

Primary Grades Scott Joplin Lesson Ideas

As the field trip approaches introduce Scott Joplin music informally so they become familiar with the sound and rhythm of the ragtime style.

Throughout the week leading up to the field trip, devote 5-10 minutes a day as a “Spotlight on Scott Joplin”. (Devote more time as needed.)

Literacy

- Listen to music by Scott Joplin to enhance listening skills.
- Read excerpts of Scott Joplin texts to students.
- Show poster and pictures of Scott Joplin and the time period.
- Conduct class discussions on his life and time period.
- Introduce students to a variety of genres.
- Introduction to the theater and create an awareness of the arts in Chambersburg.
- Culminating writing activity creating a class book of Scott Joplin information learned during the unit.

PA 1.1.3.A - Identify the purposes and types of text (e.g., literature, information) before reading.

PA 1.1.3.F - Understand the meaning of and use correctly new vocabulary learned in various subject areas.

PA 1.1.3.H - Read a variety of genres and types of text.

PA 1.4.3.B - Write informational pieces (e.g., descriptions, letters, reports, instructions) using illustrations when relevant.

PA 1.6.3.A – Listen to others.

PA 1.6.3.D – Contribute to discussions, respond with appropriate information or opinions to questions asked.

Science & Technology

- Use available technology equipment for whole group instruction on websites.
- Individually use websites to learn about the life and music of Scott Joplin.
(www.starfall.com/n/level-b/music/load.htm?f)

PA. 3.6.4.B – Use information technology.

Mathematics

- Explore patterns in sound and rhythm.
- Have classroom visitors to play and explain ragtime and other musical styles.
- Experiment with sound and rhythm patterns in familiar songs using rhythm instruments.
- Experiment with ragtime patterns. (AA BB A CC DD)

PA 2.8.3.A - Recognize, describe, extend, create and replicate a variety of patterns including attribute, activity, number and geometric patterns.

Economics, Geography, History, Family and Consumer Sciences

Conduct class discussion about different varieties of jobs.

Incorporate values, heroes, overcoming adversity.

Use map to discuss where Scott Joplin was born and lived.

Use map to discuss where he traveled with his music career.

Discuss challenges he overcame as an African American in a non-traditional career choice.

Discuss risks and rewards associated with different career choices.

PA 6.5.3.B – Identify different occupations.

PA 7.1.3.A - Identify geographic tools and their uses

PA 7.1.3.B - Identify and locate places and regions.

PA 8.3.3.C - Identify important changes in United States history.

PA 11.1.3.E - Explain the relationship between work and income.

PA 13.4.3.B - Describe the character traits of successful entrepreneurs, risks and rewards.