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# African American Musical traditions

November 2019.



Bo Diddley photo courtesy of Rolling Stone Magazine  
<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/remembering-bo-diddley-1928-2008-68713/>

by **Jon Rehm** on December 02

Each month a new topic will be spotlighted in this newsletter. The goal is for each school to have access to a consistent source of information to assist in the infusion of the African American experience. This month's topic is the African American musical tradition. African Americans have contributed to all areas of the musical landscape of America. Spirituals, Jazz, Rhythm and Blues, Rock and Roll, Hip Hop and Rap were all genres of music either created or driven by the influence of African American artists.

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THIS MONTH'S  
TOPICS

## Resources

[Smithsonian Collection: Bessie Smith: Portraiture](#)- examine portraits of the Blues singer (6-12)

[Rolling Stone magazine Obituary of Bo Diddley](#)- local connection (6-12)

[Learning Black History Through Music](#)- brief lessons with links to massive number of songs (K-12)

[The Evolution of African American Music](#)- Brief PPT on history of African American Music form UNF (6-12)

[Roots of African American Music](#)- Smithsonian article with lots of links (k-12)

[History of Jazz](#)- Scholastic (3-5)

[NPR: Hip Hop: Today's Civil Rights Movement](#)- article and audio recording (6-12)

[Teaching History Through Hip Hop](#)- article on using lyrics in history classroom as primary source (6-12)

## Lessons

[The Music of African American History](#)- NEH lesson plan (9-12)

[Hidden Messages in Spirituals](#)- PBS lesson plan(6-8)

[African American Spirituals](#)- (grade 11)

[Writing Biographies of African American Jazz Musicians](#) ( 2-3)

[Jazz in American: What is Jazz](#)- from the Herbie Hancock Institute of jazz (grades 5, 8, 11)

[The Blues](#)- PBS series lesson includes essay "What is the Blues" (6-12)

[Hip Hop and Rap Music \(6-8\)](#)

[The evolution of Rap Music in the United States](#) (6-12)

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