



Fun Zydeco Classroom Activities

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Create A Zydeco Journal

Have students write a journal on zydeco, exploring the following questions:

- ♪ What instruments of zydeco do you like?
- ♪ What kind of tempo and rhythm does zydeco communicate?
- ♪ What kinds of lyrics are used in zydeco?



Have them also:

- ♪ Write lyrics for a song in zydeco. Make up a tune or set the lyrics to another tune in zydeco style. (Traditional musicians have borrowed tunes for centuries).
- ♪ Use their creativity to decorate the cover of their journal.



Spicy ideas for zydeco journals:



- ♪ Have students include a brief bio about a zydeco musician of their choice. They can choose names from **Some Louisiana Musicians** (www.louisianafolklife.org/Resources/somelamusicians.html), or **Louisiana Legendary Musicians: A Select List** (www.louisianafolklife.org/Resources/LALegendaryMusiciansList.html), or conduct their own Internet search.
- ♪ Give students the option of incorporating images into their journals. These images can come from actual photographs, digital images, newspaper & magazine clippings, or allow them to be creative and draw their own.

Zydeco Performance

Encourage students to research the most famous recordings or songs of a zydeco musician of their choosing. Then have them perform one song for their classmates in the performance style of that artist.

Take this activity a step further by allowing students to dress up like their performer, and include any props to enhance their presentation. Then, as an option, have the class vote on the top three best performances, and award the winners with bonus points, award ribbons or stickers, certificates, or other prizes.



For more music classroom activities visit: the 4th and 8th Grade Activities section, and Explorations & Extensions section of lessons in **Unit VI: Louisiana's Musical Landscape:** www.louisianavoices.org