

Cowboy Hats and Horses: What makes Western theme music sound Western?

Grades: 3-12

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Step right into the Wild West with the Houston Brass Quintet! This exciting musical experience will transport your students to the frontier, where gunslingers and sheriffs roamed the dusty streets. With a mix of western and cowboy movie themes our concert promises to capture the essence of the Old West, evoking images of galloping horses and lowing cattle. Join us for an unforgettable musical journey that will take you on a historical adventure through the sounds of a brass quintet! Students will learn how using certain instruments, melody, rhythm and tonality can create a musical picture.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Lang. Arts	Social Studies	The Students will:
3	5, 6	1, 6, 7, 11, 12	10, 11, 12, 14, 16	• Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances. • Practice listening and speaking. • Read with comprehension. • Write/tell stories to express ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events or ideas. • Learn about a special era in American History.
4	5, 6	1, 6, 7, 11, 12	17, 19, 22 (and more—Texas History)	
5	5, 6	1, 6, 7, 11, 12	20, 21, 23, 26	
MS	3, 4	1, 5, 6, 10, 11	13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22	
HS	3, 4	1, 4, 5, 9, 10	US Hist since 1877. 24, 25, 29, 31 (and more)	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

Reading Grades 3, 4, 5 (6) Grades 6, 7, 8 (5) HS Eng. I (4) Comprehension skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student uses metacognitive skills to both develop and deepen comprehension of increasingly complex texts.
Writing Grade 3, 4, 5 (11) Grades 6, 7, 8 (10) HS Eng. I (9) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions.
Social Studies Grade 8 (26) High School (24) Culture. The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created.

Academic Vocabulary:

Brass	* Wind instruments (including trumpet, horn, and trombone) forming a band or a section of an orchestra.
Melody	*A sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying.
Rhythm	* A strong, regular, repeated pattern of movement or sound.
Tonality	* A principle of organizing musical compositions around a central note, the tonic. The tonic is the note on which music is the most stable and at rest. Music that exhibits tonality works by establishing a tonic, moving away from it and then returning to it .
Old West	* The western region of the U.S., especially in the frontier period of the 19th century. An era of expansion and settlement, and a romanticized time of cowboys, gunslingers, saloons, and lawlessness. Sometimes called the “Wild West.”
Frontier	* The extreme limit of settled land beyond which lies wilderness, especially referring to the western US before Pacific settlement.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- What do you know about the old west?
- What books have you read, or movies have you seen about the old west?
- What music do you know about the old west?
- What do you like or don't like about the old west?

After the performance:

- What did you like best about the presentation?
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part.

Language Arts:

- Write a story, poem, song, rap, cartoon, or chant about the old west.
- Read a book, such as *Pecos Bill* by Steven Kellog for younger students or *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry for older students that evokes the old west. Write, draw, act out or otherwise express what you learn.

Math:

- Find out what things cost in the old west and compare to modern prices.
<https://www.hhhistory.com/2018/06/what-things-cost-in-old-west.html>
- Create a shopping list or budget, using old west prices.

Social Studies:

- Find out about different ethnic groups in the old west.
<https://knoji.com/article/what-were-the-major-indian-tribes-of-the-old-west/#:~:text=What%20Were%20the%20Major%20Indian%20Tribes%20of%20the,Blackfeet%20...%206%20APACHE%20...%207%20COMANCHE%20>
<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Black-Outlaws-Cowboys-And-Lawmen-Of-The-Old-West>
<https://www.history.com/news/mexican-vaquero-american-cowboy>
<https://www.yesmagazine.org/social-justice/2021/05/13/asian-american-old-west>
- Find out about women's roles in the old west.
<https://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/women-of-the-wild-west/#:~:text=Annie%20Oakley%2C%20Calamity%20Jane%2C%20Belle%20Starr%2C%20Pearl%20Hart%3A,about%20cooking%2C%20sewing%2C%20cleaning%20and%20caring%20for%20children.>
<https://www.oldwest.org/wild-west-women/>
- Write, draw, act out, or otherwise express what you learn.

Science:

- What was science like in the old west?
<https://www.deseret.com/2001/6/8/19590212/science-of-the-old-west>

Resources:



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS GUIDE
HOUSTON BRASS QUINTET
Performance

The Old West:

<https://www.oldwest.org/wild-west-facts/>

<https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-didnt-know-about-the-old-west>

<https://www.historyhit.com/facts-about-the-wild-west/>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Houston Brass Quintet is a chamber group in Houston with a focus on diverse music genres, collaboration in the arts community, arts education, and service to those in need in the greater Houston area. Through performances, offering clinics and coaching, the Houston Brass Quintet extends its audience to a young demographic that would not normally experience chamber music. Finally, the chamber ensemble will have separate events designed specifically for our immobile citizens of Houston, assisting the ever-expanding Alzheimer's and Dementia community. By partnering with other non-profits, retirement communities, and specialized nursing facilities, we hope to serve the Houston community of all ages. As HBQ builds a reputation, it should be a reputation set on honesty, caring, and well-deserved praise.