DUB REGGAE.

A conversation with Dan Finn & Crusty Dub. Settle in with your selector.

DUB IN TWO MINUTES

Dub began in late-1960s Jamaica. Sound system owners wanted instrumental "versions" of hit records with the vocals removed, so deejays could talk over the top. By 1970 nearly every B-side carried one. Engineers then started to play the studio itself: pull the band out, bring it back, add echo and reverb. King Tubby, who cut discs for Duke Reid from 1968, is the name most people start with.

THE CRATE: FIVE RECORDS



14 Dub Blackboard Jungle · The Upsetters · 1973



The Roots of Dub · King Tubby · 1975



King Tubby Meets Rockers Uptown · Augustus Pablo & King Tubby · 1976



Super Ape · Lee "Scratch" Perry & The Upsetters · 1976



Scientist Rids the World of the Evil Curse of the Vampires · Scientist · 1981

FIVE RECORDS FOR THE AFTERNOON

14 Dub Blackboard Jungle (Upsetters, 1973) is Lee Perry's dub album from the year the Black Ark opened, and one of several said to be the first. The Roots of Dub (King Tubby, 1975) is Tubby mixing Bunny Lee's rhythms for his own sound system. King Tubby Meets Rockers Uptown (Augustus Pablo and King Tubby, 1976) puts Pablo's melodica on Tubby's desk. Super Ape (Perry and The Upsetters, 1976) was recorded at the Black Ark. Scientist Rids the World of the Evil Curse of the Vampires (1981) is Scientist, at King Tubby's, with the Roots Radics and a horror comic for a sleeve.

LISTEN FOR

The drop-out, when the band vanishes and returns. The echo tail, one hit left hanging in the room. The bass, up front. The version, the same song again with the voice taken out.

HOW IT GOT HERE

LATE 1960S	Jamaica. At open-air sound system dances in downtown Kingston, owners ask producers for instrumental "versions" of hits, with the vocals taken out, so deejays (toasters) can talk over them.
1968	Osbourne Ruddock, known as King Tubby, begins cutting discs for producer Duke Reid. Asked for versions, he pulls the vocals out with the faders, then finds he can rework the instrumental with the mixer and effects.
1973	Lee Perry opens the Black Ark. The first dub albums arrive and which was first is still argued: Blackboard Jungle Dub, Aquarius Dub, Java Dub, The Message – Dub Wise.
1976	Super Ape (July in Jamaica, August on Island) and the King Tubby Meets Rockers Uptown album.
1981	Scientist Rids the World of the Evil Curse of the Vampires, on Greensleeves.

Sources: Wikipedia: King Tubby; Black Ark Studios; Super Ape; Upsetters 14 Dub Blackboard Jungle; King Tubbys Meets Rockers Uptown; Scientist Rids the World of the Evil Curse of the Vampires; uDiscover Music: "Dub Music: Exploring The Genre's Jamaican Origins"; VP Records: "King Tubby's Iconic The Roots of Dub and Dub From The Roots at 50"; Rock the Bells: "From Jamaica to the Bronx". Facts as published on the pages above. Where sources disagree or were silent we say so. Open to corrections.

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