

Jazz History Explorers

Music History · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which city is widely recognized as the birthplace of jazz music?

- A) New York City
- B) Chicago
- C) New Orleans**
- D) Los Angeles

2. What is the term for the musical technique where a singer makes up nonsense syllables to sound like an instrument?

- A) Syncopation
- B) Scat singing**
- C) A cappella
- D) Harmonizing

3. Which famous jazz trumpeter was known by the nickname 'Satchmo'?

- A) Miles Davis
- B) Dizzy Gillespie
- C) Louis Armstrong**
- D) Duke Ellington

4. In the early 1900s, what was the name of the place in New Orleans where enslaved people gathered to play music?

- A) Congo Square**
- B) Times Square
- C) Central Park
- D) French Quarter

5. Which composer wrote 'The Entertainer' and is known as the 'King of Ragtime'?

- A) George Gershwin
- B) Scott Joplin**
- C) Count Basie
- D) Thelonious Monk

6. What is the musical term for the 'off-beat' rhythms that are a core part of jazz?

- A) Tempo
- B) Syncopation**
- C) Melody
- D) Chorus

7. Which female jazz singer was famous for her wide range and was called the 'First Lady of Song'?

- A) Billie Holiday
- B) Nina Simone
- C) Ella Fitzgerald**
- D) Etta James

8. What type of jazz ensemble features a large group of musicians with sections for trumpets, trombones, and saxophones?

- A) String Quartet
- B) Big Band**
- C) Rock Band
- D) Marching Band

9. Which jazz instrument did Adolphe Sax invent in the 1840s?

- A) Trumpet
- B) Clarinet
- C) Saxophone**
- D) Flute

10. Who was the bandleader and pianist known for his long residency at the Cotton Club in Harlem?

- A) Charlie Parker
- B) Duke Ellington**
- C) Benny Goodman
- D) John Coltrane

11. Which jazz style, popular in the 1940s, is known for its very fast tempo and complex melodies?

- A) Swing
- B) Bebop**
- C) Cool Jazz
- D) Smooth Jazz

12. Which jazz musician was famous for playing a trumpet with a bell that pointed upwards at a 45-degree angle?

- A) Dizzy Gillespie**
- B) Chet Baker
- C) Louis Armstrong
- D) Miles Davis

13. What is the name of the 1959 album by Miles Davis that became the best-selling jazz record of all time?

- A) Giant Steps
- B) Blue Train
- C) Kind of Blue**
- D) Head Hunters

14. Which musical tradition involves a leader playing a phrase and the rest of the group repeating or answering it?

- A) Improvisation
- B) Call and response**
- C) Soloing
- D) Vamping

15. Benny Goodman was a famous bandleader who played which woodwind instrument?

- A) Oboe
- B) Flute
- C) Clarinet**
- D) Bassoon

16. What is the term for making up music on the spot during a jazz performance?

- A) Composition
- B) Improvisation**
- C) Notation
- D) Transcription

17. Which jazz pianist and composer was known for his unique hats and 'dissonant' style of playing?

- A) Thelonious Monk**
- B) Dave Brubeck
- C) Herbie Hancock
- D) Chick Corea

18. Which famous piece by George Gershwin combined jazz elements with a classical symphony orchestra?

- A) Summertime
- B) Rhapsody in Blue**
- C) Take the A Train
- D) Sing, Sing, Sing