**The Evolution of Australian Indie Music"**

"Good day, students! Today, we're going to take a journey through the vibrant and diverse world of Australian indie music. The indie music scene in Australia has a rich history, somewhat separate from mainstream rock, largely beginning from the end of the punk rock era.

In the late 1950s and 1960s, rock and roll in Australia was influenced by the sounds coming from the United States and the UK. The surf rock sound dominated early on, but by the mid-1960s, the beat genre from the UK had become established. Numerous garage bands formed in the cities and suburbs, creating a vibrant musical culture.

One of the turning points in the Australian indie music scene was the release of the single "The Real Thing" by Russell Morris. This song, with its high production values and psychedelic approach, inspired a generation of bands, singers, and songwriters that home-grown Aussie talent could produce world-beating music.

The punk movement in the mid-1970s resulted in an explosion of musical activity. Numerous bands formed, as did many independent record labels, often run out of bedrooms. An early band who gained a following in Australia was The Saints, who recorded one of the first punk singles, even before the Sex Pistols.

The 1980s saw the rise of post-punk, which combined the DIY ethos of punk with rule-breaking, genre-defying artistic experimentation. This era flourished in most Australian major cities, evolving around venues and community radio stations.

Fast forward to the 1990s, when alternative music became mainstream. Major labels signed three-chord grunge/punk-style rock bands, commercial radio played them, and the 'alternative' sound soon became ubiquitous. However, this didn't kill indie rock in Australia. Instead, it signaled a shift in its focus. Bands that didn't fit the mainstream mold attracted smaller audiences, predominantly in their 20s and based in bohemian inner urban areas.

Today, the Australian indie music scene continues to thrive, with a diverse range of bands exploring alternative instrumentation and experimental music styles. Several indie labels of note have operated in Australia, releasing recordings by a wide range of artists and contributing to the rich tapestry of Australian indie music.

So, as we can see, the Australian indie music scene is a dynamic and evolving landscape, continually pushing the boundaries of musical expression."

**Absolutely, here are some comprehension questions based on the script:**

1. What were the primary influences on Australian rock and roll in the late 1950s and 1960s?

2. Who was Russell Morris and why was his single "The Real Thing" significant in the Australian indie music scene?

3. What was the impact of the punk movement on the Australian indie music scene in the mid-1970s?

4. How did the mainstreaming of alternative music in the 1990s affect the indie rock scene in Australia?

5. What are some characteristics of the current Australian indie music scene?

**And here are some vocabulary questions:**

1. What does the term "garage bands" refer to?

2. What is the meaning of "psychedelic" in the context of music?

3. What does "DIY ethos" mean in relation to the punk and post-punk movements?

4. What does "ubiquitous" mean, and how does it apply to the 'alternative' sound in the 1990s?

5. What does "bohemian" mean in the context of the audiences for non-mainstream bands?

Finally, here are some discussion questions:

1. Why do you think the indie music scene in Australia has been able to thrive despite the mainstreaming of alternative music?

2. How might the indie music scene in Australia be different if it hadn't been influenced by music from the United States and the UK?

3. How do you think the rise of digital music platforms has impacted the indie music scene in Australia and globally?

4. Why do you think some bands choose to stay independent rather than signing with major labels?

5. How does the indie music scene in your own country compare to that of Australia?