

A Night in Tunisia, Turtle Island String Quartet

All Instruments Play Jazz! - Intermediate level, grades 3-6

Objectives:

1. The student will identify when the string quartet plays in a way that sounds like a traditional jazz group.
2. The student will identify the two different grooves present in the recording.
3. The student will contrast *A Night in Tunisia* with *Now's the Time* (Charlie Parker version).

Optional Objectives:

1. Show the Dizzy Gillespie video *A Night in Tunisia* to learn how he came to compose the great song so many jazz musicians perform.

Time: One class period.

Materials Required for Objectives:

Computer access to recording on the Internet with speakers for playback to class. "Comparing Two Songs" worksheet. Optional: Dizzy Gillespie video, *A Night in Tunisia*.

Procedure:

Activity 1 - "So far we have listened to many different kinds of jazz groups from a *cappella* vocal groups to the big bands of Count Basie and Tito Puente. What instruments play jazz?" Students will probably name the more common instruments. "How about the violin, do you think it can play jazz? Why or why not? We are going to listen to a string quartet playing jazz. Does anyone know what instruments might be in a string quartet? As we listen to this recording of *A Night in Tunisia*, listen for the two different grooves in the music. I will pause the recording and ask you to describe the two different grooves. It might be helpful to think about the different recordings we have listened to so far (display a list on the board) and think about which ones are similar in groove to the two grooves you will hear in *A Night in Tunisia*." Teachers: the two grooves are Afro-Cuban and swing. If students listen to the two versions of *April in Paris*, Basie and Puente, they will hear two examples of grooves. Puente's version is Afro-Cuban and Basie's is swing.

Activity 2 - "*A Night in Tunisia* was composed by bebop trumpet player Dizzy Gillespie. Gillespie became famous when he and Charlie Parker began playing a new music called bebop. We are going to compare this recording of *A Night in Tunisia* with the Charlie Parker recording *Now's the Time*. There will be completely different instruments playing but please notice how the two recordings are similar and how they are different."

Optional Activity:

1. Watch the video of Dizzy Gillespie explaining about how he composed *A Night in Tunisia* and listen to Dizzy perform his composition. “How is it different than the Turtle Island String Quartet version?”

Extension:

Go to this web site (http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_gillespie_dizzy.htm) and find the audio feature “The NPR 100: *A Night in Tunisia*” and listen to the story about how the song came about and hear Dizzy Gillespie performing it.

Indicators of Success:

Students will identify two grooves that are common in jazz and understand that any instrument can make jazz.

Learn more about the Turtle Island String Quartet:

<http://www.tisq.com/>

<http://www.npr.org/programs/btaylor/archive/tisq.html>

Lyrics to Night in Tunisia as sung by Ella Fitzgerald:

<http://www.lyricsfreak.com/e/ella-fitzgerald/45659.html>

Learn more about Dizzy Gillespie:

http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_gillespie_dizzy.htm

<http://www.jazzandbluesmasters.com/dizzy.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/8446/>

Video resource:

Dizzy Gillespie, *A Night in Tunisia*. VHS, 28 mins. V.I.E.W. video, 1990.