

Katie McKean, Phoenix, Arizona, 7th grade U.S. History

Essential Question: How did Blues music reflect society/events in our country's history?

Subject: American History

Grade Level: 7th

Rational: A culminating research project following a brief end of the year unit on the history of Blues in the Mississippi Delta

Goals: Create an interactive “Blues Men” of the Mississippi Delta museum
Use of primary sources

Materials: List of websites as resources (see below)
Smartboard or laptop for interactive screen use
White roll of bulletin board paper”
Computer access for research
Colored pencils/markers/sharpie marker

Prior knowledge:

This project is meant to be a fun way to wrap up a mini-unit on the history of the Blues in the Mississippi Delta. This could be great to do during Black History Month. A one or two day lesson plan would include discussions on the roots of the Blues, listening to and analyzing a few lyrics from different musicians, and demonstrating the historical significance of the Blues to different events in Delta history.

Procedures:

- 1 Students to be assigned partners for research project
- 2
- 3 Instruct students to use the website link: msblustrail.org
- 4
- 5 Students need to search the trail and find 3-5 Blues musicians to bullet point (dependent on time available)
- 6
- 7 **Required: PART 1**
 - 8 Name of musician
 - 9 Nickname of musician
 - 10 Where from
 - 11 3 “cool” facts (a cool fact makes the reader say, “really? Wow!”)
 - 12 Reason they have a marker (interpret and analyze information)
 - 13 Title of a song they are famous for
 - 14 How did this person's music reflect events or society? Give an example of lyrics that show this.
- 15 After noting five men, choose ONE of the five to research further.

16 (using sites below)

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18 THIS IS NOT A PAPER!!!!

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20 One of the students will lie on white roll paper and be traced. This is to be used as a life sized representation of their chosen Bluesman.

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Required PART 2

- 1 Bullet point the above researched facts and place on Bluesman (typed or black sharpie marker)
- 2 Locate, print and place at least one photo of Bluesman
- 3 Locate, print and place least one primary document on man (newspaper article, music review, birth, marriage, death certificate, club poster, marquee sign, etc.)
- 4 Type and attach APA formatted citations/references
- 5 Color the musician and include instrument played

Required PART 3

- 1 Find a sample of music from this musician (using the given websites)
- 2 Link this sample to the Smartboard grid (Picture a Borders or Barnes and Noble store sampler)

Required PART 4

- 1 In the school library, or public space hang completed Bluesman in "Museum" Space
- 2 Add any additional items (instrument, lyrics, etc) to exhibit
- 3 Confirm music link works on Smartboard
- 4 Send out invitations to Museum opening.

Required PART 5

- 1 Museum opening day. Students invite other classes, parents, grade levels to opening
- 2 1-2 hours presentations of men, music, food? Of the Delta
- 3 The exhibit should be interactive, so leave it up for extended time and students, parents, faculty can visit at their leisure.

EXTRA/EXTENSION

Research further to find if this musician's music been covered or reworked by another artist or group. Which song? Who covered it? When/what year? Was it rewritten or modified? Did the genre of music change? For example, was the Blues song remade into Rock? How does this show Blues influencing history?

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Evaluation: Create a rubric reflecting your requirements and criteria for project.

Recommended Websites for project:

msblustrail.org

<http://www.pbs.org/theblues/roadtrip/deltahist.html>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106364432>