

A Scenic Journey Through Roots Music

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Scenic Roots Lesson Plan for a One Hour Historic Program

- *One or two fun songs to engage the audience
 - invite audience to participate (hand clapping, toe tapping, singing along, etc.)

- *Play an Irish Fiddle Tune
 - teach about the fiddle
 - discuss Irish dance tunes as an outlet for impoverished, hard-working farmers

- *Sing an Irish ballad
 - discuss music as a source of news through the traveling minstrels
 - discuss the cultural implications when Great Britain tried to destroy the Irish culture by taking away their music

- *Play a traditional Appalachian song and invite the students to sing along
 - discuss the Irish influence in American music
 - teach about the mountain dulcimer and its origins

- *Play a Negro Spiritual
 - discuss song as a source of hope in times of trouble
 - re-emphasize the importance of music in defining a culture

- *Play a silly-song with the banjo
 - teach about the banjo, its African origins and the Americanization of the instrument
 - discuss the way songs were passed down and changed over time leaving us with nonsensical lyrics

- *Close with "Orphan Girl"-- a modern American folk-music song
 - discuss music as a way to bring a message and motivate people to take action