

Second Line Arts Collective

Lesson 9: Saints

Lesson Overview

This lesson expands on the iconic song “When the Saints Go Marching In,” teaching students about its roots in New Orleans jazz and culture. Through singing, rhythm, and movement, students will connect with the song’s joyous message and its role in celebrating life and community.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

1. Understand the cultural and historical significance of “When the Saints Go Marching In.”
2. Sing the song with enthusiasm and confidence.
3. Explore how New Orleans jazz celebrates life and community.

Materials Needed

- Lyrics or sheet music for “When the Saints Go Marching In.”
- Optional: Percussion instruments (e.g., tambourines, shakers, or drums).
- Visual aids: Pictures or [videos](#) of New Orleans parades featuring the song.

Lesson Steps

Introduction to 'Saints' and Its Significance (5 minutes)

- Start by asking students if they’ve heard the song “When the Saints Go Marching In.”
- Share its origins:
 - Originally a spiritual song, it became a New Orleans jazz standard played during parades and celebrations.
 - It symbolizes joy, resilience, and the spirit of community in New Orleans.

Teach the Melody and Lyrics (10 minutes)

- Sing the melody for students and encourage them to join in.
- Break down the lyrics by verse:
 - Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in,
Oh Lord, I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.
- Repeat the verse until students are comfortable.
- Optionally, teach additional verses or let students make up their own.

Add Rhythm and Movement (10 minutes)

- Introduce a simple clapping or stomping rhythm to accompany the song.
 - Example: “Clap-Clap-Stomp, Clap-Clap-Stomp.”
- If available, use percussion instruments to add layers to the rhythm.
- Encourage students to move freely or march in place while singing, mimicking a parade atmosphere.

Connect to New Orleans Culture (5 minutes)

- Show a video or image of a New Orleans parade playing “When the Saints Go Marching In.”
- Discuss how the song brings people together to celebrate life and community.
- Ask students to share how music makes them feel during celebrations.

Extension Activities

- Parade Simulation: Create a classroom parade with students singing, marching, and playing instruments.
- Creative Writing: Have students write their own verses for the song about their favorite activities or dreams.

- Art Connection: Let students [color](#) or [craft](#) their own second line umbrellas or parade banners inspired by the song.

Reflection Questions

- What did you enjoy most about learning “When the Saints Go Marching In”?
- How does this song make you feel?
- Why do you think this song is so important to New Orleans culture?

Teacher/Parent Tips

- Encourage participation by emphasizing the fun and celebratory nature of the song.
- Adjust the pace of teaching the lyrics and rhythm based on students’ age and ability.
- Highlight the cultural significance of the song to connect music with history and community.