



Lesson: How Different Regions of the World Connect to *Hambone*

OVERVIEW

Students will read, discuss, and share background information about the different geographic roots of *Hambone*.

LEARNING GOALS

Students will learn about the roots of *Hambone* around the world and will identify the locations on a map.

RESOURCES & MATERIALS

Student copies of:

- Readings:
 1. [Minneapolis, Minnesota / Chicago, Illinois](#)
 2. [Nashville, Tennessee / Ghana & the Ivory Coast of Africa](#)
 3. [St. Louis & Kansas City, Missouri and the Mississippi & Missouri Rivers / Sedalia, Missouri](#)
 4. [The States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana / McComb, Mississippi](#)
 5. [New Orleans, Louisiana / Gullah Islands, off South Carolina](#)
 6. [New York, New York / Paris, France](#)
- Worksheets:
 1. [How Do Different Regions of the World Connect to Hambone?](#)
 2. [Map Matching](#)

PROCESS

1. Divide students into small groups (either six groups or groups of six). If you've divided the class into groups of six, give a set of the six readings to each group and ask each student to read one of the pages. They can read silently or out loud, sharing the reader's role within their group. If you have divided the class into six groups, provide a copy of one of the six readings to each group so that the entire group reads the same page and all topics are covered by the class. They can read silently or out loud, sharing the reader's role within their group.
2. (Optional) share examples to deepen students' learning. Suggested examples:

Minneapolis – Larsen listened to *Hambone* by Red Saunders: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGff21Pw3FU>

New York - *The Moochie* played by Duke Ellington's band: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LUAnqoWX-4>

Paris – Debussy's "Golliwog's Cakewalk" from *Children's Corner*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMrdhgWR9Zk>

Ghana – Ghanaian Drumming: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PK9d1bZBjo>

Nashville – Fisk Jubilee Singers sing *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* in 1909: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUVBGZnL9rE>

Sedalia, Missouri – *Maple Leaf Rag* by Scott Joplin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMatL7n-rc>

Gullah Islands - Bessie Jones sings the Hambone lyrics while her friend Gene Bluestein pats and slaps out the Hambone rhythm on his body: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YAKTzYADoo>

3. When they have read their pages, ask students to share (either in their individual groups or with the class) what they have learned about the various locations around the world and how they connect to *Hambone*.
4. There are two worksheets for this lesson, "How Do Different Regions of the World Connect to *Hambone*" and "Map Matching". You may choose to use either or both. All students can complete a worksheet or one student can act as the scribe for the group.

EXTENSIONS

Fisk Jubilee Singers PBs documentary "Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory"
Ordering information and Teacher's Guide - <http://pbs.org/wgbh/amex/singers>

How Different Regions of the World Connect to *Hambone*



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Libby Larsen grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She listened to all kinds of music when she was young, including rock 'n' roll and different versions of **hambone**, which was a popular song in the 1950s and 60s. The sounds and rhythms of the music she heard inspired the music Larsen composed as an adult.



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

In the early part of the twentieth century, many African Americans, looking for work and a way out of poverty, left the south and settled in northern cities like Chicago. **Jazz** came with them, and by World War I (1914-1917), Chicago became an important jazz city. King Oliver, Louis Armstrong and JellyRoll Morton all came north and recorded jazz music in Chicago.

Chicago-style jazz had more drive and energy than Dixieland jazz. Harmonies were more complex and the saxophone became more prominent.

Chicago was a center for popular music for much of the twentieth century. Many rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll musicians cut their records in Chicago.



How Different Regions of the World Connect to Hambone

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Plantation owners wouldn't let their slaves sing the songs they learned in Africa, so the slaves adapted a unique song form that fused African rhythm and chant with European hymn tunes. These new songs, called **spirituals**, expressed hope for a better life as well as the slave's religious beliefs. Stories and characters from the Bible were often the subject of spirituals. But spirituals also carried hidden meaning and messages about freedom and escaping to the North. After the Civil War, the Fisk Jubilee Singers from Fisk College in Nashville, Tennessee took the spiritual on the road. They toured the U.S., singing concerts and trying to earn money to support their school.

GHANA AND THE IVORY COAST OF AFRICA

From the 1600's to the 1800's many West Africans were forced to leave their homeland and sent to North America and the Caribbean. They were sold as slaves and put to work on large plantations. Though torn from their land and culture, these Africans carried their music, art, and traditions with them. Slave owners tried to stop them from singing, playing, and dancing, but they failed. In the end, African music mixed and blended with other music traditions and led to many new musical styles.



How Different Regions of the World Connect to *Hambone*



ST. LOUIS AND KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI AND THE MISSISSIPPI & MISSOURI RIVERS

Riverboats traveled up and down the Mississippi River and along the Missouri River. In the early years of the 20th century, the boats carried more than cargo – they carried jazz up and down the river from New Orleans. Soon St. Louis and Kansas City had their own flavor of jazz music. Jazz was spreading across the nation!

SEDALIA, MISSOURI

Pianist and composer Scott Joplin lived in Sedalia in the late 1800's, teaching and playing ragtime. Ragtime was a new kind of music, based largely on the tunes that were played during slavery-era cakewalks. The first ragtime pieces Joplin composed were written for the piano, and revolved around an interesting playing style. The piano player's left hand kept an even, percussive stepping beat while the right hand played syncopated melodies. This gave the music a "raggedy" and exciting sound.

Scott Joplin made ragtime famous – it became an internal hit. The *Maple Leaf Rag*, composed in 1899, is probably his best-known ragtime piece.



How Different Regions of the World Connect to *Hambone*



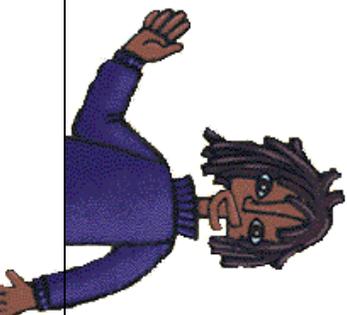
THE STATES OF SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI AND LOUISIANA

The slaves living on plantations in the south and on the Caribbean Islands did hard and monotonous work. Because workers could coordinate their movements with the strong rhythm of the songs, singing helped the work move along more quickly and smoothly. The beat and tempo of work songs matched the tasks being done. Slaves who were building, hoeing, cutting crops, and making roads all used the tools they wielded to keep a steady beat. One member of the work gang led the song and the rest of the workers answered. This musical pattern is known as a “call-and-response” pattern.

Railroad workers and prison chain gangs were a familiar sight as blacks were forced to work on highways and railroads.

MCCOMB, MISSISSIPPI

Bo Diddley was born in McComb, Mississippi on December 20, 1928. Libby Larsen listened to Bo Diddley’s music in the 1950s and 60s. You can hear the “Bo Diddley” rhythm when you play Larsen’s *Hambone*.



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NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

They call New Orleans the “cradle of **jazz**.” It was a place where all kinds of people lived and worked in the years after the Civil War Brass band music, **ragtime**, work songs and hollers, the **blues**, and other kinds of New Orleans music were stirred up together to create this new music called jazz.

The type of early jazz that originated in New Orleans is known as Dixieland jazz.



GULLAH ISLANDS, OFF SOUTH CAROLINA

White slave owners tried to ban drumming amongst the slaves. When they had no drums to play, the slaves played whatever was nearby. Banjo heads, sticks, table and chairs, hog bones and hands were all used to make rhythm. The Gullah Islands, where musician Bessie Jones is from, are just off the coast of South Carolina. This small patch of land is somewhat isolated from the mainland, allowing many older musical traditions to continue into the twentieth century.



How Different Regions of the World Connect to *Hambone*



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

In the 1920's African American bandleader Fletcher Henderson began performing with a bigger **jazz** band of ten or more players. The band played Henderson's arrangements in a style that was mellow and just right for dancing. Dubbed "**swing**," this music was performed by fifteen-member bands and many different types of instruments. Trumpets, trombones, clarinets, alto and tenor saxophones, piano, guitar, string bass, and percussion all found their place within the swing sounds. Besides Fletcher Henderson, other famous swing bandleaders include Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Count Basie, and Lionel Hampton.

PARIS, FRANCE

A dance called the **cakewalk** was popular in the late 19th century, though its roots go back to plantation celebrations where slaves would make fun of their owner's fancy manners and the way they danced. At a cakewalk contest, dancing couples would strut and step their way around a large square to fiddle and banjo music. The winners of the cakewalk were the couples who could do the highest kicks and most complicated steps and turns. The prize was a cake. The cakewalk became a part of **minstrel shows** and **vaudeville** and the cakewalk rhythm was used in **ragtime**.



The sound of jazz and ragtime spread around the world. French composer Claude Debussy wove elements of ragtime music into "Golliwog's Cakewalk," a piano piece from *Children's Corner*. Debussy wrote the piece for his young daughter, Chou-Chou, based on the toys and dolls she played with. "Golliwog's Cakewalk," the final movement, of *Children's Corner*, is about a rag doll with yarn hair and floppy limbs. The first part of the music is **syncopated** and jazzy like the cakewalk. The middle section is slower and smoother.



Name(s) _____

HOW DO DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD CONNECT TO *HAMBONE*?

Match the location to the description. Choose the correct location from the bottom of the page and write it to the left of the definition.

- _____ Two river cities where jazz flourished
- _____ Bo Diddley's birthplace
- _____ Homeland for many slaves
- _____ Jazz moved north along these rivers
- _____ The center of big band swing music
- _____ Home of Fisk Jubilee Singers
- _____ Libby Larsen grew up in this city
- _____ This city was the "cradle" of jazz
- _____ Claude Debussy lived here and composed music with ragtime flavor
- _____ This city was a center for jazz and popular music in the 20th century
- _____ Islands off the U.S. mainland where African music traditions continue
- _____ African Americans sang work songs in these plantation states
- _____ Scott Joplin came from here

MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA

GHANA & THE
IVORY COAST
OF AFRICA

NASHVILLE,
TENNESSEE

NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA

THE STATES OF
SOUTH
CAROLINA,
GEORGIA,
ALABAMA,
MISSISSIPPI, AND
LOUISIANA

MISSISSIPPI &
MISSOURI
RIVERS

ST. LOUIS &
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

GULLAH
ISLANDS, OFF
SOUTH
CAROLINA

CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS

NEW YORK,
NEW YORK

SEDALIA,
MISSOURI

PARIS, FRANCE

MCCOMB,
MISSISSIPPI



Name(s) _____

MAP MATCHING

Find each boxed location on the map. Circle the location and draw a line to the correct place name. (We've started you off by circling and linking New York, New York with the correct place on the map.)

CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS

MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA

GHANA &
THE IVORY
COAST OF
AFRICA

GULLAH
ISLANDS,
OFF SOUTH
CAROLINA



ST. LOUIS &
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

MCCOMB,
MISSISSIPPI

NASHVILLE,
TENNESSEE

NEW YORK,
NEW YORK

THE STATES OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, GEORGIA,
ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI,
AND LOUISIANA

MISSISSIPPI
& MISSOURI
RIVERS

SEDALIA,
MISSOURI

NEW ORLEANS,
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PARIS,
FRANCE

