TEACHING with PRIMARY SOURCES across TENNESSEE
NEWSLETTER: MAY 2010

WELCOME!
Teaching with Primary Sources across Tennessee, administered by the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, engages learners of all ages in using primary sources to explore major issues and questions in many different disciplines.

Web site: www.mtsu.edu/tps Contact: sgraham@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-2947

NEWS
• TPS-TN 2010 Summer Institute (July 13-14) UPDATE: We are accepting registrations for this event through May 21. Please let us know if you’d like to attend by emailing Stacey Graham or Kira Duke. For those on the Alternates list, we will let you know about availability by the end of May.
• Change to the Library of Congress Web site: The Library has completely renovated its Prints and Photographs Online Catalog. It is now a more user-friendly site, great for finding primary sources. Because of the changes, however, we are in the process of quickly updating many of the links on the TPS-TN Web site. Please bear with us if you find a link that doesn’t work properly—it will be working soon! See the “Featured Feature” section on p. 3 for more information.

“AWESOME” SOURCE OF THE MONTH:

Detail, Ryman Auditorium, Nashville, Tennessee [2008]
The Ryman Auditorium is referred to as “the Mother Church of country music.” What features remind you of a church? For more photos of the Ryman, click here.

THEME: MUSIC
Tennessee has a rich musical history, from delta blues and rock-n-roll in the west, to string band and country music in the middle, to mountain ballads and breakdowns in the east. The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture’s article on music provides students and teachers with an excellent overview of the history of music in our state.

The Library of Congress contains several different types of primary sources related to music, such as audio recordings, sheet music, letters to and from musicians and musicologists, and photographs of musicians, instruments, and music venues. A good place to start browsing is the Performing Arts Encyclopedia, which you can find on the Digital Collections page alongside American Memory and Prints and Photographs. Also don’t forget the American Folklife Center’s online collections.

The Performing Arts Encyclopedia also links to wonderful online presentations on various musical topics. For example, check out Dolly Parton & the Roots of Country Music, profiling the accomplishments of one of Tennessee’s most beloved music stars. Find Dolly’s Locust Ridge home on a map, or read about how Appalachian and bluegrass music have influenced her career.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
• May – end of school year. Best of luck to Tennessee students and graduates!
• May – Jewish American Heritage Month
• May – Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month
• May 31 – Memorial Day (read about the first Memorial Day in Today in History)
• July 13-14 (Murfreesboro)- TPS-TN 2010 Summer Institute, “Impact of the Civil War on the Tennessee Homefront.” For more info, click here.
• August 5 (Memphis)- TPS workshops, Shelby County Schools in-service, times TBA
LESSON IDEA – CREATING WRITING & MUSIC

Movies and television often use music to support plot developments such as building suspense or pulling at our hearts during an emotional scene. Music influences our perceptions of how a story will develop and where the storyteller is taking us. In this activity, students will write a short story using different pieces of music to influence how they think the plot should develop.

This activity can either be done individually or in groups. You will need to divide the class in half. To begin, provide students with the first lines of a story. For example: “The ground was hilly and difficult to navigate. Rocks and fallen trees blocked the path in front of me. I could hear the sounds of the wild all around me. Suddenly, everything went silent. I could feel the hair on the back of my neck stand up. I was not alone…”

Play a different piece of music to each half of the class. Selections from the Inventing Entertainment: The Motion Pictures and Sound Recordings of the Edison Companies collection in American Memory such as Allah’s Holiday and In a Monastery Garden can be used. To search for other recordings, click on “Sound Recordings” from the collection home page. Have students listen to the musical selection as they begin writing their short stories.

Have students share their completed stories with the class. Discuss the differences in plots. Are plots similar for those that listened to the same piece of music? Why might this be? What impact did the music have on the development of their stories? How is music used today in television shows, movies, and commercials?

This idea can be adapted to meet state curriculum standards for English/Language Arts for grades 1-8 (Standard 3: Writing) and grades 6-8 (Standard 7: Media).

LESSON IDEA – TEACHING WITH AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC

American Folk Music provides a wonderful way to engage students in examining the history of the Great Depression, Dust Bowl, and migration. The Library of Congress Web site contains collections such as Voices from the Dust Bowl, Southern Mosaic, and California Gold that feature sheet music, recordings, and images. The Teaching with Primary Sources Across Tennessee site contains a unit focused on this theme (Go to “Lesson Ideas & Units” and scroll down to the center of the page to find the unit).

The “Sunny California” lesson plan challenges students to analyze this song as it relates to the history of westward migration during the Dust Bowl. Who was the song written for? How does the song reflect what individuals were experiencing during the time? What is the purpose of this song?

Have students search related collections on the Library of Congress site highlighted in the lesson plan to further investigate what this song tells us about the Dust Bowl migration. How does the song portray images such as the one shown here? Students can also compare and contrast a similarly titled song “Sunny Cal.” What are the differences between the two songs?

This unit was developed as part of a Webcast from the MTSU Instructional Technology Support Center. To view the Webcast, click here and sign in.

This unit can be adapted to meet state curriculum standards for grades 4-6 Social Studies, high school U.S. history and English, grades 3-8 Reading, and K-8 Music.

Thomas Edison listening to phonograph [1923]

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Drought refugee car [November 1936]
**Lesson Idea—Music & Culture**

Music is an important aspect of a community’s culture. Music can tell us about a culture and its variations in different regions. Street musicians, for example develop a sound that speaks to the circumstances of their community and sometimes of themselves.

A wide variety of images of street musicians from different communities and regions can be found in American Memory (search “street musicians” or “musicians”) and in the World Digital Library (search “musicians”). Begin by either selecting images from these collections or have students research the collections to identify a sample set of images.

As a class, study the images. Ask students to respond to the following questions:

- What are your first impressions?
- What other things do you see?
- What instruments are the musicians playing?
- How are these instruments different?
- Where are they playing? Why are they playing there?
- Does the title provide more clues?

This idea can be adapted to meet state curriculum standards for Grades 5–8 Social Studies, World History, and World Geography (Standard 1: Culture).

**Featured Feature—New Prints & Photographs Catalog**

The Library has just launched a new Prints & Photographs Online Catalog. The new version has more user-friendly features and options, and allows for easier browsing of all the collections available for online viewing. It also more clearly points out copyright concerns, and has easy tabs to find more information about rights and reproductions. One of the best new features is the inclusion of the bookmark URL for each primary source. Instead of finding the permanent URL the old way, just copy and paste!

The new version also allows you to view search results in a grid pattern or even a slideshow. Jpg and Tiff options are clearly listed under the image thumbnail on the bibliographic page. To guide you through this new catalog, we have created an updated PDF: "Introductory Guide to Prints and Photographs".
“We Shall Overcome”

Written in part by activists working at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, TN, this song became the anthem for the civil rights movement. How might this song have inspired activists, through both its music and lyrics?

“Cotton Pickin’ Time”

What part of the state do you think is reflected in this song? What time of year is cotton picked? How is music being used to reflect day to day life? Whose life would have been reflected in this music?

American Soul Music

Stax Museum of American Soul Music, Memphis, TN [2008]

Stax Recording Studio is now home to the Stax Museum of American Soul Music. Stax artists dominated the soul music genre in the 1960s and early 1970s. What could this building have been used for prior to the recording studio? What artists recorded under the Stax label? What kinds of objects will you find in a museum of soul music?

Child Musician

Dakota child musician / Charles A. Zimmerman, photographer, Third Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. [1882]

What instrument is this young girl playing? Is it similar to any instruments used today? Do you think this was a traditional instrument for Native Americans in the Dakotas? What else may be traditional in this picture?