

# The Origins of Jazz in New Orleans 1890-1920

A Web Quest for 8th Grade (General Music)

Mrs. Dehls

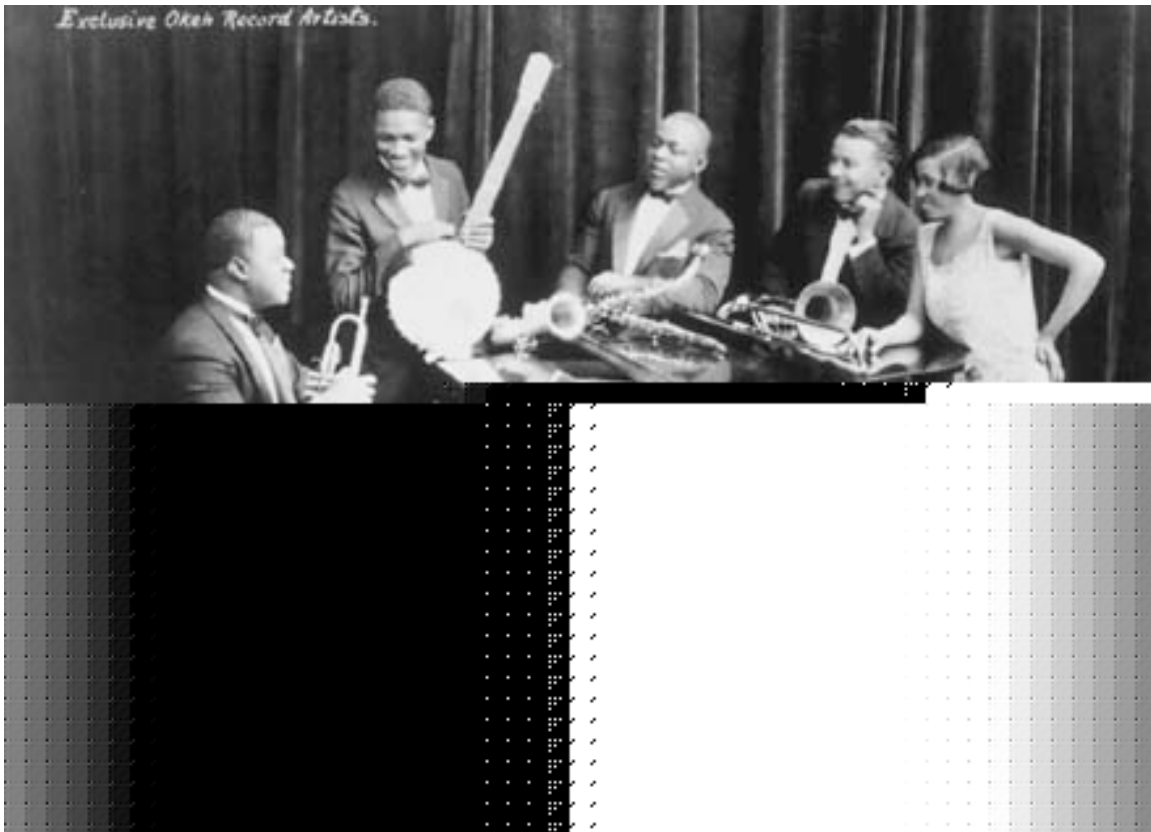


## Introduction

In a recent scientific experiment, researchers and

scientists at Harvard University were able to solve the mysteries of time travel. They have also created a revolutionary time travel machine out of an old telephone booth. These scientists also happen to be very avid listeners of jazz music but due to their commitments with the time machine have been unable to study the origins of this music. They have asked our class to be the first guinea pigs in their new machine and travel back in time to New Orleans around the time jazz was first beginning. The purpose of this trip is to collect artifacts and to make recordings of this early music with modern technology. In order to accomplish our mission we will have to befriend jazz musicians in New Orleans at the turn of the century. These musicians however will become suspicious of you and your mission if they think that you are not an expert on early jazz music, seriously jeopardizing our efforts. In order to accomplish this mission successfully you must become an expert on the early days of this music.

You must be able to accurately answer the question “what were the social and historical events that lead to the creation of jazz music in New Orleans during the time period 1890-1920”?



## The Task

In order to become an expert in early jazz music you must be able to:

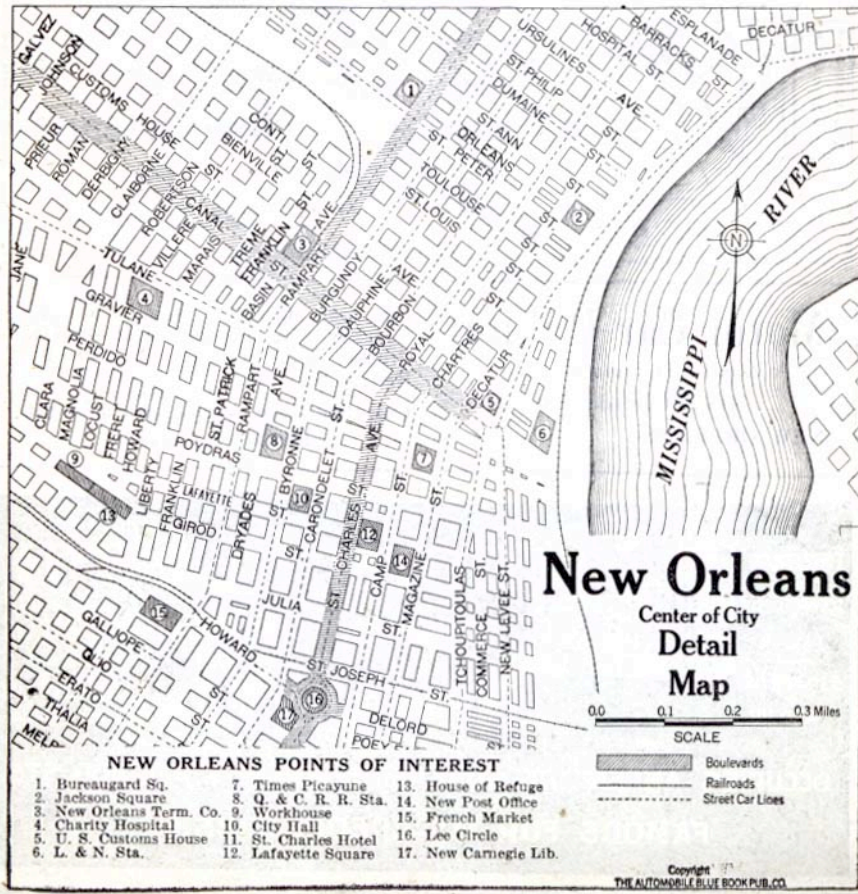
1. Describe the historical and social issues involved with:

- a. Congo Square
- b. Storyville
- c. Ethnic Groups including Black, White Hispanic, Creole, and French
- d. Call and Response
- e. Work Songs
- f. Brass bands
- g. Compositional vs. Improvisational music
- h. Jim Crow Laws

2. Recognize and identify five musicians of this time period including:

- a. Jelly Roll Morton
- b. King Oliver
- c. Louis Armstrong
- d. Sidney Bechet
- e. Buddy Bolden

3. Describe elements of early jazz music including instruments and compositional elements.



## The Process

To accomplish the task, you and a partner will work together to view all of the web sites listed below and complete the accompanying work sheet. Once everyone has finished the web quest, we will listen to two musical examples from this time period. You will, individually, be required to write about each piece describing what you are hearing based on what you have

learned in this web quest.

All the information you need to complete this assignment can be found on the web sites listed below under the resources section. You must answer the worksheet thoroughly and in complete sentences to receive full credit(see evaluation section below for rubric).

**GOOD LUCK!!!!**



## Evaluation

## **worksheet**

3- worksheet is completely filled out, answers are thorough and in complete sentences. Students responses indicate a strong understanding of the material covered in the web quest.

2- worksheet is partially complete, only some answers are in complete sentences and lack thorough details, answers show some understanding of material covered in web quest.

1- worksheet is mostly incomplete, answers are not in complete sentences, responses indicate a lack of understanding of material in web quest.

## **listening assignment**

3- students response includes many descriptive details about the music, uses many terms from the web quest, answer is in complete sentences, shows strong understanding of elements in early jazz music.

2- students response includes some descriptive details about the music, uses some terms from the web quest, answer is only partially written in complete sentences, shows basic understanding of elements early jazz music.

1- students response includes few descriptive details about the music, uses very little terminology form the web quest, answer is not in complete sentences, shows little understanding of elements in early jazz music.

## **Conclusion**

New Orleans played a major role in the development of jazz music as a serious artform. The social and

historical events that took place in New Orleans between 1890 and 1920 played a significant role in defining jazz. The traditions that began in New Orleans have continued on in some ways today and continue to help jazz music evolve.