

Projet Pédagogique: “I’m a Soul Kid”

Un projet mené avec les élèves de 3ème de la Section LCE, afin de comprendre comment la musique a accompagné ou influencé les grands moments de l’histoire Afro-Américaine; Et en ce sens l’importance d’identifier le message dans ce qu’ils écoutent, à travers la découverte de la “Soul Music”.

UN VOYAGE MUSICAL A TRAVERS L’HISTOIRE D’UN PEUPLE

Cycle 4 _ Section LCE Rencontre avec d’autres cultures, Ecole et Société	
Obj culturel	Comprendre l’interaction entre les événements historiques et la culture musicale Afro-Américaine.
Obj methodologique	how to write a Soul Song
Activités Langagières	Comprehension Orale, Expression Ecrite
Contribution au socle commun de connaissances et compétences	<u>Domaine 1</u> : Comprendre, s'exprimer en utilisant une langue étrangère <u>Domaine 2</u> : Organisation du travail personnel / Coopération et réalisation de projets/ Médias, démarches de recherche et de traitement de l'information / Outils numériques pour échanger et communiquer <u>Domaine 3</u> : Expression de la sensibilité et des opinions, respect des autres / Responsabilité, sens de l'engagement et de l'initiative <u>Domaine 5</u> : Invention, élaboration, production

STEP I_ DISCOVER MEMPHIS AND AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH A MUSICAL TIMELINE

Fill in the blanks

- Watch Memphis’ Vacation travel Guide
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iBgfhTAXy8> up to 1 : 27 min



Memphis is situated in the State of in the United States. It is on the Mississippi River.

Memphis has witnessed hard times of African American History through years.

1. Life on the plantations

You can learn about the Memphis Exchange, in the **Cotton Museum** that shows how work was organized on the And how the cotton production industrialised.

During this hard period, Cotton field slaves found expression to let out their inner feelings and sufferings: they sang what they felt in their soul and the expression of their spirit. This is why this type of music was called **NEGRO SPIRITUALS**, it is the expression of faith and what is inside. It evolved in expressing the **BLUES** people felt.

Watch: 12 years a slave cotton fields song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=zcJ6Wxdcj-E>

2. Civil Rights Movements and Black Power movement



- Watch Memphis' Vacation travel Guide
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iBgfhTAXy8> from 1:27 to 2:57

In Memphis, you can also visit the **National Civil Rights Museum**, and follow 400 years of African American history from Slavery to the *Long March on* and beyond. You will be able to see the on which Rosa Parks remained seated during *Segregation*, and the Greyhound coach attacked by the Ku-Klux Klan during the *Boycott*. In the Lorraine Motel you can also see Room 306 where spent his final hours before being assassinated a short time after delivering his "I have a dream" speech. You will also learn about the Movement.

All these steps of African American History were survived through a unifying mode of communication and communion that is faith and SOUL. These events reinforced the SOUL CULTURE that's to say "SOUL FOOD" and **SOUL MUSIC**. The term comes from the song "Soul Brothers" from Ray Charles' first album, and is a result of the evolution of Gospel songs or Negro Spirituals, and Blues.

Great figures of Detroit's Motown and Memphis' Stax Records such as Otis Redding, Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone, and James Brown helped give hope to the people (Sam Cooke - *A Change Is Gonna Come* (1963) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xrAGbRHxyHs>), expressed what people felt (Nina Simone: *Mississippi Goddam* (1964) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ25-U3jNWM>), but also federated and strengthened the people (*Say it Loud- I'm Black and Proud* James Brown (1968) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=4hj1iWqoYEc>)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iBgfhTAXy8> from 2:57 to 4:10 min

At the **Rock n' Soul Museum of Memphis** you can also learn how the soul music of plantation workers evolved into a new soul, the And how in the 1950s the **BLUES** evolved into a New form of liberating sound and expression the "**ROCK N' ROLL**" coming from an acceleration of the beat of Soul Music. With figures such as Elvis Presley (Elvis Presley *That's Alright (Mama)*- First Release – 1954 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmopYuF4BzY>) or Chuck Berry (Chuck Berry - *Johnny B. Goode* (1958) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ROwVrFOCeg>) Rock and Roll started erasing racial divide between black and white in music.

At the **STAX Museum of American Soul Music** You can experience the Music, the that made Memphis in the 1960s the epicentre of the Soul Music Universe.



3. Time for Hope

After the voting right act of 1964 and the end of segregation it took time to enforce laws. African Americans continued finding in Music the expression of their lives. That is when **FUNK MUSIC** helped release the tensions inside of them. It was created by its Godfather James Brown (James Brown's **Rhythm Of The One** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUVs9JAi3jg>). Funk Music's drum beats emphasizes on the 1st beat. It is very African; a beat that stirs the soul. All black Music after him is from this beat:

“Tack toum toum toum Tack toum toum toum”. It was the beginning of a more joyous period that could be felt in this new type of music that soon led to the **DISCO**.

Two musical movements emerged from James Brown’s Rhythm of the One:

On the one hand, **RHYTHM AND BLUES (“RnB”)** expressing love and deep feelings of the blues, but then, they were more related to love and heartbreak than to bad treatments, with artists such as Rose Royce (Rose Royce - *I Wanna Get Next To You* released in 1974

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EO1nfSCKrU>).

On the other hand, “**RAP MUSIC**” expressing feelings in a very raw fashion, with such artists as MC Spoonie Gee (Spoonie Gee - *Spoonin' Rap* (1979)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bxN1xrIRvGU&list=PLT8bbav6yCI4Muxlug1F6Qo7tcKf1f2i2>)

Styles were also still mixed between funk and rap music as we can hear in 1981’s Kool and the gang’s *Get down on it*

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=qchPLaiKocl>).



4. Ghettos and Memphis today

Segregation had ended, black and white people could then go to the same restaurants, or schools, they could also vote, but the neighbourhoods did not mix well. There were still ghettos in every cities of the USA.

Watch this video from 7:03 min onwards.

https://www.youtube.com/supported_browsers?next_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DxikbYa0DpDs

What are the three major problems in Memphis today?

Today in Memphis young people struggle not to end up in a gang or in prison. This is still the case today for many African American in the USA.

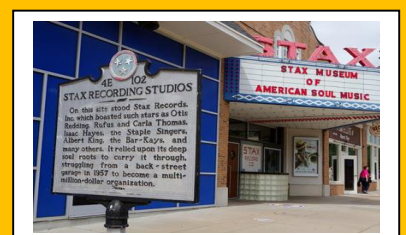
Chandra Williams, artist and director of Crossroads Cultural Art Centre at Clarksdale, Mississippi, explains why Music caused these social problems.

According to her, the Music is still the same as we have seen above, but the message has changed: since the late 90s, Black people in the US have felt resentment about what they lived in the past, but also about the fact that even after the laws passed they still had not the same standard of living or opportunities as the whites. They used rap music to express the violence of their feelings, and used video clips to show violence as a revenge to get money through gangs. In **TRAP MUSIC** today the message is still the same: promoting gangs and violence as a way of achieving success and money (POP SMOKE - WELCOME TO THE PARTY <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usu0XY4QNB0>)

5. Memphis, the soul town: STAX RECORDS ACADEMY

In Memphis, the Stax Academy was founded in 2000. Its goals are to:

- Give young people a purpose, an activity to go to after school

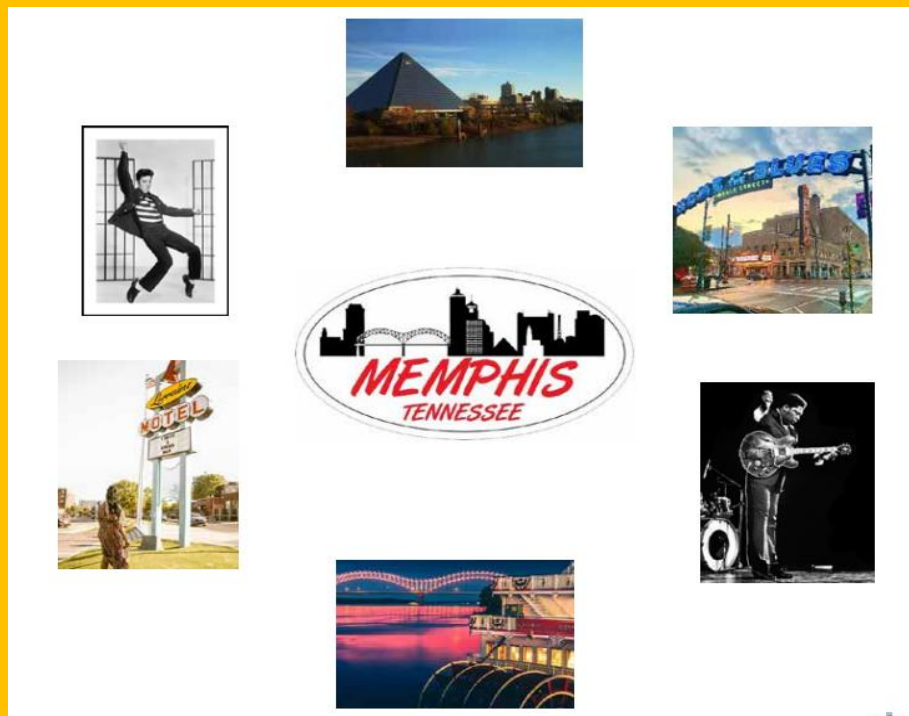


- Teach them how to express their feelings through writing and singing
- Teach students the fundamentals of singing SOUL MUSIC
- Teach them how to choose the messages they listen to

Chandra Williams talked to the students of the Stax Academy and taught them the importance of changing the message that young black kids receive, in order to change their representation of themselves, of what being black is and thus change society, and make young black people move away from gangs.

ACTIVITIES : (source: <https://www.zerodeconduite.net/ressource-pedagogique/dossier-pedagogique-soul-kids>)

A- Look at the pictures and say how they are connected to the city of Memphis.



B- Find their names with the codes.

A	B	E	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	P	R	S	T	U	V	Y
¥	Ω	Δ	§	**	ð	□	&	☯	◇	●	∞	○	▲	‡	■	∅

Célèbre bluesman américain, j'ai fondé le label « Blues Boys Kingdom ».

Ω	.	Ω	.	□	ð	◇	§

J'ai été assassiné à Memphis le 4 avril 1968.

☯	¥	∞	▲	ð	◇	&	‡	▲	**	Δ	∞	□	ð	◇	§

Star du Rock'n Roll, j'ai grandi et je suis mort à Memphis.

Δ	&	■	ð	○	●	∞	Δ	○	&	Δ	∅

T	S	W	B	B	J	Y	U	I	R	T
E	F	P	V	C	W	V	N	Y	E	R
F	O	A	Q	H	C	B	Y	S	D	P
R	G	G	V	A	J	U	Q	O	D	T
A	W	D	K	R	U	R	N	P	I	P
N	S	F	I	L	T	K	L	X	N	H
K	V	W	N	E	P	E	F	B	G	A
L	U	H	G	S	G	R	D	E	E	Y
I	C	L	A	Y	F	L	O	Y	D	E
N	H	B	R	O	W	N	R	W	X	S
T	W	Q	J	W	K	Y	Z	T	I	O

Trouve parmi les mots mêlés les noms de neuf grandes personnalités de la soul américaines.

JAMES B

SOLOMON B

RAY C

JUDY C

EDDIE F

ARETHA F

ISAAC H

ALBERT K

OTIS R

STEP II _ DISCOVER THE STAX RECORDS ACADEMY (A fieldtrip to watch the film SOUL KIDS during the Black History Month Festival at Cinestar Cinema)



A film by Hugo Sobelman



The film « Respect » about Aretha Franklin was also presented during the festival.



THE STAX ACADEMY returns to the original **POSITIVE MESSAGE** In music for black people
CHOOSE WHAT YOU LISTEN TO / CHOOSE WHAT YOU SING

ACTIVITIES : (source: <https://www.zerodeconduite.net/ressource-pedagogique/dossier-pedagogique-soul-kids>)

It's a long walk to D.C. But I've got my walking shoes	La marche est longue jusqu'à Washington Mais je porte des chaussures de marche
I can't take a plane, pass a train Because my money ain't that long America, we believe (we believe) Oh! – that you love us still (love us still) So people I'm gonna be under (yeah) To wipe away my tears	Je ne peux prendre ni l'avion, ni le train, Parce que je n'ai pas assez d'argent Amérique, nous croyons, Oh ! – que tu nous aimes encore Alors sachez que je vais devoir Essuyer mes larmes
I'll tell ya, ooh yeah It's a long walk to D.C. But I'm on my way, ooh, yes, I am It's a long walk to D.C. But I know I'll make it some day	Laisse-moi te dire... La marche est longue jusqu'à Washington Mais je suis en route, ooh oui La marche est longue jusqu'à Washington Mais je sais qu'un jour j'y arriverai

A- How does the character feel in this song?

.....

B- Understand what you sing: <https://vimeo.com/637797633/> code: soulkids2021

What can you say about Christina's attitude the first time she sings, compared to her attitude and facial expressions the second time? Why is it important to understand what you sing?

.....



Watch the two singers' attitudes and expressions. <https://vimeo.com/637797633/> code : soulkids2021)

Two persons can express different feelings about the same words.

STEP III_ BECOME FAMILIAR WITH SOUL MUSIC, CREATE YOUR OWN SONG

(source: <https://www.zerodeconduite.net/ressource-pedagogique/dossier-pedagogique-soul-kids>)

A- Listen and Fill in the Gaps.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_OX2HwWy-o

Coming to you on a dusty
Good loving, I got a truck load
And when you get it, you got
So don't, 'cause I'm
I'm a soul man (x4)
Got what I got the hard way
And I make it, each and
So honey, said don't you fret '
Cause you ain't seen yet
I'm a soul man (x4)
I was brought up on a side
I learned how to before I could eat
I was educated at.....
When I start loving, oh I can't stop
I'm a soul man (x4)



B- You're a soul kid. Sing along with the class

C- Sing your Soul.

Your turn to write and sing the blues! Let's do the same exercise they do in the Stax Records Academy:

Alone or in groups, **pick a song you like** (Soul music if possible) and **write new lyrics**

METHOD: describe your life, or dreams, or goals. Speak about your own experience, as if you were talking to your diary. Try to make the verses rhyme.

Perform it live in your class. **Your lyrics should come from the heart and soul!**

D- A Students production on « Respect » by Aretha Franklin

I don't like school!
I don't think it's cool

You are not in my mind!
So don't say you don't mind
I hate all about it!
Even what we eat

School (choir: Try to understand) (x2), Oh School (Try to understand)
S-C-H double O- L this is what I'm talking about
S-C-H double O -L, Come on, say it loud
School (choir: Try to understand) (x2), Oh School (Try to understand)

Except for English
I really like that
All I wish
Is it was only that
I know it's crazy
But it is so easy

School (choir: Try to understand) (x2), Oh School (Try to understand)
S-C-H double O- L this is what I'm talking about
S-C-H double O -L, Come on, say it loud
School (choir: Try to understand) (x2), Oh School (Try to understand)

