Jazz in American history and culture

Student guide

In this activity, you will research the history of jazz and one jazz musician, then create a newsletter introducing people to that musician’s life, music, and influence on culture.

## Step 1 Research the history of jazz and one jazz musician

On the Internet, visit the PBS Kids-Jazz Kids Web site (<http://www.pbs.org/jazz/kids/>).

Click **Timeline** and read about the history of jazz**.** Make sure you understand how music and culture interact.How did racial segregation and economics affect the development of jazz, for example? Name one way in which jazz affected American culture.

To find a list of jazz musicians you can use for your Microsoft® Publisher newsletter you will create, click **Jazz Greats**.

Select one of the musicians listed for your newsletter. Read about that musician, and answer the following questions in your newsletter:

* What is the name of the musician you selected?
* When and where was he or she born?
* What was his or her childhood like?
* What instrument did he play? How did she choose it?
* Where did she or he first perform for an audience?
* What is his or her most famous composition or performance?
* What are three additional facts you learned about your musician?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Use Encarta or another encyclopedia or trustworthy Web resource on jazz to look for additional information to include in your newsletter. On the PBS Jazz biographies site (<http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/>) you can search for musicians alphabetically. Answer the following questions, for example:

* What contribution did your musician make to North American culture?
* What kind of jazz did you musician play and/or compose? Bebop? Free jazz?
* What kind of pay did your musician receive for performing?
* What kind of venues did your musician play in? Street corners? Clubs? Concert halls?
* What role did race and segregation play in the life of your musician?
* Did your musician ever perform in another country than the United States?

## Step 2 Create a brochure about a jazz musician

Create a brochure (learn how at <http://www.microsoft.com/Education/ThemeBrochure.aspx>) about your musician using Microsoft Office Word 2007.

Include:

* All the information you gathered in Step 1.
* A photo of your musician and any other pictures you want from different Web sources. Bing visual search (<http://www.bing.com/images/>) can help you find images fast.

**Note** When including a photo in your brochure, make sure you cite the source.

Check the overall design to make sure your information is legible and appealing.

Proofread your brochure for grammatical and spelling errors.