

CAROLINA LIVE!—OUR MUSICAL HISTORY
POST-SHOW WRITING PROMPT
8th Grade Social Studies

Time: 20–30 minutes

Social Studies Standard:

8.C.1.1 Explain how influences from Africa, Europe, and the Americas impacted North Carolina and the United States.

I. As a class, read the following passage:

Did you know that since early days in North Carolina, black and white musicians have played music together and have learned from each other?

Did you know that the banjo came to North Carolina from **Africa**, and the fiddle came from **Europe**? Banjo players and fiddlers created a new American music—what we call “old-time” music.

Did you know that old-time music led to blues, jazz, bluegrass, gospel, and R&B? All these styles borrowed from and shared with each other. They all blended **African** and **European** music. Did you know that these music styles are at the root of the music you listen to today, including country and hip-hop?

Did you know that these North Carolina musicians had a world-wide musical impact?:

- Tommy Jarrell and old-time music
- Blind Boy Fuller and Piedmont blues
- John Coltrane and jazz
- Doc Watson and bluegrass
- Shirley Caesar and gospel
- “5” Royales and
- Nina Simone and R&B

The musicians you’re learning about are some of the most important musicians in American history. Their influence continues. North Carolina is still home to some of the best musicians in the country. People come here from all over the world to learn about our great North Carolina music!

(continued)

CAROLINA LIVE!—Our Musical History
8th Grade Social Studies
Post-Show Writing Prompt (Continued)

II. Respond to this Prompt:

North Carolina’s past music traditions are at the root of the music you listen to today. Explain in more detail.

Note: As you write, add details as you think about the following:

- settlers brought their instruments from Europe and Africa
- people shared their music to create new American music
- “old-time” music influenced the music styles you heard in the show
- these music styles are at the root of today’s music
- NC music legends were some of the best musicians playing in these styles
- NC has always been a great place for music and still is!