



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

Bluegrass Music: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/571

Fiddle Tradition: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2256

Folk Music: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2000

Jazz: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/986

Coalfield Blues: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1372

Banjo: 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
Blind Ed Haley:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/122
Henry Reed: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/43
Melvin Wine: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1317
Clark Kessinger:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1191

BLUEGRASS

Curly Ray Cline:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1316
Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1594

COUNTRY

The Bailes Brothers:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/323
Little Jimmy Dickens:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1896
Hawkshaw Hawkins:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/330
Frank Hutchison: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/772
Kathy Mattea: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1584
Charlie McCoy: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1621
Brad Paisley: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1803
Molly O'Day and Lynn Davis:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1725
Blind Alfred Reed:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/41
Connie Smith: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2361
Red Sovine: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/526
Mel Street: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/613

JAZZ

Ann Baker: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2358
Chu Berry: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/468
Maceo Pinkard: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1859
Don Redman: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2359
Robert Drasnin: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2354

CLASSICAL

Larry Combs: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2363

OPERA

Eleanor Steber:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/585

ROCK 'N' ROLL

Johnnie Johnson:
www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1023

RHYTHM AND BLUES

Bill Withers: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1324

POLKA

Frankie Yankovic:
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.

