

MEMPHIS MUSIC

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

During the twentieth century, Memphis music reshaped the way music was made and listened to. Earlier, in the late 1800s, African rhythms, European band music and American folk music melded together to form the earliest forms of jazz. This mixture, in turn, would evolve into traditional jazz and blues and then later into rock & roll and soul music. Rock and roll spread around the world and ever since, there has been a back and forth exchange of musical styles. Without a doubt, rock, pop, rap and hip-hop owe their existence to the forms of music developed in Memphis.

COURSE CONTENT

This three-week course is based around the three styles of music that came out of Memphis: blues, rock & roll, and soul. Students will work on projects that simultaneously allow them to demonstrate their understand the topic and improve their English.

Week 1

You will learn about blues music this week. We will listen to music, visit a historic cemetery, and eat traditional southern food. After learning about blues music, listening to songs and analyzing lyrics, you will invent a fictional blues artist and present his/her biography to the class. This week's project ends in a presentation to your classmates.

Week 2

This week e will learn about the musicians, including Elvis Presley, who created rock & roll in Memphis and visit the recording studio where rock & roll began, Sun Studio. After learning about rock & roll, you will produce a rock & roll radio show.

Week 3

During this week, you will learn about soul music and visit Stax, where some of the top soul musicians, Otis Redding and Booker T. & the M.G.'s, wrote and recorded. You will work on a writing project that will allow you to research and write about the topic you find most interesting.



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