



FEATURE

THE MUSIC OF AUSTRALIA

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 “The Music of Australia” on pages 6-9. Then, go over the following highlighted words.

[This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

- ABORIGINE** – indigenous peoples of Australia
- INDIGENOUS** - originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native
- CLAPSTICK** - two decorated pieces of wood that were hit against each other to create a steady beat
- DIDGERIDOO** - a wind instrument, played with continuously vibrating lips to produce a continuous drone while using a special breathing technique called circular breathing
- CLAN SONG** – Aboriginal songs that were unique to their societies and a way to identify different cultures
- BUSH BALLAD** - a style of poetry and folk music that depicts the life, character and scenery of the Australian bush
- INFLUENCE** – music that serves as a source of inspiration to another musician
- IMITATE** – copy or simulate
- COUNTRY MUSIC** - genre has been influenced by Celtic and English folk music, the Australian bush ballad tradition, as well as by popular American country music
- AUSTRALIAN ROCK** - various rock genres, usually originating in the United States or Britain, but also continental Europe, and more recently the musical styles of Africa
- PROTEST SONG** - a song that is associated with a movement for social change
- SLANG** – informal language (words, phrases and usages) that members of particular groups prefer over common vocabulary of a standard language

DEVELOP

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

“Waltzing Mathilda” by Slim Dusty

How does the bush ballad style differ to folk music? Does it compare to any other music style?

How does this song make you feel? Why?

How many harmony lines do you hear?

“Old Man Emu” by John Williamson

As an early country artist, how does this sound compare to what you know as country?

How many instruments do you hear?

How would you describe John Williamson’s voice? How does it compare to Dusty?

“Somebody Like You” by Keith Urban

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

How does this song make you feel? Why?

Do you hear any similarities between the three songs?

How does this song differ from the first two because of Western influences?

Or

Listen to “Beds are Burning” by Midnight Oil and video of “Freedom Ride” by Troy Cassar-Daley. Both songs are protest songs in support of Aboriginal rights.

How does the push for Aboriginal Indigenous rights compare with events that have and are occurring in the United States?

Is one music style more effective in delivering the message than the other?

CLOSE

How did country music evolve in Australia and how was it different than other countries?

At what time did Australian Rock and Pop music gain its own identity?

Name two famous Australian singers today. Does their style sound unique?

ASSESS

Did the students read the article?

Did they review the vocabulary words?

Did they answer the supplemental questions?