

Grade Level: Sixth Grade

Lesson Plan Title: Cultural Music Meaning Marathon

Textbook Strategy: Music History, p.152

Content Standard: Culture 1.0 Culture encompasses similarities and differences among people including their beliefs, knowledge, changes, values, and traditions. Students will explore these elements of society to develop an appreciation and respect for the variety of human cultures.

Learning Expectations:

1.01 Understand the nature and complexity of culture.

1.04 Recognize how cultural and individual perceptions affect places and regions.

Objectives:

6.1.spi.1 recognize the basic components of culture (i.e., language, common values, traditions, government, art, literature, lifestyles).

6.1.spi.5. identify differences between various cultural groups (i.e., European, Eurasian, Indian, Southeast Asian, Middle Eastern, African, Native American).

6.1.tpi.6. compare various forms of jewelry, art, music, and literature among historical periods.

Materials: Source of music; computer, iPad, iPod, etc. Students need paper and pencil. White board or PowerPoint to display information about songs.

Set: The teacher will choose a song or songs from an older time period that have a political meaning behind the lyrics. Some song examples include: "We Didn't Start the Fire" by Billy Joel, "Revolution" by the Beatles, etc. The teacher will tell the students that they are about to hear a song, and the students should write down when they think the song was released and what the meaning of the song is/what the song is about. Following the older song, the teacher will ask the students to do the same thing with any song that is popular in this time period. Artist examples: Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Rhianna, etc. The class will then discuss the differences in the songs and the opposite messages that they send. It should interest the class to see that some songs have deep meanings while other songs that are "popular" only talk about material items, relationships, partying, etc. The teacher will then go on to explain that along with generation gaps, different cultures also have different types of music that mean different things.

Lesson Outline: The starter will inspire a class discussion about many different cultures and ways that different cultures express themselves. The lesson will explore different cultures through music. Students will learn about different cultures throughout the world and types of music that they listen to/make and motivation behind the music, as well as generational cultures such as those born in the 60's and those from today's day and time.

Students will be expected to do the same exploration of music that was done in the starter. The teacher will compile a list of different songs from older generations and also from other cultures than the American culture. Students will choose one of their favorite songs that is popular at that particular time and also choose a song from the teacher's list. Students will then make a small project comparing the songs and the cultures behind them. Students may use PowerPoint, a graphic organizer, poster board, etc. to display their information. Students are expected to research information about both songs and their meanings, as well as detailed information about the cultures that influenced the songs.

Reference: Obenchain, K. & Morris, R. (2011). *50 Social Studies Strategies for K-8 Classrooms*. (3rd edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.