

Music through the Ages

1. Question & Research Task

Which musical genre is your favorite? Maybe it's [popular music](#) like country, hip hop, jazz, or rock? Or do you prefer listening to [classical music](#)?

Throughout history, musicians have experimented with blending diverse musical styles. For example, in 2018, the rapper Nas performed a new version of his “Illmatic” album with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center. Click the image to the right to hear Nas talk about this musical collaboration.

Musicians are influenced by their own personal experiences, as well as a variety of historical, social, and cultural factors. Build background knowledge by reviewing the [origins of music](#), [early music](#), and the [history of music](#).

How has music evolved from its early origins? How has it been shaped by historical and social changes?

In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:

How do history, society, and culture influence the creation and performance of music?



Nas performs with the National Symphony Orchestra in 2018.

Image and Video Source: PBS.org

2. Information Sources

SLIDE NAVIGATION

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Next

Choose several of the information sources linked here to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3.

General Resources for All Time Periods	Baroque	Classical	Romantic	Modern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classical Music Overview• Beginner's Guide to Classical Music• History of Musical Forms• Music - Overview of Elements• Teoria: Music Theory Reference• Quick Composer Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baroque - World Book Advanced• The Baroque Era (Video)• Baroque Art and Music (Video)• Baroque Music• Baroque Music by Country• Baroque Chord Symbols - Figured Bass• What is Baroque Music?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music, 18th Century• Into the Classical Period (Video)• Classical Period in Music• Classical Age in Music• Enlightenment – World Book Advanced• The Enlightenment• Classicism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Romanticism - World Book Advanced• Early Romanticism (Video)• Later Romanticism (Video)• Romanticism in Art and Music (Video)• Romanticism (Music)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern Period• Music of the 20th Century• 20th Century Artistic Revolutions• Orchestras Re-examine 'Modern Music'• Classical Music in the 20th Century• The Great War• The Influence of Jazz• Shostakovich text, video

3. Student Activity

Use the information sources on Slide 2 to research ONE of the musical time periods, either individually, with a partner or in a small group, as directed by your teacher.

Take notes using this [graphic organizer](#) or [NoodleTools](#) as you research.

Be sure to include:

- Historical events, social trends, and cultural changes
- Musical developments and innovations
- Links to pictures and other resources you may want to use in a presentation to the class



Image Source: Discovery Education

4. Assessment Activity

How do history, society, and culture influence the creation and performance of music?

Have you discovered any examples of [sampling](#)? Do you think that artists today sample from classical music? Check out this [list of classical musicians, their works that have been sampled, and some examples of music they sampled](#).

Create a presentation to persuade a current musician to use a sample of music from the time period you researched. Use [Power Point](#) or [Google Slides](#) or another tool approved by your teacher to deliver your pitch and [NoodleTools](#) to cite your sources.

Refer to this [rubric](#) for the project success criteria.



In the TED Talk video linked above, DJ and music producer Mark Ronson talks about sampling.

Image and Video Source: TED.com

5. Enrichment Activities



Image Sources: Unknown Author licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

Are you interested in a musical career? Explore these resources:

- [Careers in Music](#)
- [How to Become a Video Game Music Composer](#)
- [Power of Music in Alzheimer's Treatment](#)

Explore additional connections between early and contemporary music:

- [Baroque Dance for Musicians](#)
- [Hip to be Hip](#)

Deepen your knowledge about music theory by reviewing these sources on scales and modes:

- [Mode \(music\) – Scholastic Go!](#)
- [Modes Reference](#)
- [Scales and Related Chords](#)
- [Build Scales and Modes](#)
- [How Music Works Tutorial](#)

6. Teacher Resources

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Learning Standards Alignment

Maryland Fine Arts Standards for Music

Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy

Reading: 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Writing: 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

AASL Standards Framework for Learners - Inquire: Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.

Think: Learners display curiosity and initiative by:

I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.

Create: Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes:

I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.

Share: Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes:

I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.

Grow: Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by:

I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

Grades 10-12: Music Theory

Objective: Students will analyze information from multiple sources in order to evaluate the relationships between historical context and musical composition over time.

Time Frame: 2-3 90-minute class periods

Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- Have students use learning supports provided in any BCPS-licensed Digital Content from the [Apps Portal](#) included in this lesson. Refer to [Digital Content Snapshots & Support resources](#) for guidance as needed. Some resources (ie. Scholastic Go) open from the PDF after authenticating.
- Consider [using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature](#) to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology Teacher should preview all links for content.
- Transcripts of Discovery Education video segments are available by accessing the full video. After opening the video link, students may use the sidebar to select and view shorter video segments relevant to their topic.