

New Harmonies Scavenger Hunt

Teacher Answer Key

INTRODUCTION Section

Fill in the blanks:

1. American roots music rises out of America's story carrying our *history* and *cultural* identity in its songs.
2. Much of American roots music came to us from two groups: immigrants from the *British* Isles and slaves from West and Central *Africa*. Over time, European and African traditions blended to create a variety of roots music forms including *folk* ballads, *country*, blues, and *gospel*. As new immigrants came to America they added their music traditions to the mix. Eventually roots music would evolve into American popular music: *jazz*, bluegrass, *rhythm* and blues, *rock* and *roll*, rap and more.
3. Do you recognize any of the albums shown in this section of the exhibition? Is there any one that you would like to listen to?

SACRED Section

4. The first book published in the English colonies was the *Bay Psalm Book* (1640). This was a collection of psalms that could be sung to familiar melodies.
5. By following *shape notes*, people with no musical training could read music. What hymn is written in shape notes in the exhibit? Look at the lyrics in the image of the hymn. What name do we know this song by today?
6. Finish this lyric: Precious Lord, take my hand. *Lead me on, let me stand. I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.*
7. The man who wrote this hymn began his musical career playing in a blues band, but he is even better known for writing hundreds of religious songs. What is his name? *Thomas Dorsey*
8. The *Soul Stirrers* popularized the quartet style of gospel. They created a sound that evolved into rhythm 'n' *blues* and *doo-wop*.

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COUNTRY Section

9. Jimmie Rodgers was nicknamed the Singing *Brakeman* (because of his railroad job) and the *Blue* Yodeler (because of his vocal style). Find his picture and then listen to his singing at the listening station. What song is he singing?
10. Country music's first successful group, the *Carter* Family, was from Virginia. Finish this lyric sung by them: Will the circle be *unbroken* / By and by, *Lord, by and by?*
11. The Grand Ole Opry radio program was created in 1927 on Nashville, Tennessee, radio station WSM. Listen to the radio in the *Country* section of the exhibition and think about the role that radio played in helping people all over the country hear the music. What role do you think radio and television programs today play in helping people learn more about music? Can you name any of those shows?
12. Put a check by the musicians below who were country music artists:
 - Uncle Dave Macon ✓
 - Mahalia Jackson
 - Minnie Pearl ✓
 - Pete Seeger
 - Patsy Cline ✓
 - Merle Haggard ✓
13. Bluegrass artists like Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley, and Flatt and Scruggs introduced country music listeners to traditional music that had an exciting new tempo and singers performing in close harmonies. What instruments did bluegrass artists use in their music? *Guitar, banjo, fiddle, and mandolin*
14. List two of the popular "singing cowboys" of the 1930s who were also film stars. *Gene Autry, Tex Ritter, or Roy Rogers*
15. Circle True or *False*: The banjo originated in America? *False. The banjo originated in Africa.*

BLUES Section

16. Blues has been one of the most influential forms of music for African Americans. It can be adapted in many ways and can be heard in

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other music styles. What are some of the other roots music styles that developed or borrowed from the blues? *Rock and roll, jazz, and rap*

17. What do these two pictures have to do with the development of the blues?



18. The blues came out of the poverty of the rural South, where many people could not afford to buy instruments. Look around the exhibit and find what they used as instruments. Make sure to try them yourself and then list your favorite here.
19. Find the musician shown in this picture. Who is this musician? *Son House*
What did he often sing about in his music? Why do you think that songwriters use music to express their feelings and their concerns?



20. Check the one you think is the correct answer: Little Walter revolutionized the blues harmonica by:
- painting it red
 - making it much bigger

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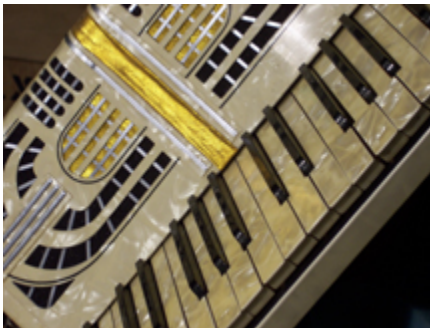
- c. *hooking it up to an amplifier*
- d. replacing it with a harp

21. As early as the 1920s, women made their mark as blues singers. Find the picture of Bessie Smith. What does her picture tell you about her and her music? Then, compare the picture of Bessie Smith and the other "blues divas" with the images in the *Rural Blues* section of the exhibition. What are some of the differences between them?

DANCE Section

American roots music draws from many sources, blending songs with origins from around the world.

22. What is the name of this instrument? *Accordion*



Check off the music styles in which it is used:

- Polka ✓
- Jazz
- Tejano* ✓
- Blues
- Cajun ✓
- Rock n roll
- Zydeco ✓
- Klezmer ✓

23. Listen to each of the five samples of music in the *Dance* section of the exhibition. Each sample represents a style of music that uses the accordion, but mixes in many other different instruments and rhythms to create multiple sounds and feelings. Think about how each sample makes you feel while you listen. Then, choose just one word to describe each sample.

Cajun _____

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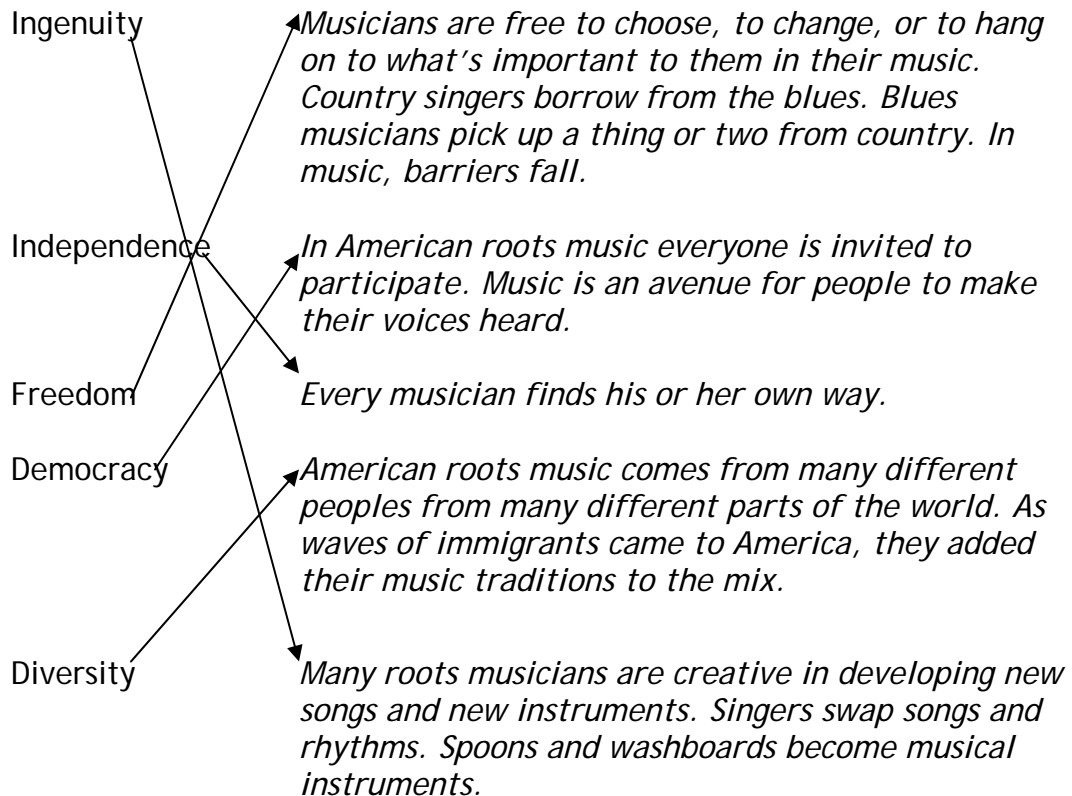
Zydeco _____
Tejano _____
Polka _____
Klezmer _____

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Let's Wrap It Up and REFLECT!

24. Find the main banners in each section of the exhibition. Match the words with their meanings below:

Draw a line from the theme to its correct definition:



25. Do certain music styles seem to fit better with certain themes? Look at the exhibition as you answer and match them.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Sacred | <i>Democracy</i> |
| Country | <i>Freedom</i> |
| Blues | <i>Ingenuity</i> |
| Dance | <i>Independence</i> |
| Folk revival | <i>Diversity</i> |

26. Was the roots revival important to American roots music? Why or why not?

27. Did American roots music ever play a role in social change? Does it today?

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28. Will American roots music continue to evolve and change? Why or why not?

29. Did you know about any of the songs and/or artists before visiting *New Harmonies*? Briefly explain.

30. Do you already listen to American roots music? Do you consider this music an important part of your country's heritage? Why or why not.