

American Jazz



Common Core Standards

Anchor Standard: Speaking and Listening – Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

5. *Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.*

Anchor Standard: Writing – Production and Distribution of Writing

4. *Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.*

Anchor Standard: Writing – Research to Present and Build Knowledge

7. *Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.*

Whole Class Activity

Read several informational texts about American Jazz. As a whole class, discuss what you have learned. Next, each student will make a four-column chart showing:

1. Five famous jazz artists
2. Instruments each played
3. Songs for which each is famous
4. Then each student will listen to at least one recording of the music of each jazz artist listed. In the fourth column, write your impressions of each piece of music.

Directions: Thinking Hats® Questions

You may answer these questions on your own or may work with a partner. Use the informational texts you have already read or you may extend your research further. Write answers in complete sentences, in list form, or visually as appropriate. Check with your teacher to find out if you need to answer both questions in each category or just one question in each category. You will only do one activity in the Blue Hat category.

White Hat Thinking (Facts)

1. What is jazz?
What are some differences between jazz in its early years and jazz today?
2. What styles of jazz have been the most popular in the last 100 years?

Yellow Hat Thinking (Benefits)

1. Give examples of how at least three American cities (such as New Orleans, Memphis, St. Louis, or Kansas City) have benefitted from jazz.
2. Of the many types of jazz, choose the type that most appeals to you.
Make an outline showing the highlights of its development and history, and give examples of the music highlighted in this type of jazz.