



Jazz

accompany = to play a musical instrument while someone else sings a song

ballad = a slow love song

bandleader = someone who leads a band

banjo = an instrument like a guitar that is played in country music

birthplace = a place where something first started

brass instruments = instruments like trumpets, horns etc..

century = a hundred years

composer = someone who writes music

cornet = a small trumpet

decade = ten years

double bass = a large instrument that looks like a violin that musicians play standing up

drums = a musical instrument that you hit with your hand or a stick

emerge = come up

emotion = feeling

entertainment = you perform music or a play that people listen to or watch

evolve = to grow slowly

feature = characteristic, quality

folk music = music that has been played by normal people for a long time

hardly = not very often

improvise = if you don't prepare anything, you just invent musical sounds

influence = to have an effect on

inspire = here: to get ideas or motivation from

made up = consist of

mixture = when two or more different things come together

musician = a person who plays music

perform = to do something to entertain people ; to act a play or play music

popular = if a lot of people like something

ragtime = a type of music that was popular in America in the early part of the 20th century

reed = a thin piece of wood on an instrument . You blow into it and it makes a sound

relaxed = calm, stress-free

rhythm = beat

slave = someone who is owned by another person and works for them for no money

smooth = soft and nice to listen to

spiritual = a religious song sung by African Americans

successful = to be very good at something

trombone = a metal instrument that you play by blowing into it and you pull a part of it in and out to change the notes

tuba = a large instrument that looks like a curved tube; it produces very low sounds when you blow into it

well-known = a lot of people know about something

works = pieces of music

In the early **decades** of the 20th **century** jazz was the name that was given to music played by African Americans. It was a kind of **folk music** that black people played for **entertainment**. Today jazz is **performed** all over the world and it has also **influenced** other kinds of music .

The **features** of jazz are its sound and **rhythms**. Jazz is **improvised** music that shows strong **emotions** and feelings. Typical jazz instruments are the trumpet , **trombone** , saxophone and clarinet.

Beginnings of Jazz

The first jazz was played in the early 20th **century**. Jazz musicians were **inspired** by **ragtime** and blues which also **evolved** at the beginning of the **century**.

Ragtime was a musical style that came from St.Louis. It was played mostly on the piano and quickly became **popular** with orchestras. A blues was originally a sad song, a **ballad** that was sung slowly and **accompanied** by a piano or guitar. Some people say that blues were songs that the **slaves** sung.

New Orleans Jazz

The **birthplace** of jazz is New Orleans. In the early 1900s people of many cultures lived in the city: French, Spanish and African-Americans. The music was a **mixture** of blues, black **spirituals** and **rhythms** from the Caribbean .

The typical jazz band was **made up** of one or two **cornet** players, a clarinet and a **trombone** player. Sometimes there were pianos, **banjos**, **tubas** and **drums** to **accompany** the **horns**.

New Orleans jazz became later known as Dixieland. As time went on jazz travelled up the Mississippi to Chicago and then to New York City.

Big band jazz **emerged** as the bands became larger and had more instruments. There were three parts of a big band: **brass instruments** with trumpets and **trombones**, **reeds** with saxophones and clarinets and rhythm instruments (piano, guitar, **double bass** and drums)

Famous **bandleaders** were Fletcher Henderson and Benny Goodman. Big band jazz was **smoother** with lighter rhythms. Most of the bands had famous soloists like Louis Armstrong, the most famous **musician** of that time.



Swing

The 1930s and the 1940s were called the swing era. Music was free and **relaxed** during this period. The start of radio made jazz **well-known** all over America. Some of the most **popular** bands of the country were led by Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller , who was probably the most **successful** of all.

Maybe the greatest big band of all times was led by pianist and **composer** Duke Ellington. He wrote over 1000 **works**. His best known songs are “Sophisticated Lady” and Mood Indigo”.

Bebop

The next major jazz style was bebop which lasted until about 1960. It was played in smaller groups and **hardly** in big bands.



Jazz

WORDS

birthplace = a place where something first started

chord = notes that are played at the same time and sound nice

cornet = a small trumpet

drop out = to leave

emerge = to come up

improvise = if you don't prepare anything, you just invent musical sounds

meaning = sense, value

Midwest = the middle part of the United States

musician = a person who plays music

perform = to do something to entertain people ; to act a play or play music

pieces = songs

popular = if a lot of people like something

producer = someone who controls the recording

note = a musical sound

record = a round flat piece of plastic with a hole in the middle. Many years ago they were used to save music but today people have music on CDs

recording = if you save music on a CD or tape

steamboat = a boat that uses steam for power and sails along rivers

stress = to make important

syllable = a small part of a word

teenage = age between thirteen and nineteen

tune = same as "melody"

unload = to take something off a ship, truck or train

Bebop musicians **improvised** not so much the melody as the jazz **musicians** before , but the **tune's chords**. Many bebop **pieces** were also played very quickly. Centre of bebop was Kansas City, where the greatest bebop **musician**, Charlie Parker , grew up.

At the same time as bebop came up in the **Midwest** hard bop **emerged** in the eastern cities. It was strong and full of energy and **stressed** the African American sound. The electric organ became a **popular** instrument and Miles Davis was one of the most famous beboppers of that time.

In the 1960s **musicians** started to look for other ways to **improvise** jazz. John Coltrane and Ornette Coleman became the greatest **performers** of free jazz, as it was called.

Today jazz is played all over the world, in concert halls as well as in dark night clubs. Many of the world's famous jazz festivals take place in Europe and Japan.

Louis Armstrong

Louis Armstrong was America's greatest jazz musician. He was born in New Orleans , the **birthplace** of jazz. His father left the family shortly after Louis was born so the boy had to spend his early years living with his grandmother.



Louis loved all kinds of music. He bought an old **cornet** and learned how to play. When he was in third grade he **dropped out** of school and started singing on the streets to get money for his family.

Louis spent his **teenage** years selling newspapers and **unloading** bananas from boats. In his free time he listened to the famous bands of that time. Later on, he started **performing** on **steamboats** and during this period he learned how to read music and play classical **pieces** on the **cornet**.

In 1922 Louis started playing in a band in Chicago and later on moved to New York, where he played in one of the city's most famous bands. No one else could play like he could. He hit the highest **notes** easily and played great solos.

After a few years in New York he went back to Chicago where he made his first **recordings**. Here he started playing the trumpet. During one of the **recordings** Louis dropped his text on the floor. The **producer** told him to keep on singing so Louis **improvised** and sung **syllables** that had no **meaning**. This became known as "scat singing". Soon many other jazz **musicians** tried to copy this style of singing.

His **records** made him famous and when he moved back to New York in 1929 bandleaders all over the city wanted to have Louis in their orchestras.

He not only **recorded** music, but also **performed** on Broadway and played in movies. Louis Armstrong was a singer, dancer and master of the trumpet. He travelled all over the world and made people happy through his music.