

Scott Joplin – Youth Arts Initiative

Motivational Ideas for Classroom Teachers

1. Study Scott Joplin and his biography. (Use the links on the Scott Joplin – Youth Arts Initiative website. Discuss components of a biography (dates, family life, talents and abilities, experiences). Have students write their own biography. Have students make a connection between their own lives and the life of Scott Joplin.
2. Connect this trip to the theater and to other opportunities available in the Chambersburg Area. Other opportunities could be children's theater productions, dance opportunities, musical opportunities, summer camp, SEEDS camp at Wilson.
3. Participate in science investigations about how different instruments produce their sounds and how to alter those sounds. Listen to audio clips of the various instruments or have an opportunity to try to play the instruments.
4. Participate in timeline activities about Scott Joplin and his career. Make a timeline of your life or school year. Discuss how to figure out a person's age if you know what year they were born.
5. Have students create informational posters on Scott Joplin to post throughout the school. Students can do research to get interesting facts they would like to share with other students. Encourage students to use technology in their creation of the poster.
6. After the field trip have students write thank you notes to the Capitol Theater and other participants.
7. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast Scott Joplin's time period to the current time period (or his style of music to another style). This can be used as just a math lesson on Venn diagrams (sorting with overlap) or can be used as a graphic organizer for a compare and contrast essay.
8. Use rhythm sticks to copy ragtime rhythm.
9. Use word scrambles, word searches, cross word puzzles about Scott Joplin's life.