

Jazz on the Move!

As jazz continued to develop and flourish in New Orleans, it began making its way north to the cities along America's first great super highway, the Mississippi River. The "Mighty Mississippi" and other big rivers were important to trade in those days, and as jazz grew in popularity, it found a home in major urban centers like Memphis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago and New York.

So how did jazz get to these cities? Jazz was brought to these cities during The Great Migration, which took place between 1910 and 1930. During this time, southern African Americans began migrating north to escape racism and to find better work and education for their families. Remember, not many people had cars in those days, so people had to use what was available: horses, riverboats and trains. Some people even walked! When people moved north, they not only brought material things like clothes, family mementos, and other personal possessions, but they also brought non-material things like cultural traditions, and, of course, their music!



HISTORICAL PROFILE: **Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong**

Louis Armstrong was born on August 4, 1901, in New Orleans. He began playing the cornet at the age of thirteen and grew up to become one of the most influential musicians in the history of music. Joe "King" Oliver was the most famous cornetist in New Orleans and became Armstrong's mentor. When Oliver moved north to Chicago, he invited Armstrong to join him, an invitation he accepted. Eventually, Louis moved farther north to New York City, where he joined the band of Fletcher Henderson. Armstrong is known for popularizing scat singing and perfecting the improvised jazz solo as we know it. He died in New York City on July 6, 1971.



Activity

Using your knowledge of the geography of the United States, locate the cities of New Orleans, St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, and New York on the map. Write the names of the correct city in the corresponding numbered space below. Then read the biographies of the 6 musicians listed below (pgs 18 and 19). Write the number of the city in the circle to the left of each musician to connect each with the city they are most associated with.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

- Buddy Bolden
- Miles Davis
- Benny Goodman
- Thelonious Monk
- Jelly Roll Morton
- Charlie "Bird" Parker

EXTRA CREDIT: For extra points, name the rivers shown on the map.