

# LESSON PLAN



**Teacher**

**Grade Level: 3-5**

**Time Allotted  
for Lesson: 60 min.**

**Subject(s)**

**English Language Arts & Social Studies**

**Compelling Question**

How have Kentucky's Black musicians used their music to influence culture and share their stories?

**Supporting Questions**

- Who are some significant Black musicians from Kentucky?
- What genres of music have Kentucky's Black musicians contributed to?
- How does their music reflect their experiences or impact their communities?

**Central Focus of the Lesson**

Students will explore the lives and contributions of Kentucky's Black musicians, learning how music can convey culture, history, and personal stories, and reflect on how music shapes our understanding of the world.

**Context for Learning**

This lesson introduces students to Kentucky's Black musicians who have made significant contributions to genres such as jazz, R&B, and hip-hop, encouraging students to connect music to cultural and historical themes.

**Kentucky Academic Standard(s)**

RI.3.1, RI.5.7, C.3.6, C.4.4, C.4.6, C.5.6

**Success Criteria/Learning Outcomes**

- I can identify key Black musicians from Kentucky and explain their contributions to music.
- I can analyze selected songs or performances.
- I can create a musical reflection and/or artwork inspired by a studied musician.

**Primary/Secondary Sources**

- Audio recordings and/or videos of musical artists
- Biographies of musicians

**Formative Performance Task**

Students will listen to a selected song, analyze its lyrics or sound, and write about how it reflects the musician's identity or influence their community.

## Vocabulary

Genre, Rhythm, Melody, Legacy, Influence, Improvisation, and Community

## Accommodations

Provide [printed lyrics](#), offer graphic organizers to help with analyzing music

## Differentiation

Advanced learners can research additional musicians or dive deeper into a specific genre. Allow group activities for students who prefer collaborative work.

## Technology and Materials

Speakers or headphones for listening to music; tablets or computers for access music and biographies digitally; printed lyrics, photos, and artist biographies; art supplies for visual responses to music (optional)

## Relevant Background Information for Teachers

Teachers should familiarize themselves with the genres of music highlighted and the historical context of the musicians' lives. Understanding the significance of the Harlem Renaissance, gospel traditions, and the role of music in the Civil Rights Movement will enhance the discussion.

## Lesson Activities

### **Introduction (10 minutes):**

Introduce [Vocab](#)

Use the [slides](#) to present the compelling question.

Introduce the musicians and their brief bios

Alternately, teachers may wish to print this portion of the slides or assign digitally to students so that they can read independently or in small groups.

### **Exploration (20 minutes):**

Listen to a full song or performance (These are included in the slides. Teachers may wish to assign the slides digitally to students, or create stations around the room where students can rotate and listen) and [analyze its themes or cultural significance using guiding questions](#)

### **Application (15 minutes):**

Students write a “musical review” about one of the songs they listened to, using their analysis to help guide their thinking.

### **Discussion (10 minutes):**

Students share their reflections in small groups or with the class.

## Taking Informed Action/Extension Activity

[Design an album cover](#) that reflects the song.

Create your own playlist of Kentucky’s Black musicians to share with others. Discuss how the songs you select are similar or different than the ones listened to in class.