

Jazz from A to Z 2014
Lesson Plan: Kathy Hays

Title of the Lesson: Jazz in Cold War Diplomacy

Subject: Honors World History

Grade: Freshman

Common Core Standard for Reading, Writing *or* Speaking and Listening:
CCR0

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection and research.

Arizona Social Studies Standard:

Concept 8

- PO 7.** Analyze the political, economic and cultural impact of the Cold War:
- a. superpowers – Soviet Union, United States, China

Overview (*Brief description of lesson*):

- Students will listen to Dave Brubeck’s “Real Ambassador” as an introduction to the lesson.
- Students will be given a copy of the lyrics to the song. We’ll discuss the importance of music in the Cold War, focusing on how and why jazz musicians were sent by the State Department to perform around the world.
- Students will be asked how they think this song represents the Cold War diplomacy and the segregation movement in the United States.
- Students will be given a world map to use as they re-read the article. As they read, they will identify the countries on the map the jazz musicians visited by coloring the map.
- Students will be asked to determine whether they believe the countries the musicians visited were selected randomly or deliberately, and to justify their decision.
- We will then discuss whether it was appropriate to send jazz musicians around the world to promote a positive image of the United States, when many of the musicians were denied equal rights in their home nation.

The following article explains the program, and identifies where musicians were sent by the State Department:

Article: When Ambassadors Had Rhythm - By FRED KAPLAN Published: June 29, 2008

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/29/arts/music/29kapl.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/133183/english/1303_The_Real_Ambassadors_English.pdf

Essential Question(s): Were the jazz musicians sent as ambassadors during the Cold War true representatives of the country they were sent to promote?
Why were jazz musicians sent to particular countries?

Key Vocabulary: Cold War, Jazz, Ambassador, Dave Brubeck, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Martin Luther King, Jr., Dizzy Gillespie, Containment, Dwight Eisenhower, Segregation

Lesson Objective(s): Students will analyze the lyrics to the “Real Ambassador” and determine if the use of jazz musicians as ambassadors during the Cold War was true representation of the country at this time.

Procedure to Teach the Lesson:

Hook:

Students will listen to “Real Ambassador” as an introduction to the lesson. Students will be asked what they think the song means.

Students will be given the lyrics to the song and with a partner, go through to decipher the lyrics.

Review key vocabulary terms: Cold War, Containment, Jazz, Ambassador, Segregation

Review key jazz figures: Dave Brubeck, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie

Students will read “When Ambassadors had Rhythm”, an article about the jazz ambassador program and the segregation that was still in place in the United States.

Number paragraphs

Circle names

Underline key statements about the ambassador program and segregation in the article.

Each student will be given a world map. They will color the countries of the U.S. (blue), and Soviet Union (red).

Students will then go back through the article and find the countries the ambassadors visited. They will locate and color these countries on the map.

End (closure)

After reading, students will again listen to the song as they follow along with the lyrics. Students will be asked to take a stand: “I believe the jazz ambassadors were an accurate representation of American society during the Cold War,” or I do not believe the jazz ambassadors were an accurate representation of American society during the Cold War.

Each side can explain the reason for their position.

Assessment: Students will use the map and information from the article to explain U.S. State Department’s strategy in sending the jazz ambassadors around the world.