



# Music by Mountaineers

**Objective:** This activity introduces students to different styles of music and encourages them to listen, analyze, describe, and evaluate the music they hear.

## GRADE LEVELS

Elementary

## BACKGROUND

West Virginia has a rich musical tradition. The state is best known for its contributions to old-time music, especially fiddling, as well as bluegrass and country music. West Virginians, however, have produced a wide variety of music, from old-time to jazz to classical.

### For more information:

Old-Time Music: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1756](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1756)

Bluegrass Music: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/571](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/571)

Fiddle Tradition: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2256](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2256)

Folk Music: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2000](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2000)

Jazz: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/986](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/986)

Coalfield Blues: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1372](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1372)

Banjo: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/339](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/339)

## PROCEDURES

1. Explain that all the artists who created the music were born or lived in West Virginia and performed different musical styles. Select an artist (or group) from two or more of the categories listed on the next page.
2. Play the audio clip for each artist or group.
3. Ask students to describe what they hear. Do they hear a voice? Do they hear instruments? What kind of instruments?
4. Do they like the song? Why or why not?
5. Finally let students be the reviewers and give a “Thumbs Up” or “Thumbs Down” to the song.

## EXTENDING THE ACTIVITY

1. Ask students or groups of students to research the musicians and the styles of music in *e-WV* and other sources. Ask them to present the information to the class.
2. Have students mark on a map of West Virginia where each of the performers was born.
3. On a timeline, mark when each of the artists was born.
4. Discuss West Virginia songs. Play a recording of “West Virginia Hills” and “Country Roads.” Which is more popular among the students? Why?



# Performers featured in *e-WV*

## OLD-TIME MUSIC

Hazel Dickens:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1895](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1895)  
Blind Ed Haley:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/122](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/122)  
Edden Hammons: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/144](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/144)  
Uncle Jack McElwain: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1634](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1634)  
Russ Fluharty: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2213](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2213)  
Henry Reed: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/43](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/43)  
Melvin Wine: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1317](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1317)  
Clark Kessinger:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1191](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1191)

## BLUEGRASS

Curly Ray Cline:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1316](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1316)  
Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1594](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1594)

## COUNTRY

The Bailes Brothers:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/323](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/323)  
Little Jimmy Dickens:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1896](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1896)  
Hawkshaw Hawkins:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/330](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/330)  
Frank Hutchison: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/772](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/772)  
Kathy Mattea: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1584](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1584)  
Charlie McCoy: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1621](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1621)  
Brad Paisley: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1803](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1803)  
Molly O'Day and Lynn Davis:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1725](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1725)  
Blind Alfred Reed:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/41](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/41)

Connie Smith: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2361](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2361)  
Red Sovine: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/526](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/526)  
Mel Street: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/613](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/613)

## JAZZ

Ann Baker: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2358](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2358)  
Chu Berry: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/468](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/468)  
Butch Miles: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2360](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2360)  
Maceo Pinkard: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1859](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1859)  
Don Redman: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2359](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2359)  
Ada "Bricktop" Smith: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/461](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/461)  
Robert Drasnin: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2354](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2354)

## CLASSICAL

Larry Combs: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2363](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2363)

## OPERA

Eleanor Steber:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/585](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/585)

## ROCK 'N' ROLL

Johnnie Johnson:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1023](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1023)

## RHYTHM AND BLUES

Nat Reese: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/47](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/47)  
Bill Withers: [www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1324](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1324)

## POLKA

Frankie Yankovic:  
[www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2355](http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2355)



# WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION CONTENT STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES

## SOCIAL STUDIES-WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY

SS.4.19 Pose, research and answer student-generated questions relating to West Virginia (e.g., primary source documents, magazines, online resources, etc.).

MU.3-5.17 Sing, perform, and relate West Virginia songs to West Virginia history and West Virginia geography.

