



SHOW ME A BEAT

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF
MUSIC IN MISSOURI





A NOTE TO PARENTS

This lesson is written to be completed with the guidance of an adult.

In this lesson plan, children will learn about music in Missouri by reading, writing, listening, dancing, and completing fun activities! This lesson is adaptable and can be simplified or made more complicated as desired.

Go to christiancountylibrary.org/lessons for a PDF version of this lesson plan with clickable links. You can also find all of our past lessons and booklists here. An active Christian County Library card is necessary to checkout digital materials from Hoopla.



This lesson plan uses items available on Hoopla. To checkout from Hoopla, download the Hoopla app or go to hoopladigital.com and create an account with your Christian County Library card. Each library card is limited to 5 Hoopla checkouts a month.

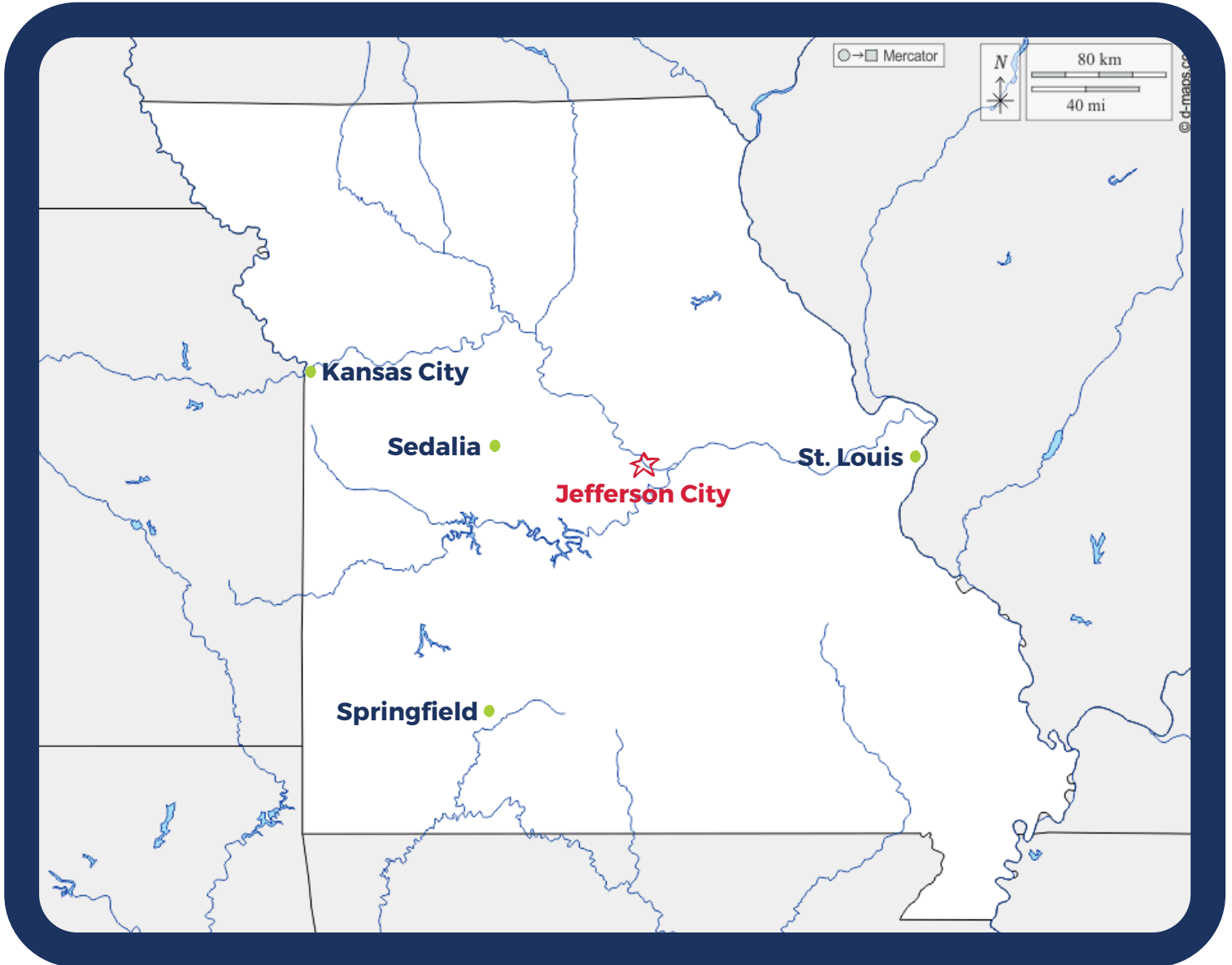


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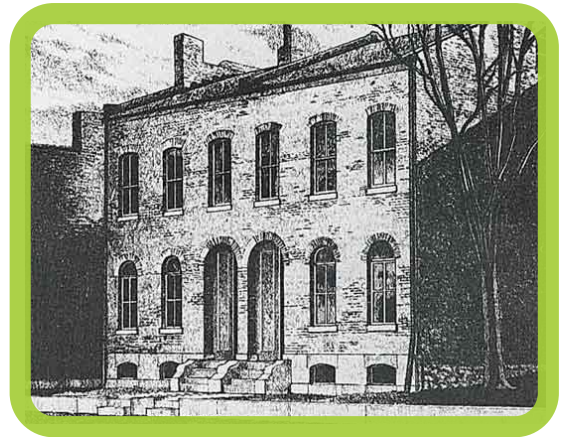
MISSOURI



In this lesson plan we are going to learn about the music of Missouri in Kansas City, Sedalia, St. Louis, and Springfield.



We will learn about Sedalia and Scott Joplin, the “King of Ragtime.” Sedalia is located in the central part of the state, south of the Missouri River.



We will learn about St. Louis and W.C. Handy's song “St. Louis Blues.” St. Louis is located on the eastern border of the state, on the Mississippi River. St. Louis is the second largest city in Missouri.

We will learn about Kansas City and the jazz scene of the 1930s. Kansas City is located on the western border of the state, on the Missouri River. Kansas City is the largest city in Missouri.



We will learn about Springfield and the country music of Ozark Jubilee. Springfield is located in the southwest part of the state, in a region called the Ozarks. Springfield is the third largest city in Missouri.



RAGTIME IN SEDALIA

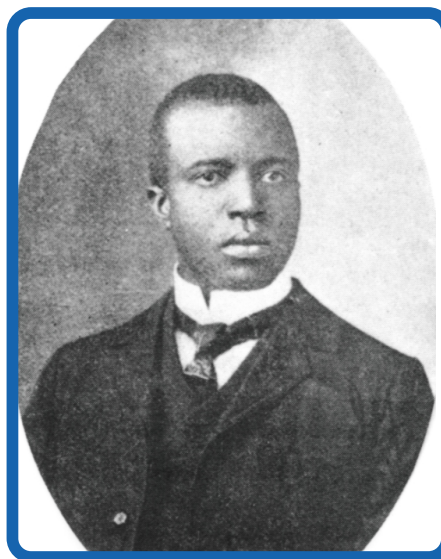
Sedalia is located in the central part of Missouri, 30 miles south of the Missouri River. In 1861, a railway was built that passed through Sedalia. Connection to the railroad brought many new people and jobs to the city, including many musicians playing a new popular style of music called ragtime.

Ragtime brings together elements of European classical music and African American music traditions.



Ragtime was very popular in the 1890s through the 1910s. It is usually played on piano and is named for its “ragged” syncopated rhythms. The left hand of the piano plays a steady rhythmic pulse while the right hand melody rocks back and forth between the beats, giving the music its “ragged” sound. In restaurants and clubs, the unique rhythm and catchy melodies of ragtime were perfect for dancing.

Scott Joplin (pictured on the right) moved to Sedalia, Missouri in 1894. At the time, Sedalia was still a bustling railroad town, with people looking for entertainment. Joplin studied music seriously at a university in Sedalia. There, he had the chance to listen and learn from other ragtime musicians. His composition “Maple Leaf Rag” was published in Sedalia in 1898 and became a national hit, earning him the nickname “King of Ragtime.” He would go on to write many more compositions, including an opera.



Use your library card to listen to a recording of Scott Joplin’s piece “Maple Leaf Rag” on Hoopla

hoopladigital.com/title/10907674

Learn the One-Step

With the help of Scott Joplin's hit compositions, dancing to ragtime music became popular across the country.

A popular dance for ragtime is the One-Step.

Ragtime dances would usually be for two people to dance together, but it is easy to try by yourself!



First, listen to the strong beats of the music.



Then, walk forward and backward with straight posture to the beat of the music.



You can also turn in time with the music.



Try making up your own dance to ragtime!



Go to the link below for an example of two people dancing One-Step along with ragtime piano.

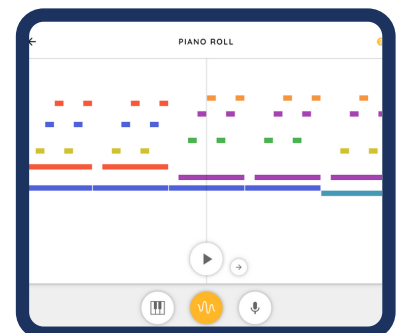
www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_le0Q5D5IE

Player Pianos

The player piano is a self-playing piano which was manufactured during the height of the ragtime craze. It uses a paper roll, called a piano roll, which has holes punched out to control the keys of the piano. When a player piano plays a piece of music, it looks as if an invisible person is playing the piano!

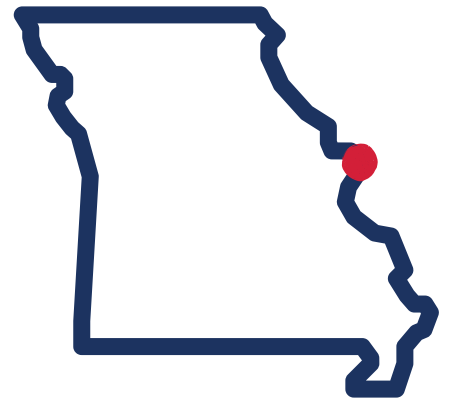


Visit Google's Music Lab to see a digital version of a piano roll. Listen and watch the notes scroll by on the screen just like on a player piano!



musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Piano-Roll/

BLUES IN ST. LOUIS



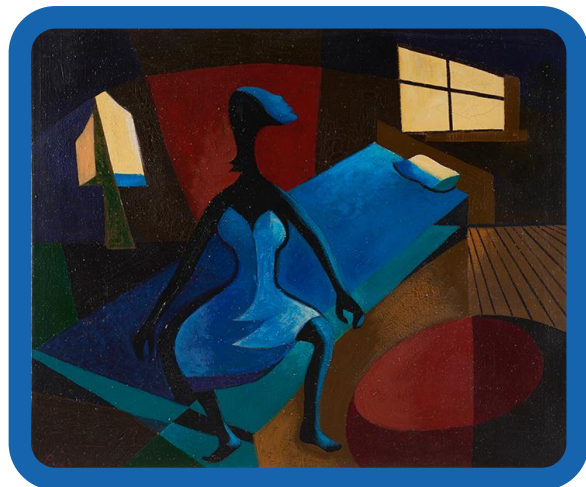
St. Louis is located on the eastern border of Missouri, on the Mississippi River. Because of St. Louis' location on the Mississippi river, the city became an important location for blues music. Many African Americans traveling north along the Mississippi River found work in St. Louis, Missouri and neighboring East St. Louis, Illinois across the river.

Blues is a style of music that originated in the rural Southern United States.



Blues comes from the song traditions of African Americans. These songs documented the pain, suffering, injustice, and inequality that African Americans lived through, including slavery and Jim Crow segregation.

When blues music traveled from the rural South to cities like Memphis, Chicago, and St. Louis, it became very popular. People in cities could relate to the stories in the music about hard work and sadness.



Rose Piper's painting ***This Woman's Blues*** captures the "blue" feeling of the music with shadows and the color blue.



"St. Louis Blues" by W.C. Handy



On a visit to St. Louis, W.C. Handy heard a new kind of music. He said it was "the weirdest music I had ever heard." The music he heard was called blues and it was inspiring. He borrowed from the sad sounds and stories of the music to write his song "St. Louis Blues." That song was published in 1914 and introduced the country to blues.

Listen to singer Bessie Smith perform "St. Louis Blues." With your library card you can access this recording on Hoopla: hoopladigital.com/title/10915791

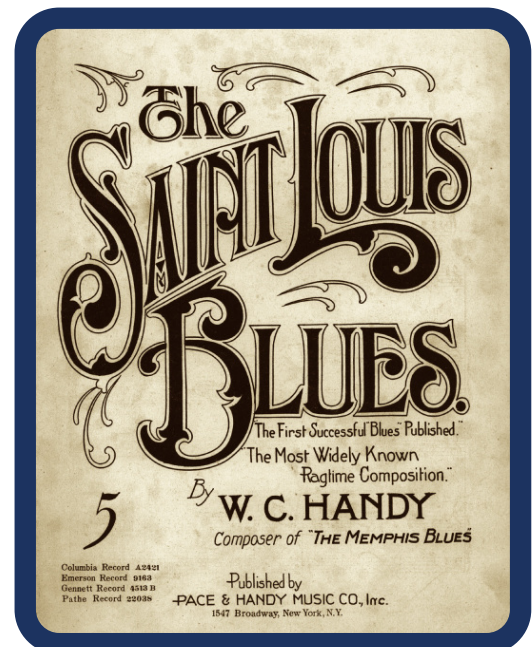


Missouri's hockey team, the **St. Louis Blues**, is named after W.C. Handy's Song.

"St. Louis Blues" includes several important elements that distinguish blues.

The words and emotion of the song describe feelings of sadness and despair. Like in many other blues songs, the words and the way they are sung paint a picture of someone who seems "blue."

Another element is the form of the words and music. Form refers to how parts of the song are organized. This song, like many blues songs, uses an **AAB** form for the different sections of words, also known as verses or stanzas.



Write Some Blues Lyrics

The words in blues songs often describe personal experiences and feelings of sadness, anger, and frustration.



Write Your Own Blues

Title

A

.....

A

.....

B

.....

Here are some examples to help you get started.

In "St. Louis Blues, the A line "I hate to see the evening sun go down" is repeated. The use of repetition in blues can help to represent the feeling of despair in the music.

Did you notice that the A and B line rhyme in "St. Louis Blues" but not in "Goin' Down the Road Feeling Bad"?

"St. Louis Blues" by W.C. Handy

A I hate to see the evening sun go down

A I hate to see the evening sun go down

B It makes me think I'm on my last go 'round

A Feeling' tomorrow like I feel today

A Feeling' tomorrow like I feel today

B I'll pack my grip and make my getaway

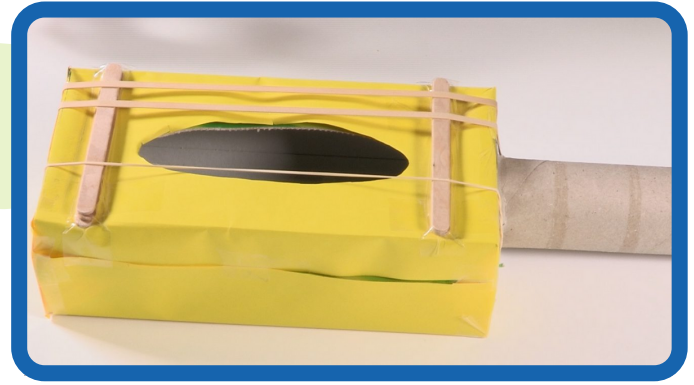
"Goin Down the Road Feeling Bad"

A Goin down the road feeling bad

A Goin down the road feeling so low and bad

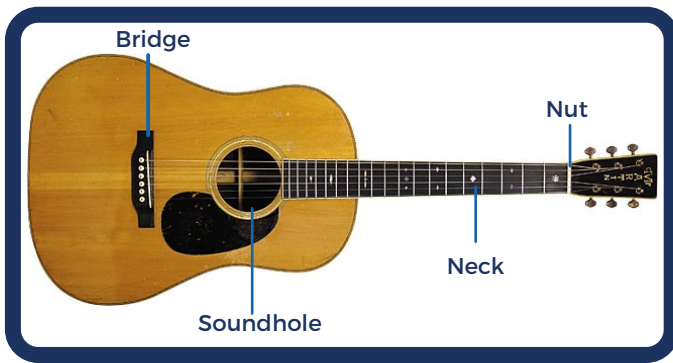
B I ain't gonna be treated this way

Rubber Band Guitar!



Materials:

- Empty tissue box (or similar)
- Rubber bands
- 2 craft sticks
- Glue or tape
- Paper towel tube (optional)



Instructions:

1. Start by gluing or taping your craft sticks to the tissue box, one on either side of the box's hole.
2. Stretch the rubber bands across the tissue box so they rest on the craft sticks and stretch over the tissue box hole.
3. (Optional) Attach a paper towel tube to one end of the tissue box to look like the guitar's neck.



Look at the parts of the guitar. The hole in the tissue box will act like an acoustic guitar's soundhole. The craft sticks will act as the nut and bridge of the guitar, raising the strings up so they can vibrate freely.



Try playing your guitar! You can pluck the strings one at a time or strum them all together.



If you have rubber bands of different sizes, do you notice they sound different? What do you think might explain the difference in sound?

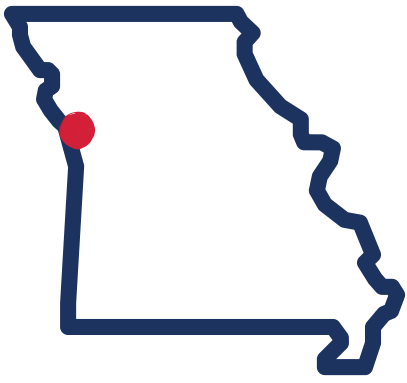


"St. Louis Blues" is an example of city blues. City blues was often played by large bands with piano, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments.

Rural blues found in places like the Mississippi Delta were often played with just acoustic guitar and voice.



Here is blues musician Big Bill Broonzy with a guitar.



JAZZ IN KANSAS CITY



Kansas City is the largest city in Missouri. It is located in the western part of the state on the Missouri River. The Missouri River helped to make Kansas City a busy place with people eager for entertainment, especially a style called jazz.

Jazz is a style of music that was created in the United States by African American musicians more than a hundred years ago.

Jazz has origins in New Orleans and traveled from there to three important cities in the North: New York City, Chicago, and Kansas City. Jazz was very popular in Kansas City in the 1930s and Kansas City became known for its unique style of jazz.



Jazz bands can include saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, drums, bass, guitar, and many other instruments. Jazz music is known for its “swing” rhythm. Instead of the beat being played in a straight mechanical way, it has a bouncing feel.

**For a demonstration of swing,
watch this video:**

youtube.com/watch?v=31JgwfP15kw



Improvisation



An important feature of jazz is improvisation.

Improvisation means making it up as you go along. When jazz musicians improvise, they play their instruments without reading notes off a page or planning in advance exactly what they will play. Jazz musicians use improvisation to elaborate on pre-composed songs or tunes. This allows musicians to express themselves freely and show off their unique sound.



Charlie Parker was a saxophonist and composer who was born in Kansas City in 1920. In the 1930s, Kansas City was known for its unique style of jazz, which had more improvisation and longer solos. Charlie Parker learned from the best KC jazz bands and moved to New York City in 1939. He later became famous for a style of jazz called bebop. Bebop is known for faster tempos, complex harmonies, and advanced improvisation.

Listen to Charlie Parker perform his composition "Ko Ko." With your library card you can access this recording on Hoopla: hoopladigital.com/title/10925745

Practice improvising by having a conversation!

Improvising in jazz is a lot like having a conversation. When you have a conversation with someone do you plan every word you say? Probably not! Musicians improvise similarly: they make sounds and tell stories with their instruments, just like you might talk with a friend.



Think about how you balance listening and talking. What are you thinking about when you are listening? What are you thinking about when you are talking?

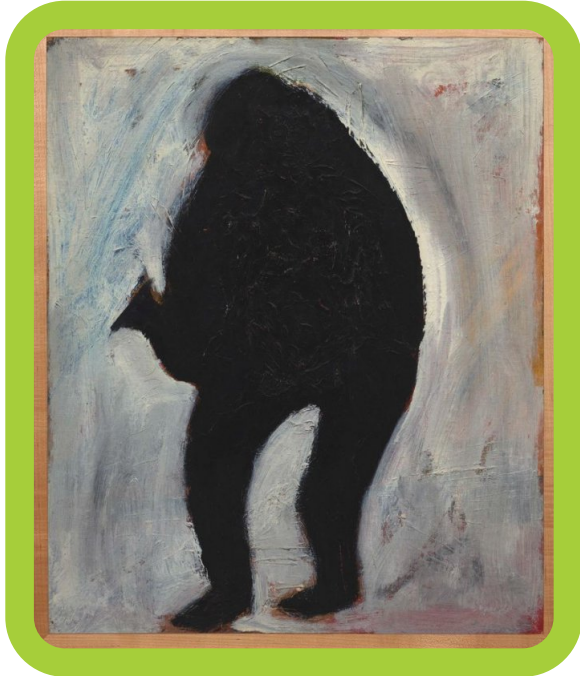


Think about the sounds that makeup words. How does it feel to talk when you focus on the sounds you're making?



Do you think you have your own unique way of talking? Are there special words you like to use?

Now have a conversation with someone. You can start by asking about their day, what they ate for breakfast, or anything else you feel like talking about!



Visual Art Inspired by Jazz

Many visual artists have been inspired by jazz. ***Bird Lives*** is a painting by Ted Joans which was painted to remember Charlie Parker, whose nickname was “Bird.” In this painting, you can see Bird’s silhouette with his saxophone.

Jumping Jive is a painting by Norman Lewis, depicting a jazz jam session. From the left the instruments are guitar, vibraphone, saxophone, bass, and drums. The painting was made in 1942 during the beginnings of bebop in New York City.



Create your own jazz inspired artwork!

Make your own artworks inspired by jazz! Put on some music to listen to and draw, paint, collage, or sculpt along. Use improvisation in your artmaking process and try to represent the sounds in the music in your artwork.

Listen to recordings of jazz!

Blue Note 101: A Jazz Introduction hoopladigital.com/title/11086548

The Best of Impulse Records hoopladigital.com/title/10948818

Listen to excerpts of jazz recordings jazzinamerica.org/JazzResources/Audio

Kansas City Barbecue Sauce

Aside from music, Kansas City is also well known for its barbecue. In the 1920s and 1930s, when Kansas City's jazz clubs were busy with music and dancing, KC style barbecue was becoming popular. Today, there are more than 100 barbecue restaurants in Kansas City. Many people travel to get a taste of the city's famous food.



Make a no-cooking required BBQ sauce, Kansas City Style! You could add this sauce to ribs, pulled pork, brisket or anything else you'd like!

Here are the ingredients you'll need:

- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup salt
- 2 tablespoons celery seeds
- 2 tablespoons cumin, ground
- 2 tablespoons cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 2 quarts ketchup
- 2 cups apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 ½ teaspoons liquid smoke (optional)



Mix everything together and enjoy!



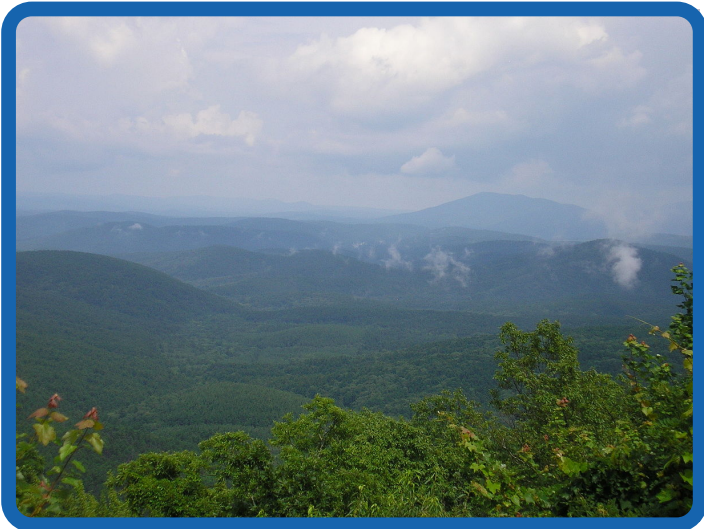
COUNTRY MUSIC IN SPRINGFIELD



Springfield is the third-largest city in Missouri. It is located in the Southwest portion of the state, in a region called the Ozarks, named after the Ozark Mountains. The area around Springfield is known for its rolling hills and it is called the "Queen City of the Ozarks."



In the 1800s, the rolling hills and mountains of the Ozarks were home to many musicians of so-called "hillbilly" music. This music featured fiddles, banjos, and folk songs brought to America from England and Scotland. Even back then, the songs were sometimes several hundred years old.



Country music combines elements of rural blues created by African Americans in the South and the folk music of "hillbillies." Today, country music is still famous for songs about rural life.

Springfield played an important role in the spread of country music throughout the US.



"Ozark Jubilee"



From 1955 to 1960, a television show called "Ozark Jubilee" was filmed in Springfield. It featured many of the biggest country music stars of the time, including the popular singer Brenda Lee (pictured below), who was only 11 years old when she started performing on the show!



"Ozark Jubilee" was extremely popular, at one point more than 9 million people watched the TV show every week.

The show was broadcast live from the Jewell Theatre in downtown Springfield, where musicians would sing and play country music in front of a live audience. On the show there would also be square dancing and comedy skits.

The Jewell Theatre was demolished in 1961 after "Ozark Jubilee" ended and is now the location of Jubilee Park. The park is located on Jefferson Ave, between St. Louis and McDaniel streets, take a trip and see the park's sculpture walk!



Materials:

- Craft Sticks
- Copy Paper or Wax Paper
- 2 Rubber Bands
- Plastic Straw

Craft Stick Harmonica

Instructions

1. Cut two pieces of plastic straw slightly wider than the craft sticks.
2. Next, cut a piece of paper the same length but slightly thinner than the craft stick. Place the paper flat on one of the craft sticks.
3. Take one piece of straw and place it on top of the paper one inch from the end. Take the other piece of straw and place it between the paper and craft stick one inch from the other end.
4. Now place the other craft stick on top and tie the two craft sticks together using the rubber bands.
5. Put your mouth in between the two pieces of straw. Gently blow air through the middle of the craft sticks. Unlike a kazoo, you don't need to make a humming or buzzing sound with your mouth, just blow air to get the paper in the middle vibrating.



Here's a Tip:

If you don't hear a sound right away, try exhaling harder or softer. You should also make sure the paper is raised diagonally between the two craft sticks and held in place by the pieces of straw. The paper needs to be raised so that it can vibrate freely, just like the metal reed on a harmonica.



Try adjusting the position of the pieces of straw, can you create different pitches?



Can you use more than two pieces of straw to get multiple notes like a harmonica?



Experiment using different kinds of paper in the middle. You can even try a rubber band. What do you think sounds best?



This is country music star DeFord Bailey with a harmonica.



LEARN MORE!

For Younger Kids

Missouri is known as the "Cave State" because of the large number of limestone caves.

Learn more about caves with this activity book from the National Park Service:

www.nps.gov/subjects/caves/upload/Junior-Cave-Scientist-Booklet-07-15-2016.pdf

If you enjoyed building instruments, try out some of these sound and science activities from Exploratorium: www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/tag/sound

If you are interested in learning about music and math, look at this resource from The Kennedy Center: www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/music/connections/connections/math--music/

Did you know that St. Louis was the home of the first ice cream cone? Make your own 5-minute Ice Cream with this instructional video from the Christian County Library:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBQMzoAiTiA

For more activities related to jazz, here are some great ideas from the National Museum of American History about the great jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald: americanhistory.si.edu/smithsonian-jazz/education/ellas-singing-class

For Older Kids and Adults

For a wide variety of information and activities related to the "Show Me State" take a look at this resource from Library of Congress: www.americaslibrary.gov/es/mo/es_mo_subj.html

There are biographies of many important Missourians available on this site hosted by the State Historical Society of Missouri: historicmissourians.shsmo.org/

If you are looking to dig deeper into any of the music discussed here, Library of Congress has many historical recordings available to stream for free: www.loc.gov/audio

For more information on blues music, checkout The Blues Classroom from PBS: www.pbs.org/theblues/classroom.html

If you enjoyed learning about ragtime and dance, The Kennedy Center has a video all about swing dancing and jazz: www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/dance/five-ish-minute-dance-lessons/fiveish-minute-dance-lessons/swing-dance/

Learn more local history with this article from KSMU about Springfield and the Ozark Jubilee: www.ksmu.org/post/ozark-jubilee#stream/0

For more information about country music, look at this resource from PBS: pbslearningmedia.org/collection/kenburnsclassroom/film/country-music/

This article from Cincinnati Public Radio has many ideas for learning Black history through music: www.democracyandme.org/black-history-series-part-1-learning-black-history-through-music/



Country musician Jimmie Rodgers had "THANKS" painted on the back of his guitar. After a song, he would spin his guitar around to say "thanks" to the audience! For a final activity, you can decorate your rubber band guitar like his, or any other way you see fit.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

