



Lesson Ideas

Younger Students

- Organize a scat circle with your students. Assign each student a consonant letter. Play some instrumental jazz music in the background. Allow each student, one at a time, to improvise and scat with sounds that begin with their consonant for 20 seconds to the beat of the music.
- Ask students to make a picture book about Louis Armstrong's childhood and how he became a famous jazz musician. Arrange a time when they can read their books to younger grades.

Older Students

- Students pick one of Louis Armstrong's famous quotes (below) and answer the following questions:
 - Perform some background research on Louis Armstrong. Describe what you think Armstrong meant when he expressed this quote.
 - How does one of your talents, musical or otherwise, relate to this quote?

"My whole life, my whole soul, my whole spirit is to blow that horn..."

"Never play a thing the same way twice."

"We all do 'do, re, mi,' but you have got to find the other notes yourself."

"I don't let my mouth say nothin' my head can't stand."

- During Louis Armstrong's career he played with a variety of orchestras and bands and collaborated with several artists. Divide your students into groups of three to five. Assign each group a band or collaboration period. Ask them to do some background research and write a mini play or musical about Armstrong's performances and interactions with these artists. Each group can act out their play in front of the class. Suggestions for topics include:
 - Louis' busking quartet as a young teenager
 - Joe King Oliver's Creole jazz band
 - Fletcher Henderson's Orchestra
 - Louis own bands: The Hot Five and The Hot Six
 - Collaboration with Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington or Bing Crosby
 - Louis starring in Broadway musicals

Listening Activity

Ask students to listen to several of Louis Armstrong's songs and to pick their favorite. Ask them to describe why they like this song. Is it his trumpeting/cornet style? Is it the song lyrics or his voice? Detail aspects of his instrumental or vocal techniques such as pitch, tone, rapid cadence, scatting or solo sections. How does this song compare to a favorite present day song?

Play *What a Wonderful World* sung by Louis Armstrong for your students. Read the lyrics to the song. Ask students to draw a picture or create a collage based on how the song inspired them and what a wonderful world looks like to them. A live performance can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xotoDy5806Y>. The lyrics are found at: http://www.lyricsfreak.com/l/louis+armstrong/what+a+wonderful+world_20085347.html



Suggested Listening List

Links to download recordings from iTunes & view on YouTube are available in the Resources Area

http://www.funmusicco.com/private/pmlp_module_4/resources

- **Heebie Jeebies** - Louis Armstrong
- **Let's Call the Whole Thing Off** - Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald
- **I Can't Give You Anything But Love** - Louis Armstrong
- **Muskrat Ramble** - Louis Armstrong (great instrumental showcasing the trumpet solo)
- **Panama** - Louis Armstrong (swing style instrumental)
- **Chinatown, My Chinatown** - Louis Armstrong

Internet Links

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Armstrong - A detailed description of Louis Armstrong's life
- http://www.npr.org/programs/jazzprofiles/archive/armstrong_singer.html - An article about Armstrong's musical styles with recorded interviews
- http://www.smithsonianjazz.org/class/armstrong/la_match.asp - The Smithsonian chronicles Armstrong's life and includes a timeline of relevant songs
- <http://www.louisarmstronghouse.org> - Louis Armstrong House Museum

YouTube Links

- <http://www.last.fm/music/Louis+Armstrong/+tracks> - Over 100 Louis Armstrong song excerpts and full tracks
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GG_t6tPIF5s - Scatting session, **When the Saints Go Marching In**, Louis Armstrong and Danny Kaye
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmfeKUNDDYs> - **Hello Dolly**, Louis Armstrong
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3fGrQYHHBI> - **Dinah**, Louis Armstrong
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO1uMjz3n3w> - **Umbrella Man**, Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie showcasing their trumpeting talents
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GuDExkBmnU> - **Basin Street Blues**, Louis Armstrong
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksmGt2U-xTE> - **Heebie Jeebies**, Louis Armstrong and the Hot Five
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2oEmPP5dTM> - **Let's Call the Whole Thing Off**, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvKEzc3JXo4> - **I Can't Give You Anything But Love**, Louis Armstrong
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vpuFYQwZ5o> - **Muskrat Ramble**, Louis Armstrong
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG7sKbqLoQU> - **Panama**, Louis Armstrong & and His All Stars
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugP69-lBK7o> - **Chinatown, My Chinatown** and **You Rascal You**, Louis Armstrong

