



Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

Teacher Guide



The Jazz Oral History Project

with Ken Kimery, director Jazz Masterworks Orchestra

Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/jazzoralhistory.mp3>

Pre-Listening Questions

- What is the importance of jazz to our society and culture?
- What is the best way to preserve the history of a genre of music?

Discussion Questions

- What is the importance of saving the individual stories of jazz musicians? Why not just preserve their music?
- Do you think that an oral history is the best way to capture the story of jazz? Why or why not?
- Do you have any oral history projects that you would like to work on? If so, what stories are you interested in preserving?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History

- Smithsonian Jazz (includes Jazz Appreciation Month, The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, and the Jazz Oral History Project)
<http://www.smithsonianjazz.org/>
- Documents Gallery Exhibition: Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn: Jazz Composers
http://americanhistory.si.edu/documentsgallery/exhibitions/ellington_strayhorn_1.html

Related Resources from History Explorer

- OurStory: Duke Ellington and Jazz <http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=5105>
- Groovin' to Jazz (grades 3-8)
Grades 3-8: <http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=27>
Grades 6-10: <http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=28>

Related Thinkfinity Resources

- Jazz in Time—from ARTSEdge (Kennedy Center)
<http://community.thinkfinity.org/bookmarks/12649>

Related Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 7: The emergence of Modern America (1890-1930)
 - Standard 3c: The student understands how new cultural movements reflected and changed American society.

Related Standards for World History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 8: A Half-Century of Crisis and Achievement (1900-1945)
 - Standard 3d: The student understands the interplay of new artistic and literary movements with changes in social and cultural life in various parts of the world in the post-war decades.

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



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Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Pre-Listening vocabulary- Define these words:

Oral History

Jazz

Pre-Listening Question:

What is the importance of jazz to our society and culture?

What do you think is the best way to preserve the history of a genre of music?

Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

Why was the Jazz Oral History Project founded?

Who is John Levy?

Why do you think that the National Museum of American History chose oral histories as an important way to document the history of jazz?

What kind of oral history project would you be interested in creating? How would you go about doing that?

Email your questions, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

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