

Jazz History During WWI

Jazz History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which U.S. military camp, established in Des Moines, Iowa, in the summer of 1917, trained African American soldiers and hosted early jazz performances that contributed to the music's dissemination?

- A) Camp Funston, Kansas
- B) Camp Upton, New York
- C) Camp Dodge, Iowa**
- D) Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky

2. What was the name of the African American military band, formed in 1917 and stationed in France, that played jazz and ragtime compositions, significantly influencing European musical tastes?

- A) Clef Club Orchestra
- B) The 369th "Hell Fighters" Band**
- C) The Royal Hawaiian Band
- D) The Dunbar High School Band

3. In what year did the U.S. officially enter World War I, a period that saw an increased presence of jazz in military camps and urban centers?

- A) 1914
- B) 1915
- C) 1916
- D) 1917**

4. Which prominent jazz musician, known for his trumpet playing and leadership, served in the U.S. Army's 369th Infantry "Hell Fighters" Band in France during WWI?

- A) Fats Waller
- B) Duke Ellington
- C) Jelly Roll Morton
- D) James Reese Europe**

5. Before the widespread adoption of jazz, what popular musical genre, often featuring syncopated rhythms, was a significant precursor and was frequently played by military bands during WWI?

- A) Blues
- B) Ragtime**
- C) Dixieland
- D) Vaudeville

6. What was the approximate number of African American soldiers who served overseas in the U.S. Army during World War I, contributing to the spread of jazz in Europe?

- A) 150,000**
- B) 200,000
- C) 369,000
- D) 450,000

7. Which major American city, beyond New Orleans, became a significant hub for early jazz development and performance, with its scene gaining national attention around the time of WWI?

- A) Boston
- B) Philadelphia
- C) Chicago**
- D) Seattle

8. The "All-American" band, a precursor to the later 369th Band, was initially formed at which military camp before its members were reassigned?

- A) Camp Sherman, Ohio
- B) Camp Mills, New York**
- C) Camp Beauregard, Louisiana
- D) Camp Logan, Texas

9. In what year did James Reese Europe's band make their highly successful debut in France, playing for American and French troops?

- A) 1916
- B) 1917
- C) 1918**
- D) 1919

10. What was the primary musical instrument that James Reese Europe famously popularized through his band's arrangements during WWI, marking a shift towards ensemble jazz?

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

11. Which record label released some of the earliest commercially recorded jazz and ragtime music by James Reese Europe's ensembles in the years immediately preceding and during WWI?

A) Victor Talking Machine Company

- B) Columbia Records
- C) Okeh Records
- D) Gennett Records

12. The phrase "jazz" itself began to gain wider currency and recognition during which decade, a period encompassing WWI?

- A) 1890s
- B) 1900s
- C) 1910s**
- D) 1920s

13. Which U.S. city, known for its vibrant African American community and musical scene, experienced a significant outflow of musicians to military bands and northern cities during WWI?

- A) Atlanta
- B) Memphis
- C) New Orleans**
- D) St. Louis

14. What was the designation of the regiment famously known as the "Hell Fighters" that James Reese Europe's band was a part of, serving with distinction in France from 1918?

- A) 350th Infantry Regiment
- B) 369th Infantry Regiment**
- C) 409th Infantry Regiment
- D) 772nd Tank Battalion

15. Which significant musical event, held in New York City in 1918, featured James Reese Europe's band and played a crucial role in showcasing jazz to a broader American audience during the war?

- A) The Carnegie Hall Jazz Concert
- B) The Clef Club's "Darktown Scandals"**
- C) The Ziegfeld Follies
- D) The Winter Garden Revue