

GRADE 6  
Week 9/Trimester 2  
Celebrating Black History Month in MUSIC

**Objective:** To learn about some of the wonderful African American musicians who contributed to the development of music!!

**Directions:** Read the selections below and then click on the links to hear the music of three awesome black musicians. There is no google form to fill out this week, but make sure you give these songs a good listen!

In the next few weeks we will listen to and learn about some famous African-American composers, singers, dancers and instrumentalists.



## Scott Joplin (1868-1917)

Have you ever heard of Scott Joplin ? He was a famous composer of Ragtime music (the timing in the music jumps around). He was born in Texas and lived with his mother. He would go to work with her as she cleaned houses and at one of the houses, there was a piano. He sat at the piano and a German teacher heard him play and decided to give him free piano lessons. When he grew up, he decided to make music his career and played piano in many restaurants. His first successful piano piece was called "The MapleLeaf Rag." After that was published, he became very well known! Here is another popular piece by Scott Joplin, "The Entertainer". Does it sound familiar?? Yes, many ice cream trucks driving around town use this song to entice you to be happy and have an ice cream!! Listen to this wonderful piece by the amazingly talented Scott Joplin, The King of Ragtime!!

[The Entertainer-Scott Joplin](#)



## Ella Fitzgerald

Ella was an amazing African-American vocalist who became famous for her unique style of singing and improvising. She lived from 1917-1996. As a young girl, Ella lived with her mom and step-father in New York. She put her name in to perform at amature night at the Applo Theater in Harlem and won a spot to perform one night. She planned on dancing but there were so many dancers that she decided to sing and from then on she was asked to sing and perform with famous bands. Some of the people Ella was asked to perform with were Duke Ellington, Nat King Cole, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, and Dizzy Gillespie. Fitzgerald later had her own band entitled "Ella Fitzgerald and her Famous Band." She paved the way for many future female vocalists of all races! Listen to this famous song "Puttin on the Ritz" performed by Ella Fitzgerald and written by Irving Berlin.

## Ella Fitzgerald- Puttin on the Ritz



## Rihanna

Rihanna was born in Barbados in 1988 and was discovered at age 16 in her home country. She was asked to move to Connecticut to work on her debut album and decided to stay in America. Rihanna is a very successful singer, actress, and activist who started a charity named after her grandmother Clara Lionel. Listen to this song from the movie "Home" where



Rihanna plays the cartoon character of "Tip" who befriends an alien while trying to find her mother. Did you see the movie? Enjoy this beautiful song sung by Rihanna!

[Rihanna -Dancing in the Dark](#)

Rihanna's Home in Barbados as a Child



Rihanna's Home in Los Angeles



Rihanna Donated 5 Million to the Clara Lionel Foundation to help combat the Coronavirus in America, the Caribbean, and Africa. She definitely has a big heart along with her big voice !



I hope you enjoyed learning about these three famous Musicians!!

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