

History Sings

Scenario:

From the colonial era to the present day, songs have been an integral part of our nation's history. Your team is composed of history and music professors that are joining together to raise awareness in schools about the important role of music in United States history. You are addressing a teacher's convention with the purpose of convincing teachers that they should include historically important songs in their curriculum. In your presentation, your team will focus on two songs that helped in shaping and defining our past. Consider choosing two different types of songs for your presentation.

Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):

1. Why should songs be a part of history classes?
2. How do songs help to define our nation?
3. Describe the songs you have chosen and tell why they are important.
4. What is the history behind the creation of these songs?
5. What musical styles do they represent and can they traced back to another country?
6. What do these songs tell us about this period of history?
7. When did the songs become popular and why?
8. Are there different versions of the songs?
9. Who were the composers of the songs and what do we know about them?
10. Compare on the impact these songs made in history?
11. Are the songs still a part of today's media and has the meaning changed?

Possible Sources

Newspapers, historians, music teachers, videos, CD's, encyclopedias, history textbooks
Facts on File, United Streaming, Associate Press Extensive Photo Archive and

Internet links for additional resources are on page 2 of this scenario.

Bibliography

Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation. You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>.

Grade 5 2008 Resources

History Sings

American Memory from the Library of Congress - Browse by Category

memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/ListSome.php?catego...

Performing Arts, Music: 33 collections

Lots of information on music including actual recordings from different periods in American History

Patriotic Music

www.ilovewavs.com/Holidays/July4/july4.htm

Lots of songs by a variety of artists.

Music of the United States - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_the_United_States

The United States has produced many popular musicians and composers in the modern world. Beginning with the birth of recorded music, American performers have continued to lead the field of popular music, which out of "all the contributions made by Americans to world culture. Provides an overview of U.S. music with lots of links.

American patriotic music - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_patriotic_music

American patriotic music is a part of the culture and history of the United States since its founding in the 18th century and has served to encourage feelings of national unity. This has lots of links and general explanations.

Popular Songs in American History

www.contemplator.com/america/index.html

The tunes here were not all written by Americans, but are songs that were known in America. Most songs of the Colonial and Revolutionary Era were songs that originated in England, Scotland and Ireland and immigrated with their people.

Has midi tunes of a lot of songs divided by eras and events. Includes the lyrics and some history of each song.

Welcome to Voices Across Time

www.voicesacrosstime.org

Voices Across Time was created to help teachers harness the power of song as primary source to supplement any secondary American Social Studies, Language Arts, and Music curriculum.

This is a commercial product but has some ideas as to why music should be a part of teaching.

Songs in American History

history.sandiego.edu/GEN/snd/a-songlist.html

Has a list of songs and their histories.