

WEBSITES FOR JAZZ EDUCATION CONTAINING LESSON PLANS, ASSESSMENT, STANDARDS, AND LINKS TO AUDIO AND VIDEO FILES OF PROMINENT JAZZ MUSICIANS

www.neajazzintheschools.org/home.php

NEA Jazz in the Schools takes a step-by-step journey through the history of jazz, integrating that story with the sweep of American social, economic, and political developments. This multi-media curriculum is designed to be as useful to high school history and social studies teachers as it is to music teachers.

Each of the five lessons contains an opening essay, video, music, photographs, discussion questions, and other resources. Each lesson contains practical suggestions for effective ways to use the materials.

We hope that these lessons serve as an exciting jumping off point for you and your students to learn more about jazz and its unique connection to our nation's past and present. Please accept this invitation to bring the wonders of jazz to a new generation of Americans!

THE LESSONS

We suggest that you begin by reading the essays and scanning the lessons. As you do so, you might think about how you could place these within your curriculum.

These lessons are designed as units; five units serve as a week-long curriculum. If you plan to teach a lesson per day, you might find that there is more material than can be taught in one class period. This allows you to pick and choose the items that best suit your students, your curriculum design, and your teaching goals. You might draw on an entire individual lesson or components of several lessons. Alternately, you could spread the units, or elements from the units, across the semester.

Note that each lesson fulfills National Curriculum Standards for social studies, history, arts education, civics and government, and geography.

THE THEMES

To link the NEA Jazz in Schools curriculum to your class, you might draw on the following themes:

- The struggle for civil rights
- The pluralistic character of American culture, especially in cities such as New Orleans
- Arts and culture as a reflection of historical events
- Jazz as a metaphor for American identity
- The effect of technology on American culture
- The increasing urbanization of America
- Arts and music as a means of self-expression

LESSON COMPONENTS

Each unit contains:

- A Lesson Essay written by scholars in the fields of jazz and history; hyperlinks on the website direct you to music examples and photos included in the guide
- A Major Artists section featuring short biographies of important jazz artists of each era
- Lesson Objectives focusing on American history and jazz
- The National Curriculum Standards met by this curriculum
- Suggested Steps for Teaching the Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Student Activities

- Additional resources including recordings, videos, books, and websites; we encourage you to seek out other recordings and live performance opportunities for your students
- A Student Assessment with 10 multiple-choice questions; essay questions can be developed from discussion questions if you need further assessment
- A Glossary providing definitions for musical terms

TIMELINE

The [interactive timeline](#) features events from the essays that can be viewed by multiple categories: culture, technology, music, history, and geography.

LISTEN

The Listen page contains music clips for the entire curriculum. The list can be sorted by lesson, track number, artist, song title, or date by clicking at the top of each respective column.

MAJOR ARTISTS

The Artist page contains biographies, audio clips, and related web resources for each of the major artists.

www.jazzforyoungpeople.org

JAZZ FOR YOUNG PEOPLE™ ONLINE

This educational website supplements the Jazz for Young People Curriculum with original audio and video clips, classic photographs, engaging biographies, and dynamic activities that enliven jazz for students of all ages.

<http://pbskids.org/jazz/lesson/index.html>

The online activities are designed for students in grades K-5, with accompanying lesson plans for language arts (LA), social studies (SS), music (MU), and math (MA) teachers. Below you will find more information about the educational goals for each online activity; curriculum standards related to this content; and the teachers who wrote the lesson plans.

Index of Lesson Plans and Activities: Grades K-5

[“Learning Through the Duke”](#)(LA)

In a series of three short lessons, your students will learn about the important contributions made by Duke Ellington to the field of jazz, as well as some of the factors that led to his involvement in the field. As the students explore the language of the 1920s, connections will be drawn between popular expressions and the sounds created in jazz. Your students will craft an original poem using these words and expressions. Finally, your students will have the opportunity to respond to a piece of Duke Ellington’s music through movement and art.

[“Chops and Axes - A Jazz Talk Show”](#)(LA, SS)

Students will explore the lives of various jazz musicians. They will become familiar with the social and historical events that were present during the lives of these individuals. They will listen to the music of the artists and become knowledgeable about their styles. This activity will culminate in the production of a news/talk show created and performed by the students highlighting the lives of these musical figures.

[“A Jazz History”](#)(LA, MU, SS)

Students will explore ragtime music and gain an understanding of its development in relation to jazz. They will also investigate the historical events during the time the genre evolved. They will become familiar with the common form used in ragtime piano pieces (AA BB A CC DD) and the concept of syncopation. Students will understand that syncopation is an element in jazz music. They will listen to ragtime compositions and become familiar with various composers of this genre.

[“Tap Your Feet”](#) (MU, MA)

Students will practice following a pattern and become familiar with the concept of beat in music. They will be introduced to tempo. They will gain experience playing the beat on non-pitched rhythm instruments, at various tempos. This activity will culminate in the creation of a rhythm piece.

[“Can You Hear a Story?”](#) (MU, LA)

Students will explore creating moods with music. Students will assimilate this new knowledge through the analysis of a story and the creation of a musical composition that reflects and enhances it. This activity will culminate with the recording of their musical accompaniment and story to produce a book on tape.

<http://jazzinamerica.com/Home>

The mission of *Jazz in America* is to incorporate the teaching and learning of jazz history into every public elementary, middle, and high school social studies and American history class in the country.

The curriculums are aligned with the National Standards in the areas of American History, Social Science, and the Arts; all relevant standards are specified at the beginning of each lesson plan. Teachers have the autonomy to teach the material, issue quizzes, and grade their students as they see fit; they are also encouraged to evaluate the materials, providing their comments and suggestions to the Monk Institute for continual upgrades and revisions.

The website includes:

- a complete teacher's manual for each grade
- individual step-by-step lesson plans with all pertinent content
- easily downloadable student handouts
- related American history and social studies essays
- complete testbanks/assessments featuring multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false, matching, and essay questions
- audio snippets of historically significant jazz recordings
- important jazz videos, photographs, and other visual images

The site also features a complete jazz resource library including:

- a glossary of jazz terms and common jargon
- a discography, bibliography, videography, and jazz poetry listing
- jazz style sheets
- a bio and selected recording for over 300 jazz musicians
- a jazz timeline
- elements of jazz audio files
- a jazz education component including information on virtually every college and university jazz program in the US and Canada
- links to other jazz and social studies educational websites