



Vulcan[®] Park and Museum

Birmingham History on the Road

Teacher Resources

Please find below resources that will help teachers integrate Birmingham History on the Road with the Alabama Course of Study in Fine Arts and Social Studies.

**Indicates lesson plan*

Sun Ra: Musician, Poet, and Philosopher

*1. The National Endowment for the Humanities Edsitement website explores the role of jazz as a vehicle for social protest during World War II. Links to other valuable sites - especially those sponsored by the Smithsonian and Ken Burns' documentary *Jazz* - are also helpful.

http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=379

*2. The Alabama Learning Exchange contains an excellent lesson plan for a unit entitled *A Brief History of Jazz*. The lesson explains content standards for grades 9-12.

http://alex.state.al.us/lesson_view.php?id=29337

*3. This lesson plan on the Jazz Age helps students develop a slideshow and integrates fine arts standards with standards in social studies and technology.

http://alex.state.al.us/lesson_view.php?id=13332

4. This *Encyclopedia of Alabama* articles discusses Sun Ra's beginnings in Birmingham including his student days at Birmingham Industrial High School

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1896>

5. The Sun Ra Arkestra continues to this day, as this website attests.

<http://www.thesunraarkestra.com/>

6. This excerpt from Sun Ra's psychedelic film *Space is the Place* effectively introduces students to Sun Ra's undeniable flair for theatricality.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djBKQNVj5Cc>

7. Sun Ra's unique keyboard style, at its most experimental, is highlighted in this excerpt.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SsBtfuSDxw&feature=Playlist&p=0F86537D2CCAB384&playnext_from=PL&index=0&playnext=1

Symphonies and Spirituals: The Life and Music of William Levi Dawson

*1. This National Endowment for the Humanities Edsitement site explores the role of Negro Spirituals throughout American history by tying the genre to slave narratives, African-American worship styles, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=318

2. Emory University houses an extensive collection of Dawson's music and artifacts, which includes a digital collection of images and media files.

<http://larson.library.emory.edu/dawson/web/main/intro>

3. William Dawson was inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 1989, along with Erskine Hawkins, the Delmore Brothers, and Joe L. Frank. The Alabama Music Hall of Fame's website provides a concise biography of Dawson's life.

<http://www.alamhof.org/williamdawson.html>

*4. Although Dawson composed *Negro Folk Symphony* while living in Chicago, the work is often linked to the Harlem Renaissance, due to work's similarities to works by two Harlem Renaissance figures, William Grant Still and Florence Mills. The Kennedy Center website paints a vivid picture of that important movement in American cultural history and contains links to lesson plans and to other useful websites.

http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/exploring/harlem/classroom/lesson_resources.html

Too Many Questions, Crossing Lines

*1. The Alabama Department of Archives and History has an excellent lesson plan and primary documents on their website. Teachers interested in integrating a pivotal moment captured in *Too Many Questions* - the Montgomery Bus Boycott - with the study of American history or a research project that stresses the use of primary documents in research would benefit from this website's lesson plan.

<http://www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/rights/rights1.html>

2. Troy University is home to Rosa Parks Library and Museum. The museum's website contains overviews of Rosa Parks' life and the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

<http://montgomery.troy.edu/rosaparks/museum/>

3. Virginia Durr's brother-in-law, Supreme Court Associate Justice Hugo Black, shared many of her views on civil rights and other progressive reforms. *Encyclopedia of Alabama's* biography of Justice Hugo Black discusses his legacy on the Supreme Court and includes an extensive bibliography.

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1848>

4. *The New York Times'* obituary for Justice Hugo Black provides a more succinct overview of his life.

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/bday/0227.html>

*5. This PBS lesson plan *With Liberty and Justice for All* discusses a landmark ruling made by the Supreme Court upon which Hugo Black served.

*6. This National Endowment for the Humanities site explores Eleanor Roosevelt's involvement in social reform in the 1930s. Roosevelt, a friend and colleague of the Durrs, played a key role in the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=770

*7. The Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt site at the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site website contains many valuable ideas on Roosevelt and several important associates.

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/elro/teaching.htm>

*8. This lesson plan from the Alabama Learning Exchange provides a creative way for students to learn the basics of plot structure through adapting a story into a film. Variations on the project include adapting an original short story and adapting a short story into a play.

http://alex.state.al.us/lesson_view.php?id=13483