



FEATURE

HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 7-9, 11

OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work. (Re7)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. (Re8)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. (Re9)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding. (Cn11)

MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazine (Vol.40 No.5)
- Computer or mobile device with internet access

START

Ask your students to read “Historic Achievements” on pages 10-13. Then, go over the following highlighted words. **[This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]**

SCAT - improvised jazz singing in which the voice is used to imitate an instrument

BEBOP - jazz originating in the 1940's characterized by complex harmony and rhythms

IMPROVISATION - a piece of music created without preparation

DICTION - enunciation in speaking or singing

EFFECTS - electronic device that alters the sound of a musical instrument or other audio source

PIONEER - develop or be the first to use or apply a new method, area of knowledge, or activity

CIVIL RIGHT - the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality

RHYTHM & BLUES - popular music of African American origin that arose during the 1940's from blues, with the addition of driving rhythms taken from jazz. It was an immediate precursor of rock and roll.

ROCK & ROLL - popular dance music originating in the 1950's, characterized by a heavy beat and simple melodies. Rock & roll is an amalgam of black rhythm & blues and white country music, usually based on a twelve-bar structure and an instrumentation of guitar, bass, and drums.

RECORD LABEL - a company in which an artist is signed to. The company represents the artist and the artist in turn represents the label.

RECORDING CONTRACT - an agreement between record label and artist that defines terms of the distribution and recording process of the artist.

ARIA - a long accompanied song for a solo voice, typically one in an opera

GOLD RECORD - a award to a singer or group whose single record or album has sold at least 500,000 copies

PLATINUM RECORD - a award to a singer or group whose album has sold at least one million copies

DEVELOP

As a class, listen to the following tracks on Hear the Music playlist:

“Take the ‘A’ Train” by Ella Fitzgerald

How does scat singing compare to other styles of singing?

How does this song make you feel? Why?

How many harmony lines do you hear?

What instruments do you hear?

“The Thrill is Gone” by B.B. King

How does the blues style differ from Fitzgerald's bebop style of jazz?

How many instruments can you identify?

How would you describe B.B.'s voice?

Would this song have a different effect if it used different instruments?

Did blues music inspire new styles of music?

“Respect” by Aretha Franklin

How is the style of this song different from the first two?

How does this song make you feel? Why?

Do you hear any influences of blues and jazz in this song?

“I Got You (I Feel Good)” by James Brown

Do you hear how previous music styles influenced soul music?

Why do you think Brown could be the Godfather of Rap? (Hint: Listen to “Get Up Offa That Thing”)

How does this song make you feel? Why?

EXTRA CREDIT

Watch Mahalia Jackson at the March on Washington:
bit.ly/ma405bhm1

How did Jackson help with the civil rights efforts and Martin Luther King?

Which styles did gospel music influence?

Why do you think music is important in times of protest?

CLOSE

How did the contributions of black artists influence that music we listen to today? Which song did you like the best?

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?

Did they review the vocabulary words?

Did they answer the supplemental questions?