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| (caption) MCA  (1) Beastie Boys  (2) NYC, cancer  (3) wild, silly  (4) self-taught, members  (5) album popularity  (6) film, activest  (7) Tibet  (8) director, company | [**Hip Hop Legend MCA Passes Away**](http://teachingkidsnews.com/2012/05/24/1-mca-passes-away/)  May 24, 2012 11:00 pm·  [Print Friendly](http://www.printfriendly.com/print?url=http://teachingkidsnews.com/2012/05/24/1-mca-passes-away/)  [Adam Yauch, who was better known as MCA, was famous for being a music pioneer but his charitable work may be what he is remembered for most. Image: Michael Morel](http://teachingkidsnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/AdamYauchSonar2007.jpg)  Adam Yauch, who was better known as MCA, was famous for being a music pioneer but his charitable work may be what he is remembered for most. Image: Michael Morel  You may not have heard of Adam Yauch, but you have probably heard of the Beastie Boys.  Yauch – better known as MCA – was one of three members of the legendary hip-hop group from New York City. He died from cancer early this month.  Yauch and the rest of the Beastie Boys were famous for wild, silly songs and wild, silly behaviour. A perfect example is their most famous song: “(You Gotta) Fight For Your Right (To Party).”  Yauch taught himself to play the bass guitar in highschool, and formed the Beastie Boys for his 17th birthday party along with the group’s two other members: Michael “Mike D” Diamond and Adam “Adrock” Horovitz.  The Beastie Boys went on to sell more than 40 million records, release several number-one albums and win several Grammy awards. The month before Yauch died, the group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.  Yauch was not only a rapper and musician, however. He was also a filmmaker, and a human rights activist. For example, he was one of the first public figures in the US to speak out against not just American wars in the Middle East, but also Islamophobia (a fear of Muslims).  Another important cause for Yauch was Tibetan freedom. Tibet is a country that lies between India to the West and China to the East and has been under Chinese occupation for more than half a century. Yauch was a founding member of the Milarepa Foundation, which stages benefit concerts to raise money for the foundation, which in turn raises awareness about and promotes the Tibetan struggle for independence.  Yauch’s film making career included directing several of the Beastie Boys’ own music videos, directing a basketball documentary, and starting an independent film distribution company, which has released many successful films. |