

## 1619 EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### 1. [Take-Home Survey: Top Ten Songs of the Decades](#)

- a. The Top 10 songs for the decades between 2010 - 1950 are listed. Students are asked to survey older people to see how familiar they are with “pop music” of various time frames. This data will be sorted by age, sex/gender identity, and race just to see what kinds of correlations can be made. Also, students can listen to the top most familiar songs across demographics to “check them for cultural appropriation” by doing a listening study that examines “black elements” performed by non-black artists.

### 2. Preparing Our Ears to Listen: Comparing & Contrasting Songs for “Soul”

- a. We will listen to two songs. Both songs are the same. The groups are not. Take notes about each song: melody/harmony, lyrical delivery, instrumentation, overall style, and feel. We will discuss their similarities and differences.

- i. [Exemplar](#) and song pairings
- ii. [Blank handout](#) for students

### 3. [Musical Research Project](#)

#### 4. Videos

- a. Blackface: A cultural history of a racist art form
  - i. <https://youtu.be/pqID-eZm1ck>
- b. Blackface: The Roots of a Racist Art Form
  - i. [https://youtu.be/bX-w\\_QoTQMY](https://youtu.be/bX-w_QoTQMY)

#### 5. Long-form narrative articles

- a. ‘Separate and Unequal’: How ‘Pop’ Music Holds Black Artists Back: The music industry is debating the term “urban,” but the “pop” category often helps prop up white artists at the expense of the black artists who inspire them
  - i. <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/the-problem-with-pop-1013534/>
- b. Coloring the Music Charts: Crossover Acts Make the Lines Blur
  - i. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1985-03-10-8501130767-story.html>
- c. Racism on the Road: The Oral History of Black Artists Touring in the Segregated

South -- Billboard spoke with Smokey Robinson, Dionne Warwick, Booker T. Jones and other legendary acts who faced extreme racism to bring their music to the American South in the 1950s and '60s.

i.

<https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/features/9474793/oral-history-black-artists-touring-segregated-south/>

6. Respond to a pullout quote from the written article from The 1619 Project about black music.

- a. “When we’re talking about black music, we’re talking about horns, drums, keyboards and guitars doing the unthinkable together. We’re also talking about what the borrowers and collaborators don’t want to or can’t lift — centuries of weight, of atrocity we’ve never sufficiently worked through, the blackness you know is beyond theft because it’s too real, too rich, too heavy to steal.”