

Our Musical Heritage

For 5th-8th grades



Lesson 3 — *Your Musical Heritage*

Objective

Students will listen to and understand the immigration experiences of several BPO musicians, as well as students at local Buffalo Public schools. Students will research their own family history to learn about their ancestry and share their family's heritage with their peers. They will research the musical traditions of their culture and present their findings to the class..

Suggested Materials

- Video recordings of BPO musician & student interviews (videos can be found at <https://bpo.org/music-for-youth-hub/>)

New York State Arts Standards

MU:Re7.1.5a-8a

MU:Re7.2.6b-8b

New York State English Language Arts & Literacy Standards

Writing, Standard 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7

Speaking & Listening, Standard 1, 2, 4 & 5

Language, Standard 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6

New York State Social Studies Standards

Standard 2: World History

Standard 3: Geography

Procedure

- 1) Have students watch the video clips of BPO musician and student interviews sharing individual immigration experiences.
- 2) Discuss with students how these people may have felt moving to a different country where they aren't familiar with the culture, language, or customs. Have you ever been somewhere you were unfamiliar with or experienced something new? How did it make you feel?
- 3) Have students research their own lineage and cultural background to see if any family members were part of the immigration experience. Did your family come to the United States from a different country? What is your family's heritage? Are there any traditions or customs your family partakes in that are unique to your heritage or ethnicity? Have students compile their findings to share with the class.
- 4) During the research process, have students select a musical practice or custom that reflects their family's cultural background. Have them describe the elements and cultural significance of the music and share a musical performance example (audio or video) with the class.
- 5) Have students compile their research into a presentation to share with the class.

