

In this unit, students will be introduced to some of the vibrant music, poetry, and culture of the Jazz Age in America.

What's the story?

Students will explore both the **history of jazz**, and what jazz is **today**, by performing guided research.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about **famous writers and musicians** like Langston Hughes, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Melba Liston, Tito Puente, and Miles Davis. They will study how the jazz art form took **root** in the **South**, then spread to the North becoming the **sound** of the **Harlem Renaissance**, before eventually becoming a **musical tradition** that is cultivated and treasured **all over the world**.

Students will **develop research skills** to find deeper connections between the works of musicians of the Jazz Age and music today. They will use an individual Research Notebook as they follow their Research Plan by **developing research questions**, **gathering information**, and **determining key ideas** about their topic. Students will **collaborate** and **share ideas** with their classmates and will present their research to the group.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is jazz?
Follow up: What are some of the different styles of jazz music that you are learning about? Where did jazz come from? What are some characteristics of jazz music?
2. Who are some of the famous jazz musicians you are learning about?
Follow up: Are there any jazz musicians that you like the most? What about them do you find interesting?
3. How was society in the Jazz Age different than society today?
Follow up: How did people travel from place to place? How did they listen to music? What were some of the problems in society?
4. Why did so many people love jazz during the Harlem Renaissance?
Follow up: Why do people still listen to and play jazz music today?
5. How has jazz evolved, or transformed, over time?
Follow up: How is the style of Duke Ellington different from the style of Miles Davis? How has jazz influenced modern musicians?