

West Virginia Music History Lesson Plan Sample

Lesson Plan Title: Interpreting West Virginia History and Culture Through Song

Creator: Curriculum Work Group Lesson Plan Team

Grade Level: 5

Subject: West Virginia Music History

Essential Questions:

Why is coal mining dangerous?

What is a ballad?

Who were the West Virginia songwriters and musicians that contributed to mining songs in West Virginia?

Activating Prior Knowledge:

The class will review the major mine disasters in West Virginia previously studied in class. The teacher will play recorded mine disaster songs written or performed by West Virginians for the class to hear.

Vocabulary Development:

Coal Mine, Coal Seam, Ballad, Meter, Melody and/or Harmony, Verse and Chorus

Active Participation/Group Activities:

Students will be assigned groups of 3 to 4. Each group will view photographs of West Virginia mine disasters and analyze the images. Groups will use the photo analysis organizer attached.

Listen to “Black Lung” as sung by Hazel Dickens and the version of the same song by Kathy Mattea. What are the differences in the music style? What are the similarities?

The teacher will read the lyrics from “The Mannington Mine Disaster” written by Hazel Dickens.

Students will sing the Mannington Mine Disaster with the teacher and note the meter, melody and/or harmony, verse and chorus. What instruments can you identify?

Students will locate Monongah, Mannington, and Upper Big Branch on a West Virginia map.

The teacher may invite an active or retired coal miner to visit the class and share with the students what it is like to be a coal miner.

Students will research the history of coal mining in West Virginia using wvencyclopedia.org and www.wvculture.org.

Following research of mining songs, students choose a song they like and write their own original ending to the song.

Evaluation:

The teacher will ensure that students complete a KWL form for coal mining in West Virginia. Teacher will evaluate based on a provided rubric.

Students will pair and share what they have learned about coal mining and the songs about coal mining. The teacher will assess understanding by the content of the peer discussion following the questions below:

Tell your neighbor what you have learned about coal mining in West Virginia.

Tell your neighbor what you liked best about the song “Mannington Mine disaster” by Hazel Dickens.

Materials:

Recordings of “The Mannington Mine Disaster” by Hazel Dickens and “The Fairmount Mine Disaster” by Blind Alfred Reed.

“The Mannington Mine Disaster” lyrics

“The Fairmount Mine Disaster” lyrics

Recording of “Black Lung” by Hazel Dickens and Kathy Mattea

Websites:

<http://www.wvmusichalloffame.com>

<http://www.wvculture.org>

<http://www.wvencyclopedia.org>

Next Generation Standards Reference**Music History**

MH.5.WV.1.1a

MH.5.WV.1.2b

MH.5.WV.1.3a

Social Studies

SS.5.G.8

SS.5.WV.5