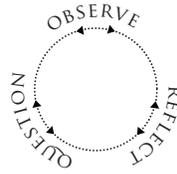


TEACHER'S GUIDE ANALYZING SHEET MUSIC



Guide students with the sample questions as they respond to the primary source. **Encourage them to go back and forth between the columns; there is no correct order.**

OBSERVE

Ask students to identify and note details.

Sample Questions:

Describe what you see on the cover. • What kind of design or image is printed on the document? • Does anything on the page look strange or unfamiliar? • What names or places appear in the lyrics? • Do you see anything on the page besides writing? • What other details do you notice? • If you know the melody, sing or hum it. What do you notice about how it sounds?

REFLECT

Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the source.

What was the purpose of this piece of music? • Who do you think composed it? • Who do you think was intended to sing or play it? • What does the cover tell you about the music? • If it doesn't have lyrics, what instruments were intended to play it? • If you know the melody, how does it add to your understanding? • If someone created this today, what would be different?

QUESTION

Invite students to ask questions that lead to more observations and reflections.

What do you wonder about...
who? • what? • when? • where? • why? • how?

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation, and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.

Sample Question: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?

A few follow-up activity ideas:

Beginning

Have students write a brief description of the song or piece of sheet music in their own words.

Intermediate

Select a song sheet or piece of music. Speculate about the composer's purpose in creating it, and what he or she expected it to accomplish. Do you think it achieved its writers goals? Explain why you think so.

Advanced

Think about what you already know about this period in history. How do the lyrics support or contradict your current understanding of this period? How does the song highlight the values or opinions held during this period? How do you think the public reacted to this song?

For more tips on using primary sources, go to

<http://www.loc.gov.teachers>