



April

JAZZ

is

Appreciation Month

Louis Armstrong said, *"Jazz is music that's never played the same way once"*



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Teachers Notes

April is Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) and in Louisiana it is a really BIG deal. Here is a few worksheets to celebrate the month in a simple, quick fashion, I know it is not much but it is something that I always want to remember, even though I celebrate Cajun music in my own classroom. We generally have some form of Louisiana music playing in my classroom.

There are two reading sheets, one Q&A sheet, plus two color pages. It is so simple that anyone can do this in one day – maybe one day plus a homework night.

Just don't let the month go by without a simple honoring our Louisiana heritage.

Jazz

Appreciation Month



#1

Jazz Appreciation Month

Louis Armstrong once said, "Jazz is music that's never played the same way once."

The majority of Jazz musicians will concur that Louisiana has produced the highest number of jazz musicians and instrumentalists in the world. Perhaps, like Miles Davis, we can take a day and appreciate the jazz greats and their contribution to American music.

The entire month of April is dedicated to the great cultural achievements of jazz musicians who provide a powerful voice in uniting people across the world that made statement about freedom, creativity, and American identity.

The National Museum of American History designated April as Jazz Appreciation Month, otherwise known as JAM. JAM sponsors a number of programs to promote jazz, including concerts, lectures, educational materials and exhibitions. JAM is celebrated in 40 nations and in each state of America, but its primary home is in Washington, D.C.

Jazz is known for its roots in New Orleans, with it being one of the only genres to start in the Western world. Jazz roots back to the era of slavery within the United States and across the Americas, but unlike in the rest of the Americas, slaves here were allowed to own drums. Even though there can be a disagreement as to when Jazz was first born, there is an agreement that Jazz was not invented because it's alive, it grows, it dies and it changes but remains the same.

"Before Rock n' Roll, Jazz was the modern popular music, and it was very true in the 1940s and has had its influence in rock and modern pop artist," Joshua Hollenbeck, a professor in the music department, said. "For example, if you go to an orchestra everyone plays the exact same thing every time, but in jazz players can take an improvised solo because of their knowledge of the song. No other musical styles give room for freedom and play outside of the box like jazz."

Freshman nursing major from Houston, Texas Veronica Villafranco has been a fan of jazz music since her freshman year of high school. "Jazz music has a way of soothing me when I'm stressed, I like to listen to it before games or while I'm studying because it calms me down and helps me think."

Madison Jeffrey, freshman biology major from Groveton, Texas, said she enjoys listening to jazz music because it makes her feel like she is back in that time period when times were tough and the musicians expressed that through their music.

"I have a lot of respect for the ones that made something of themselves during that time," Jeffrey said. "Louis Armstrong is probably my favorite jazz musician because you can kind of feel what he was feeling at the time when he recorded his songs. I have a lot of respect for jazz musicians in general. They are the ones responsible for kick-starting the music that we have today because a lot of artists use it for inspiration".

Sophomore psychology major from Folsom, Louisiana Hannah Naquin said "...it makes her think about the rich cultural influence it has on Louisiana in general. When I hear jazz music it makes me think about things like steamboats rolling down the Mississippi or parades going down the streets of New Orleans."

Louisiana savors its music during Jazz Appreciation Month

#2



Jazz musician Duke Ellington prepares to strike up a tune for Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong at the Rainbow Grill in New York.

Each April, the United States & Louisiana celebrates Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), an opportunity to savor a major American contribution to world culture. Initiated by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, JAM aims to focus public attention on the music and the many talented composers, musicians and other contributors to the sound.

For the enthusiast who wishes to learn more about jazz, the following brief summary prepared by John Edward Hasse, the Smithsonian's curator of American music, offers a useful starting point. Jazz is the most consequential, influential and innovative music to emerge from the United States, and New Orleans, Louisiana, is widely known as the birthplace of jazz. No city, except perhaps for New York, has received more visiting **jazz aficionados** than New Orleans.

New Orleans residents and jazz devotees worldwide flock to the French Quarter and Preservation Hall, a bare-bones pair of wooden rooms that have served since 1961 as a shrine of sorts to the traditional New Orleans sound. Other New Orleans treasures include the Louisiana State Museum Jazz Collection, complete with the musical instruments of Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke and other early jazz masters, and the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park Visitor Center, which offers self-guided walking tours and other information from its North Peters Street location.

Also consider attending the Annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, aka **Jazz Fest**, a 10-day cultural feast from April 26th through May 5th, in which thousands of musicians, cooks and craftspeople welcome 400,000 visitors each year. The Louisiana Heritage Fair showcases unforgettable music on multiple stages, delicious Louisiana cuisine in two large food areas, and crafts artisans from the region and around the world demonstrating and selling their work.

The story of America is embedded in the spirit and rhythms of jazz; captured in beats that have traveled through the African Diaspora and a spirit of freedom that has impassioned slave and free born, immigrant and migrant since America's founding.

The Spirit and Rhythms of Jazz is Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) theme highlighting jazz cultural history, musical performance and stories, programs and productions this April. JAM and UNESCO's **International Jazz Day** April 30 provide rich platforms for individuals and communities to explore jazz principles of freedom, inclusion and creativity to learn how jazz has transformed America and inspired the world.

The Smithsonian will present stories, images, and music highlighting various jazz artists and people who helped shape America's original art form – jazz – over several decades

Name _____ Date _____

Jazz Appreciation Month

Directions: Answer the following Questions from #1 of the two articles you have received.

1. What do you think Louis Armstrong meant when he said, "Jazz is music that's never played the same way once."? _____

2. What does JAM stand for? _____

3. What is the disagreement about Jazz? _____

4. What does Jazz remind Hannah Naquin of? _____

5. Jeffery said that Jazz was responsible for _____

Directions: Answer the following Questions from #2 of the two articles you have received.

6. What was called the African Diaspora? _____

7. What is better known as the 10-day "cultural feast" in New Orleans? _____

8. It is better known as America's original art form, what is it? _____

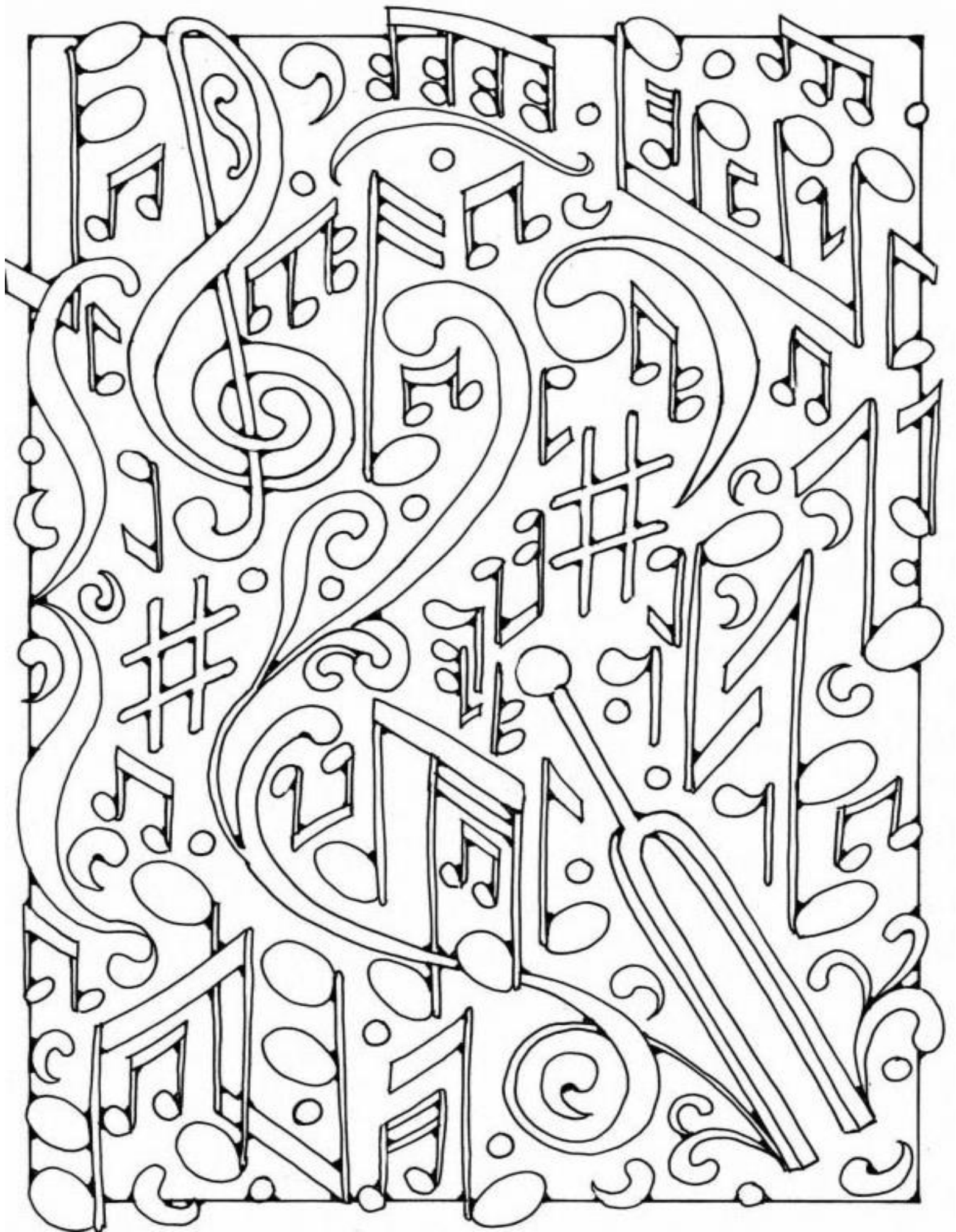
9. Where do jazz devotees worldwide tend to flock to? _____

10. Other than New Orleans, which city has more "jazz aficionados" flocking to it? _____

Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong helped shape jazz music in some of America's biggest cities - like Chicago, New York, and New Orleans. A skilled trumpet and cornet player, he also sang well! People nicknamed him "Satchmo." Louis Armstrong rose from poverty to become a legend in jazz.





History Entrepreneur

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