

What is Jazz?

New Orleans was an important birthplace for jazz around 1900. It was also a special place for music during that time. Because it was a major **port city**, New Orleans was home to many different types of people, each of whom had their own musical style.



King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band

From ragtime, parading funeral bands and German brass bands to West African rhythms; from blues, European classical piano and opera to the hymns and spirituals sung in local churches – all the ingredients of jazz met and mixed in the streets of New Orleans. When musicians of these different groups began playing each other's styles, a new music was born. They called it jazz.

HISTORICAL PROFILE: **Charles "Buddy" Bolden**

Often called the founding father of jazz, the legendary Charles "Buddy" Bolden was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1877. As the first New Orleans trumpet king, he paved the way for Joe "King" Oliver and Louis Armstrong. Although Bolden left no recordings, he is still remembered as one of history's most talented jazz musicians. Bolden died in Jackson, Louisiana, on October 4, 1931.

**This biography was adapted from Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jazz for Young People Curriculum*

ACTIVITY:

Listen and Describe

Listen to each example played by your teacher. Each selection you hear is an example of the different types of music in New Orleans around the time jazz was created. Bits and pieces of each of these styles came together to make jazz. As a class, you will discuss what makes each type of music unique. Write the descriptive terms below.

Opera _____

Brass Band _____

West African Drumming _____

Blues _____

Ragtime _____

Spiritual _____

Vocabulary

Rhythm
Melody
Harmony
Jazz
Port City