

GIFTED AND TALENTED – 10th-12th Grade

Do you think that regional and socioeconomic background impacts artistry? If so, how? Research Dyess Colony and its origins. How might this have influenced the music and lyrics of Johnny Cash?

Correlation to Arkansas Standards:

Era4.4.AH.9-12.5 Analyze social, economic, and political effects of the Great Depression on various regions and segments of the population in Arkansas CCRA.R.1, 2, 3, 7, 9 CCRA.W.2, 7, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.Civ.5, 7, 13.9- 12 D2.Eco.1, 8, 12.9- 12 D2.Geo.1, 4, 9.9- 12 D2.His.5, 6, 8, 14, 15.9-12

Era4.4.AH.9-12.6 Analyze social, economic, and political effects of the New Deal on various regions and segments of the population in Arkansas CCRA.R.1, 2, 3, 7, 9 CCRA.W.2, 7, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.Civ.5, 7.9-12 D2.Eco.6, 7.9-12 D2.Geo.4.9-12 D2.His.2, 6, 8, 14.9-12

Era6.6.AH.9-12.2 Examine effects of social and cultural transformations on various segments of the population across Arkansas CCRA.R.1, 3, 7 CCRA.W.2, 7, 8, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.Civ.12, 13, 14.9-12 D2.His.1, 5, 14.9- 12

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Dyess Colony was created as an agricultural resettlement community in Northeast Arkansas that was developed as part of FDR's New Deal program during the Great Depression. Describe this community and other New Deal programs of notable influence in Arkansas and the Mississippi Delta region. What are the lasting impacts of the New Deal in Dyess?

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Much of Johnny Cash's activism and humanitarian work centered on criminal justice and prison reforms. Cash testified before Congress regarding reform and what might be achieved. Research the National Prison Project and compare it to some of Cash's ideas for reform. Are there areas of overlap? What are the similarities and differences? Some ideas to look at might include: recidivism, rehabilitation, incarceration rates, counseling, education, faith ministry, etc.

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Era6.6.AH.9-12.4 Analyze ways that Arkansans addressed a variety of public issues by using or challenging local, state, national, and international laws CCRA.R.1, 2, 3, 7, 9 CCRA.W.2, 7, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 3, 4 D2.Civ.5, 9, 12, 14.9-12 D2.Geo.4, 8, D2.His.2, 4, 14, 15.9-12
Era6.6.AR.9-12.5 Research contributions made by Arkansans in the fields of art, medicine, politics, science, and technology CCRA.R.1, 4, 7, 9 CCRA.W.2, 7, 9 CCRA.SL.1, 4 D2.His.5, 7, 11.9- 12

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Do a contemporary analysis of the 1968 Folsom Prison concert by Johnny Cash and the 50th anniversary concert by Los Tigres del Norte. What issues and themes remain relevant and how? What are perhaps some new issues that have appeared since the 1968 concert and how do these influence current events, politics, and artistic movements?

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Glen Sherley was an inmate at Folsom in 1968. Johnny Cash was impressed with his songwriting and performed one of Sherley's songs, "Greystone Chapel," at the legendary 1968 Folsom Prison Concert. Later, following Sherley's release from prison, he struggled with reintegration into society and suffered from various mental health issues and crises. He eventually died by suicide, and Cash paid for his funeral. How do we address suicide prevention with respect to the criminal justice system? Research the mental health impacts on inmates and the effects of these on individuals upon their release. How might this crisis be addressed? What are some resources available readily to assist those in need?

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