


Name \_\_\_\_\_

This assignment is due \_\_\_\_\_

## CULTURAL EXCHANGES: THE UNITED STATES

 *Underline three interesting facts about the United States!*

**Washington, D.C.** is the capital of the United States of America. Walk along the Mall, the huge, grassy park in the center of the city. Visit the museums around the Mall that meet every possible interest, such as world art, space exploration, and dinosaur remains. Take a tour of the impressive rooms of the White House, where the President of the United States lives and works. Enjoy the amazing view from the top of the Washington Monument. See your own reflection in the shiny Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Beyond the capital, travel north to New York City and climb to the top of the Statue of Liberty (right), a symbol of freedom and opportunity. Cross the northern border of the U.S. to reach Canada, and travel south to Mexico and the West Indies.

**THE UNITED STATES** is a nation of immigrants: people who leave their homeland to live in a new country. While most countries in the world have immigrant populations because of the ease of modern transportation, the United States in particular has many different peoples and cultures. Thousands of years ago, American Indians traveled from Asia and settled in North America. In the 17th and 18th centuries, settlers from Western Europe came to North America to trade and farm, and they brought people from Africa against their will to work as slaves. The greatest number of immigrants came in the 19th century: Eastern Europeans fled to New York to escape poverty and political injustice, and Asians arrived in San Francisco to look for work. At this time, an island called Ellis Island near New York City became a welcoming center for immigrants. The Statue of Liberty stood nearby to greet the millions of immigrants who came to Ellis Island. The center was shut down in the early 20th century when laws were established that limited the number of immigrants allowed into the country per year. Ellis Island is now a museum that honors the millions who suffered hardships to reach America. Today, thousands of immigrants from Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Europe enter the United States each year.



## DID YOU KNOW

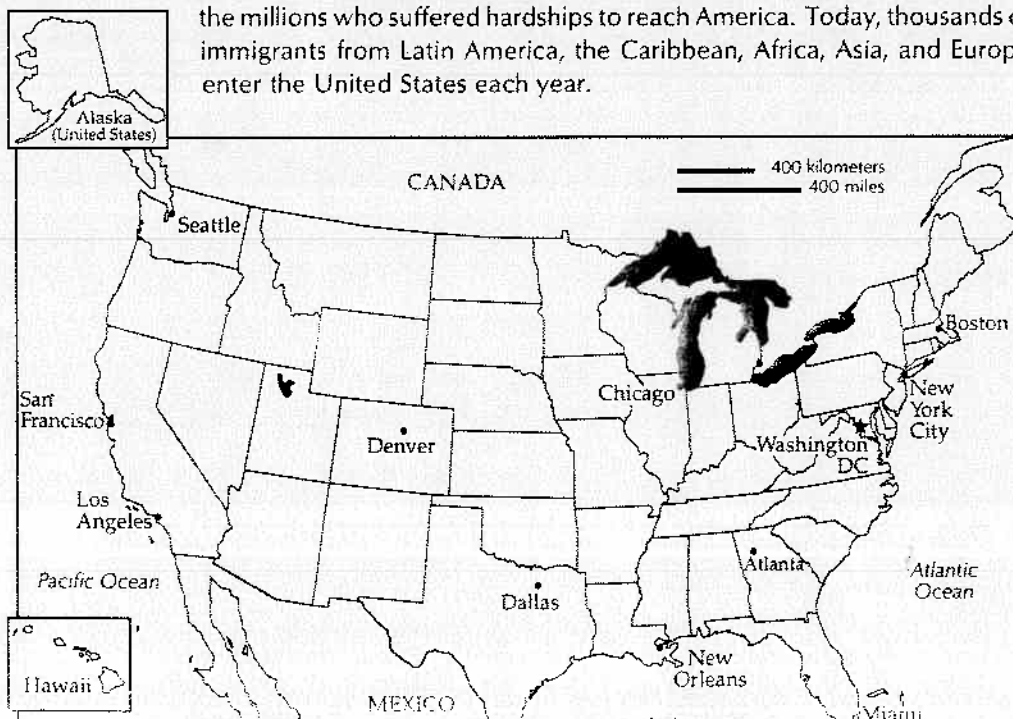
- American Thomas Edison invented a light bulb in 1879.
- The first president of the United States, George Washington (1732-1799), was the only president who did not live in the White House.
- The Statue of Liberty has a green color because it is made of copper. Copper is naturally reddish-brown, but when exposed to air, it turns green.



*Study the map of the United States to the left and use the scale to answer the following question!*

You are visiting the United States. Suppose you begin in Chicago, visit each of the three U.S. cities named in the reading above, and then return to Chicago. Draw your route on the map. How far will you have traveled in miles and kilometers?

*Hint: 1 km = .62 miles.*



miles


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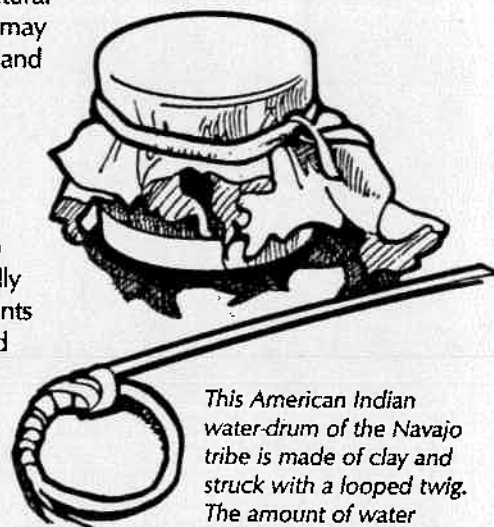
## CULTURAL EXCHANGES: FOLK MUSIC OF NORTH AMERICA

Folk music is passed down as an oral tradition from generation to generation within a culture. Folk music serves to enhance and preserve cultural identities, especially in a multi-cultural society like the United States. Because it is often not written down, folk music may change over time. Studying folk music is one way to learn about different cultures and traditions, because each culture produces its own unique style of music.

### AMERICAN INDIAN MUSIC

 **Underline three interesting facts about American Indian music!**

The name American Indian refers to the many tribes of peoples who came to America thousands of years ago most likely from Asia. American Indian music usually emphasizes singing, and has an instrumental accompaniment. Common instruments are drums, tambourine-like frame drums, rattles made of gourds or buffalo horns filled with beans, wooden flutes, and eagle bone whistles. Despite many similarities in the music of American Indian tribes, musical styles often vary from tribe to tribe. For instance, American Indian tribes in the western and southwestern United States generally have very melodic, poetic music, while the American Indian music of the midwestern plains has a pulsating rhythm accompanied by drums. Practice 43. HWI NE YA HE, on page 11 of your *Standard of Excellence Book 3*, to hear an example of an American Indian song.




*This American Indian water-drum of the Navajo tribe is made of clay and struck with a looped twig. The amount of water inside can be changed to create different notes.*

Music also accompanies elaborately costumed ritual dances and dramatic productions, which are typical of the Inuit and other tribes of northwestern United States and Canada, as well as tribes of the western and midwestern United States like the Pueblo and the Apache. The Inuit (or Eskimos), for example, who traditionally lived in the arctic regions and learned to kill seals with harpoons, have a ritual dance where men act out harpooning while women sing in the background.

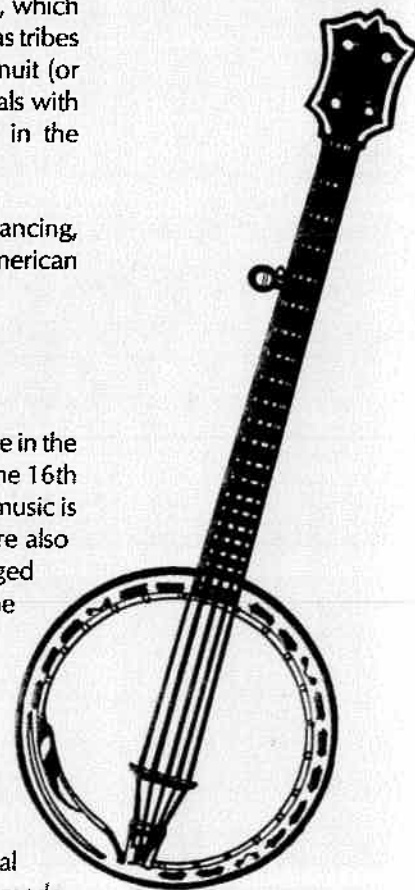
Powwows are huge social gatherings of many different tribes where there is singing, dancing, games, and good food. Powwows have developed during the 20th century to help American Indians preserve their cultural identities.

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC

 **Circle three kinds of African-American music!**

The name African-American refers to people from Africa and the West Indies who now live in the United States. African-Americans who were forced to be slaves in North America from the 16th to the 19th centuries brought with them styles of music and dance from Africa. African music is filled with complex rhythms, and improvisation is encouraged; these stylistic aspects are also present in African-American music. Africans also brought to the United States a four-stringed instrument made of a gourd covered with skin. This instrument gradually evolved into the modern banjo.

Spirituals are songs that developed from 1740 to the late 1800s and were influenced by both European-American and West African musical styles. On the plantations of the southern United States, slaves from Africa sang spirituals and work songs about Christian teachings, the desire for freedom, and the hardships of daily life. The songs were often in a call-and-response style where a soloist sings out and others respond. The singing of spirituals was usually accompanied by clapping, stomping, dancing, and sometimes musical instruments like the banjo, fiddle, guitar, drums, harmonica, tambourine, and home-made instruments like a nail run across the uneven metal of washboards. To listen to the sounds of spirituals, practice playing 14. GIVE ME THAT OLD TIME RELIGION on page 4 of your *Standard of Excellence Book 2*, and 19. NOBODY KNOWS THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN on page 5 of Book 2.



*The banjo is a five-stringed instrument that is plucked with the fingers. It was invented in Africa and is used today in African-American and European-American music.*

In the late 19th century, two new kinds of African-American folk music emerged. One was ragtime, which got its name from the irregularly stressed and accented rhythms of the music.


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## CULTURAL EXCHANGES: FOLK MUSIC OF NORTH AMERICA, page 2

gave it a "ragged" feel. Ragtime was often played on the piano in saloons and gambling houses. The African-American composer Scott Joplin (1868-1917) was called the "king of ragtime." The other type of music was the blues, where singers sang about misfortunes in their lives while instrumentalists on the trumpet, trombone, and saxophone improvised in the background. The blues was rooted in the spirituals and work songs of African-American slaves. Out of ragtime and the blues, many 20th-century popular music forms developed, such as jazz, soul, rock, and rap.

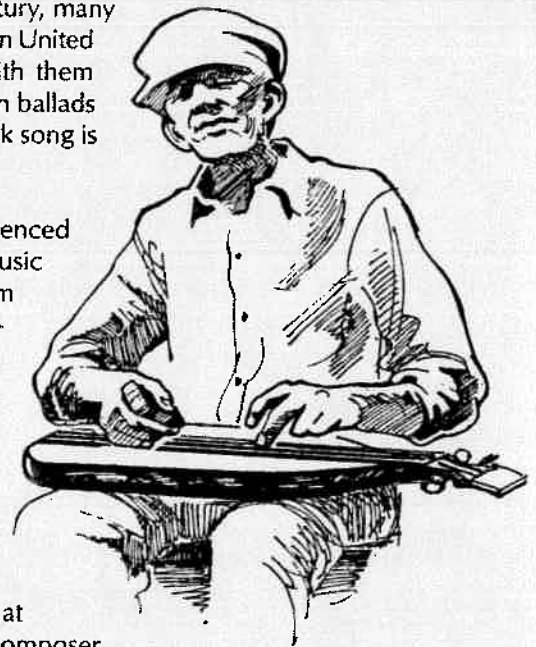
### EUROPEAN-AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC

 **Underline the names of three cultures that have shaped European-American folk music!**

European immigrants brought many different folk music styles with them to North America. One such style of folk music was the ballad, which originated in England. A ballad is a song that tells a dramatic story with a simple melody. In the late 18th century, many English immigrants settled in the isolated Appalachian Mountains of the eastern United States and made a living by farming and raising cattle. They brought with them English ballads about medieval castles and knights, and developed their own ballads that told about their hardships, loves, and fears. In Appalachia, the ballad folk song is accompanied by a dulcimer, guitar, or banjo.


Another type of European-American folk music, called Cajun music, was influenced by American Indian and African-American rhythms and melodies. Cajun music was created in the state of Louisiana, where French-speaking people from Canada settled in the early 19th century. It is lively dance music with complex, African-inspired rhythms and is typically accompanied by a fiddle, accordion, and guitar.

Another unique style of American folk music was music written for minstrel shows in the 19th century. Minstrel shows were dramatic productions with music and comedy, where European-Americans would darken their faces and imitate stereotypes of African-Americans. These shows were very insulting and demeaning to African-Americans. The music that was written for them melded African-American and European folk styles into tunes that became popular. Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was one European-American composer who wrote many famous minstrel show songs, such as *Camptown Races* and *Oh! Susanna*. Minstrel shows often had tambourine and banjo accompaniment. Play Stephen Foster's *Oh! Susanna* on page 9 of *Standard of Excellence Book 2*, and the American folk song 3. RIG A JIG JIG on page 2 of your *Book 3* to hear European-American folk tunes.



*The Appalachian dulcimer is an instrument that lies across one's lap and whose strings are plucked. Traditionally, it was strummed with a feather or twig.*

### JEWISH FOLK MUSIC

 **Circle the names of three instruments used in Jewish folk music!**

Jewish-Americans are a religious and cultural group that immigrated to North America mostly in the 19th and 20th centuries. Most Jewish-Americans have their origins in Eastern Europe. Yiddish, a language that combines Hebrew, German, and Polish, was the language of daily life for Jews in Europe. While Yiddish is spoken by few Jewish-Americans today, the Yiddish folk song tradition is still present to a small degree. The Yiddish folk song 17. TUMBALALAIKA on page 5 of your *Standard of Excellence Book 3*, for example, is a love song with responsive sections for a man and a woman.

Klezmer music is perhaps the best-known Jewish folk music in America. Folk musicians called klezmerim began performing in Europe starting in the 15th century at both secular and religious occasions. Because their music was performed at secular occasions, it became popular with other non-Jewish cultures and religions as well. The instruments used by klezmerim include flute, organ, violin, percussion, double bass, clarinet, and trumpet. In the early 20th century, much of the Klezmer music recorded was done in Europe and imported



