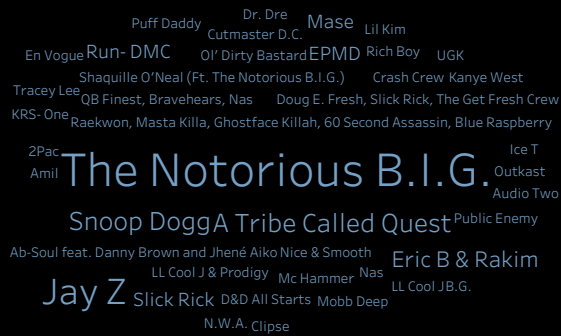
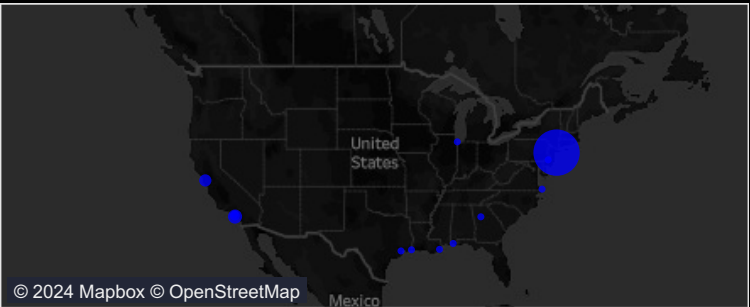
Comedy Gospel Hip Hop/Rap
Jazz Jazz/Blues Movie R&B
Reggae Soul/Funk

Artists from the Midwest are especially represented in the **Soul/Funk** genre, while Jay-Z pulls more from his fellow New Yorker's with Hip-Hop/Rap samples. Certain regions being more prevalent in different genres highlights the diversity of the Black musical landscape and creates a unique web of Black art connected through Jay-Z.

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Jay-Z has dozens of lyric references to and from other rappers, most of whom being his New York contemporaries. Using other rapper’s lyrics can be seen as disrespectful but Jay-Z most often uses them in homage, as a way to acknowledge artists he likes and respects.

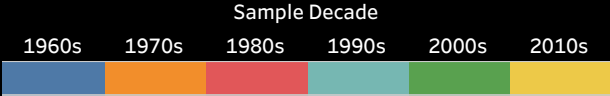
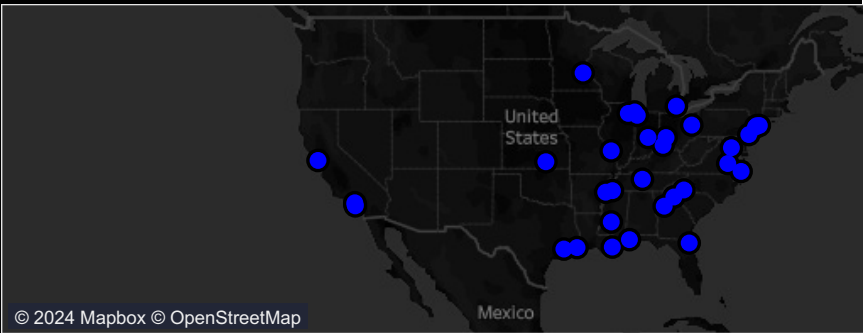
Hip Hop Lyric Samples



The late Brooklyn native, The Notorious B.I.G., is sampled by Jay-Z **more than any other artist**. Jay-Z frequently references Biggie’s lyrics after he was killed in 1997, continuing his legacy by keeping his memory alive years later through music.

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Jay-Z samples of Black artists range from the 1960s to the 2010s. He is most regionally diverse in the 70s where he has the most samples from artists in different cities, especially in the south and midwest



Jay-Z’s use of samples from various artists across different regions and eras enables his music to preserve the legacies of those artists over time while creating a unique piece of art that combines the sounds of artists who likely might not have had the chance to collaborate otherwise. In this context, sampling in his music isn’t simply uncreative use of others’ work; instead, it allows Jay-Z to metaphorically bend space and time, resulting in innovative art that would otherwise remain unrealized.