

History of Popular Music



Forties and Fifties History and Culture Course Curriculum

Power Objectives

P.O. #1: Describe musical selections using appropriate vocabulary that shows understanding of the language of music appropriate to the genre and culture (P.O. #1 Proficiency Rubric)

P.O. #2: Develop, analyze and apply appropriate criteria to evaluate music selections and performances outside the classroom (P.O. #2 Proficiency Rubric)

P.O. #3: Recognize the impacts of history and culture on the function and evolution of music in society (P.O. #3 Proficiency Rubric)

Academic Vocabulary

- ☐ world war II
- ☐ the cold war
- ☐ truman
- ☐ north and south vietnam
- ☐ lp albums
- ☐ fidel castro

- ☐ korean war
- ☐ immigration and naturalization
- ☐ racial integration
- ☐ AFL-CIO
- ☐ martin luther king
- ☐ payola scandal

Enduring Understandings

Students understand that...

- Fear of nuclear war with the Soviet Union and the rise of Communism during the 1950's caused much stress for the average American and influenced choices in everyday life.
- The 1950's were relatively prosperous for middle class white America, and increasingly difficult for African Americans, leading to the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement
- Many teenagers in the 1950's had their own culture, embracing rebellion and new music.

Essential

- How did the fear of communism and nuclear war affect the way people thought about

Questions

- and experienced life in the 1950's? Was this threat real or perceived?
- How does fear make us behave differently than we otherwise would?
- How did teenagers in the 1950's influence the development of music much more teenagers in past decades? Why was rock and roll "music of integration?"
- What was it like to be a middle class white person in America in the 1950's? What was it like to be an African American family? Why were these do different?
- What would it have been like to live as a teenager in the 1950's?

HISTORICAL EVENTS:

- 1940-1945 - World War II continues; tragedy of the holocaust**
- 1945 - End of WWII, beginning of postwar prosperity, beginning of baby boom.**
- 1947 - Truman orders all federal building be racially integrated.**
- 1948 - Goldmark invents microgroove system, making LP albums possible.**
- 1949 - U.S. troops withdraw from Korea.**
- 1950 - U.S. military advisors agree to aid South Vietnam against communist North.**
- 1951 - U.S. involvement in the Korean War, first transcontinental TV and first color TV in U.S.**
- 1952 - Immigration and Naturalization Act passes.**
- 1953 - Korean War ends.**
- 1954 - Racial integration in public school begins.**
- 1955 - Labor unions merge to form AFL-CIO.**
- 1955 - Rosa Parks - Montgomery Alabama**
- 1956 - Martin Luther King becomes recognized leader of civil rights movement.**
- 1957 - USSR launches first satellites.**
- 1958 - Congressional committee investigates unethical practices in the broadcasting industry (payola).**
- 1959 - Castro takes power in Cuba.**

ON THEIR MINDS: (see Youtube bookmarks)

- Threat of nuclear war; shelters and drills
- McCarthy trials - accusing officials of having ties to communism - "communist threat"
- Soviets were the enemies - the cold war
- Economy was good; no more war rationing
- Teenagers have more freedom and influence what is popular; teenage rebellion
- Watching television as a family; Leave It to Beaver; Father Knows Best; Ozzie and Harriet; American Bandstand
- Racial discrimination and segregation; integration of schools; voting rights; beginning of civil rights movement
- Mom and Dad don't like the new rock and roll music - why?