

# New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



## Junior Ranger Activity Book

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park





# Be a Junior Park Ranger

## EXPLORE . LEARN . PROTECT

### Are YOU ready to become a Junior Park Ranger ?



**Becoming a Junior Ranger is a fun way to learn about Jazz, New Orleans & YOUR National Park.**

**1.) How do you become a Junior Park Ranger?** Choose and complete the number of activities for your age group. Your parents are welcome to help and learn too.

- 7 years & younger, complete at least four activities.
- 8-11 years, complete six or more activities.
- 12 years or older, complete at least eight of the activities

**2.) To receive your Junior Ranger Badge,** complete the activities for your age group, then return to the visitor's center, or mail the booklet to the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park.

*\*If you have any questions about the activities in this book remember that Park Rangers are here to help you.*

### New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

**MAIL:** Junior Park Ranger  
**TO** 419 Decatur St.  
New Orleans, LA. 70130

**VISITOR CENTER:** 916 N. Peters St. (in Dutch Alley)  
New Orleans, LA. 70116

**PERFORMANCE HALL AT:** Old U.S. Mint  
400 Esplanade Ave.  
New Orleans, LA.70116

(504) 589-4841 • [www.nps.gov/jazz](http://www.nps.gov/jazz)



Image Courtesy of : Preservation Hall Recordings. From the "Preservation Hall Hot 4's "St. James Infirmary" jazz video.

## What is Jazz?

Jazz is a musical style based on improvisation, that is the art of making something up on the spot. Many different musical styles came together to form what we now call jazz, and the place it all began was in New Orleans. During the decade of a period called the Jazz Age, jazz would become America's most important musical art form; today, jazz is celebrated all over the world.

**New Orleans Jazz**, was flavored by many world cultures, but cooked up here in the Crescent City. It is the sound of celebrations and everyday life. It is the coming together of musicians and audiences to showcase an individual's talent. It is dance. It is fun. It is joy. It is a never ending, always exciting story.

## Why a Jazz National Park?

**Most historical parks in the national park system** are created to commemorate a battle, a place or a person that played an important role in our nation's history, but in 1994, Congress authorized a new and different kind of park in New Orleans as a national tribute to the uniquely American musical art form of—jazz. The mission of the park is to serve the nation as a global leader in the support of New Orleans Jazz by enhancing and instilling a public appreciation and understanding of this American musical art form. The purpose of the park is to reserve unimpaired this cultural resource, and it's core values for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for this and future generations.

Our 100th U.S. Congress recognized that jazz was a national American treasure, and that a park preserving the origins of jazz would be best placed in New Orleans, the place most associated with the music's birth. The historical park (NOJNHP) fosters preservation, education, and the interpretation of jazz as it evolved in New Orleans while providing visitors with opportunities to hear, see and experience jazz today. Learn more about the NOJNHP at: [www.nps.gov/jazz](http://www.nps.gov/jazz)

**\*New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park...Part of Your National Park System.** Like such famous places as the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore, the Washington Monument and the Statue of Liberty, the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park is one of 379 national park sites that make up our National Park System, and is the only national park that is devoted to music.

Learn more about the New Orleans National Historical Park Service on their website at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

**New Orleans is the city that gave birth to jazz, and where the greatest jazz musician Louis Armstrong was born.**



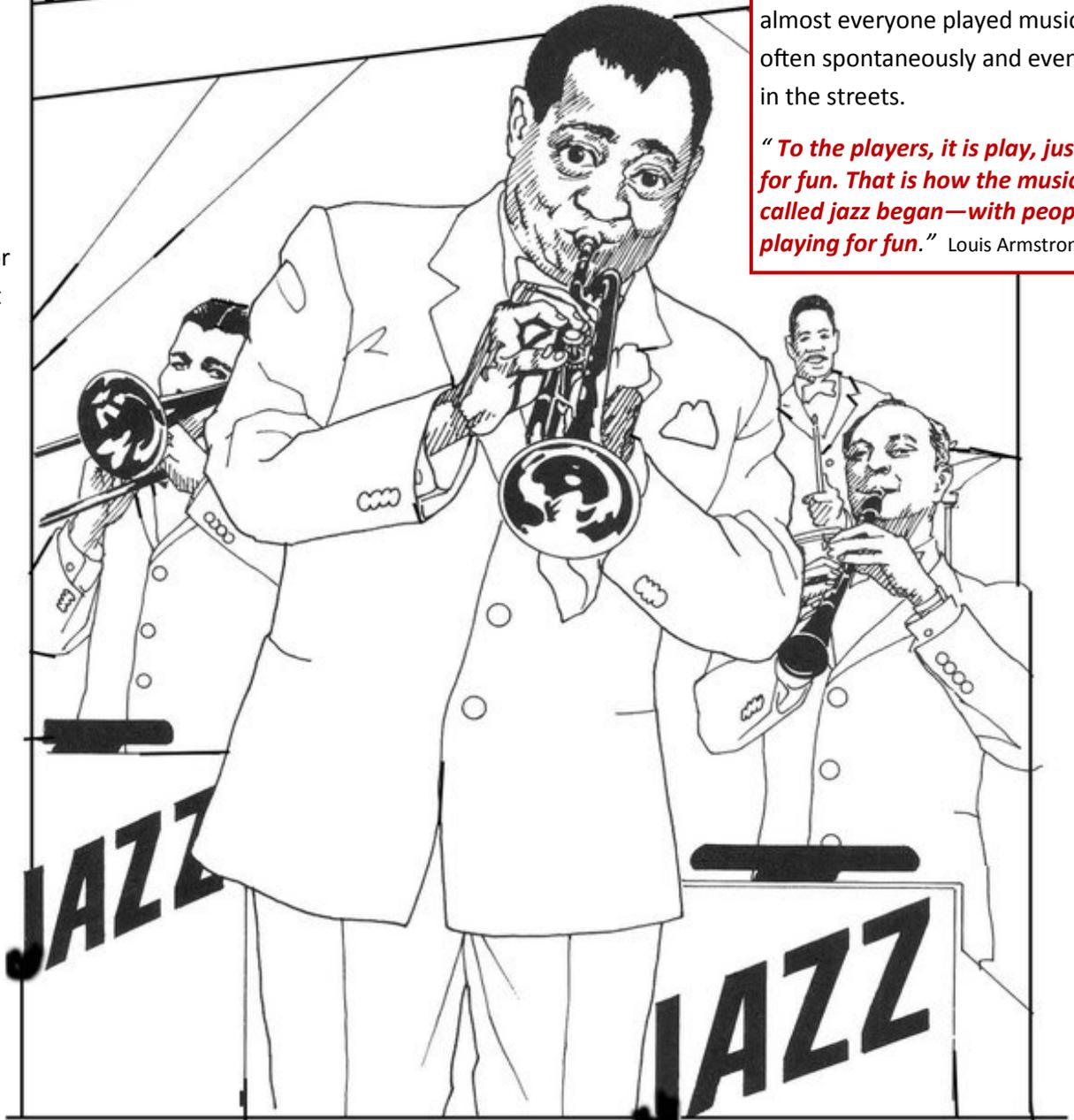
Growing up, Louis Armstrong bought a used cornet and taught himself how to play. A cornet is similar to a trumpet.

According to Louis Armstrong, he was born to Mayann and William Armstrong on July 4, 1900. Raised by his grandmother, mother, and sister, he grew up among strong women and music. One of his earliest jobs and first exposure to performing, was selling coal for a local merchant by riding in the coal cart and playing a tin horn to attract customers.

Hanging out in the streets and dance halls of New Orleans, Louis was awe-struck by the sounds of the horns and drums he heard there, and developed great admiration for the performers. Among the performers were Bunk Johnson and Joe Oliver who were so impressed with young Louis, that they became his instructors and mentors. He carried the lessons he learned in New Orleans with him for the rest of his life.

# Activity 1:

Read about the life of Louis Armstrong, and then color this page that shows him playing a trumpet.



Louis Armstrong grew up in New Orleans, a town where almost everyone played music, often spontaneously and even in the streets.

***“To the players, it is play, just for fun. That is how the music called jazz began—with people playing for fun.”*** Louis Armstrong

**Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong (1900-1971)**

What type of music did Louis Armstrong play? \_\_\_\_\_

What word has two Z’s? \_\_\_\_\_



**Piano-** The piano is a musical instrument played by using a keyboard. It is one of the most popular instruments in the world.

Read and learn about the musical instruments that are used to play the music of jazz, then try doing the activity on the next page.

## The Musical Instruments of Jazz



**Tuba-**The **tuba** is the largest and lowest pitched brass instrument



**Cornet-**The **cornet** is a brass instrument very similar to the trumpet distinguished by its conical bore, compact shape & mellower tone .

**Banjo-**The **banjo** is a stringed instrument with, four or five strings, which vibrate a membrane of plastic material or animal hide stretched over a circular frame.



**Clarinet-** The **clarinet** is a musical instrument of the woodwind type.



**Saxophone -**The **saxophone** is a musical instrument that is a member of woodwind family. Saxophones are usually made of brass & played with single-reed similar to the clarinet.



**Trumpet-** The **trumpet** is the musical instrument with the highest register in the brass family.

**Trombone—**The **trombone** is a musical instrument in the brass family. Like all brass instruments, sound is produced when the player's vibrating lips cause the air column inside the instrument to vibrate.



**Drums –** The **drum** is a member of the percussion group of musical instruments.



**Bass-** The **Bass** is a stringed instrument made of wood. It is part of the rhythm section of a traditional jazz band and holds the sound together





Activity 2: Draw a line from the instrument to it's name.



Tambourine

Jazz Singer

Cornet

Trumpet

Banjo

Snare Drum

Piano

Trombone

Clarinet

Saxophone

Tuba

Bass



# Activity 3: Jazzy Word Search

Find and circle the jazz music words listed below.



## JAZZ BEGINNINGS IN NEW ORLEANS

**Jazz** was not invented in an instant, but evolved over a period of years. Over time, several musical styles came together to form what we now call jazz. The musicians who first played it didn't call their music jazz for years, but called it ragtime. Around 1914 this musical style began to be called jazz and the name stuck. The music of jazz was based on improvisation, or the art of making something up on the spot. And the place it all began was New Orleans, Louisiana.

New Orleans jazz is a style and any song can be "jazzed" with a New Orleans feel. New Orleans jazz is foremost dance music and has a swinging, stomping, syncopated beat that makes you move your feet.

A D B C K L J N P S T A  
B R A S S B A N D M U B  
T V N Z A X Z O S N B C  
S A J R T A Z T H T A O  
R O O T C A L E D R D R  
P V R E H C H A L U R N  
L E N S M U S I C M U E  
P I A N O A R Z U P M T  
M S B E P A R A D E B S  
L R I V E R B O A T A O  
I O S A T V K M N P N N  
N E W O R L E A N S D G

Tuba	Brass Band	Jazz	Satchmo
New Orleans	Music	Parade	Drum
Trumpet	Note	Riverboat	Band
Banjo	Piano	Song	Cornet



**Jazz Bingo**

# Activity 4: Jazz Bingo

The French Quarter and New Orleans are full of many different sights and sounds.

Look for the things in the pictures below, and circle them as you see them. When you have three pictures in a row, you've made Jazz Bingo!



**River Boat**



**Park Rangers**



**Second Line Parade**



**Mardi Gras Mask**



**Drum**



**Brass Band**



**Piano**



**Clarinet**



**While exploring New Orleans, remember to stay safe. Here are some tips to help you:**

- Never go anywhere alone & always take an adult with you. Be sure to stay where you can always see a parent or your guardian so you don't get lost. Write your parents cell number down, along with where you are staying, and put it on a slip of paper and place it in your pocket.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Cross at the cross-walks & wait until the light signals that it is safe to go before crossing the street. Oh, and look out for the carriages pulled by mules, and what they leave behind!
- Wear comfortable shoes while walking through the French Quarter. New Orleans is an old city with many cracks in its sidewalks & potholes in its street, so be careful while walking around.
- New Orleans is a sub-tropical city, with many warm days and high humidity, so that makes it feel even hotter. Make sure to drink plenty of water, and wear a hat and use sunscreen. When it's hot outside, walk on the shady side of the street; it can be a good 10° degrees cooler.



## Activity 5:

This is a drawing of a jazz band that performed at a masked Mardi Gras ball in the 1800s, and where all the musicians wore masks. Answer the questions below to complete this activity.

1. What instrument is the musician playing that is masked as a bear? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is the trombone player standing or sitting down as he plays music? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What instrument is the masked pig playing? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The violin is played by which animal? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is the dog playing a musical instrument? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Is the conductor a man or an animal? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What kind of mask would you want to wear at Mardi Gras, and what instrument would you want to play? \_\_\_\_\_

# Activity 6: Explorer's Corner

New Orleans and the N.O. Jazz National Historical Park, have great things to see, and do. There is wonderful music to hear and dance to; we especially believe the music of jazz being a special treat for your senses.

While visiting, make sure to use all of your senses: listen to all kinds of different music, and try dancing to what you hear. And when you hear something you like, make sure to show your appreciation by clapping for the musical performers.

**\*Find** a place to sit for a few minutes, and write or draw what you have discovered in the boxes below.

I Heard.....

I Saw.....



I Listen To Music.....

I Danced To.....

**Activity 7:** Start at Jackson Square and draw a line through the maze to Armstrong Park.

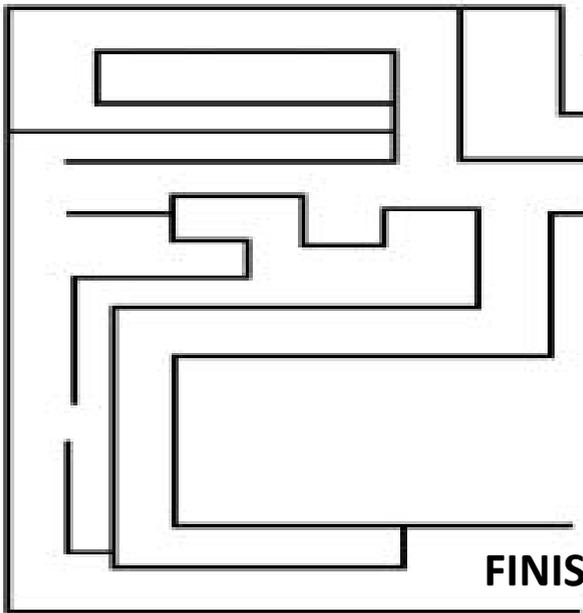
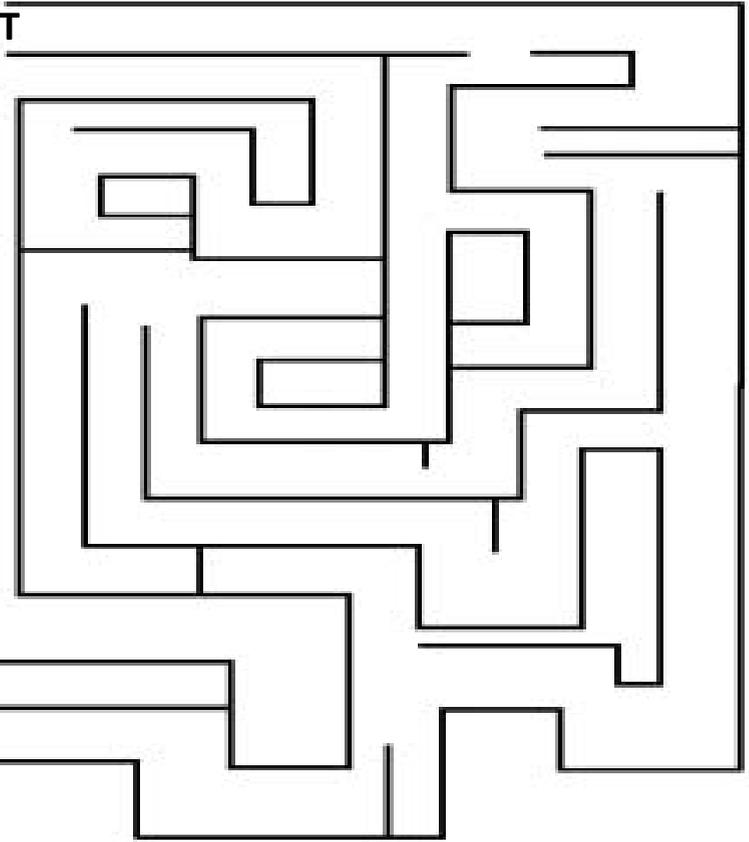


**Jackson Square** is located on Decatur Street, and in the background is St. Louis Cathedral. Notice the carriages pulled by mules, which you can ride through the French Quarter.



New Orleans' French Quarter or Vieux Carré.

**START**

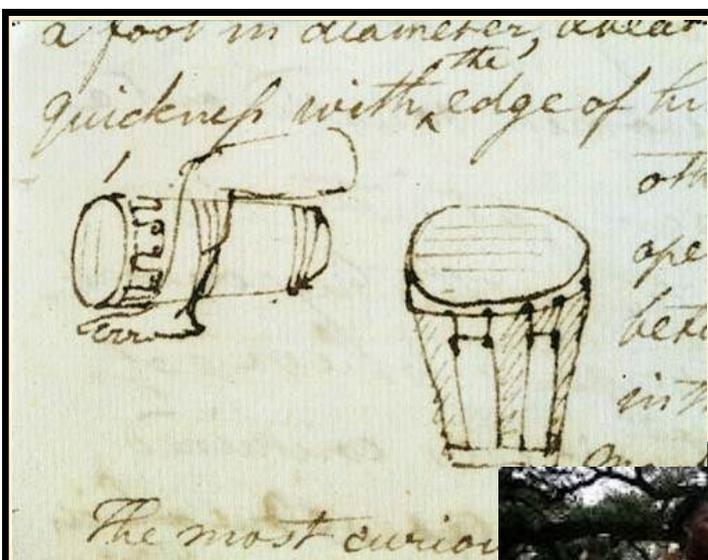


**FINISH**



Armstrong Park is home to the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park's popular *Music For All Ages* program, located in Perseverance Hall.

**Armstrong Park**, named in honor of Louis Armstrong.



Drummers & dancers celebrate in Congo Square, the only place in the antebellum south where enslaved people of African descent could legally drum, dance, sing & practice their culture. Thus the rhythms of Africa survived in New Orleans.

### Congo Square *in* Armstrong Park



Perseverance Hall

*In*

Armstrong Park

### New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park has reopened

**Perseverance Hall in Armstrong Park.** The hall is open every Saturday from 9:00 am– 5:00 pm, and is the home of the park’s popular *Music For All Ages* program.

The *Music For All Ages* program is held every Saturday morning from 11:00 am –noon, teaching young people the music and etiquette required to perform in a traditional New Orleans Brass Band. Kids are invited to bring their own instruments and join the brass band for a hands on workshop of traditional New Orleans song.



The *Music For All Ages* program is sponsored by the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. The park was established by Congress in 1994 to preserve “jazz” as an “American cultural treasure.”

## Activity 8: Connect the Dots

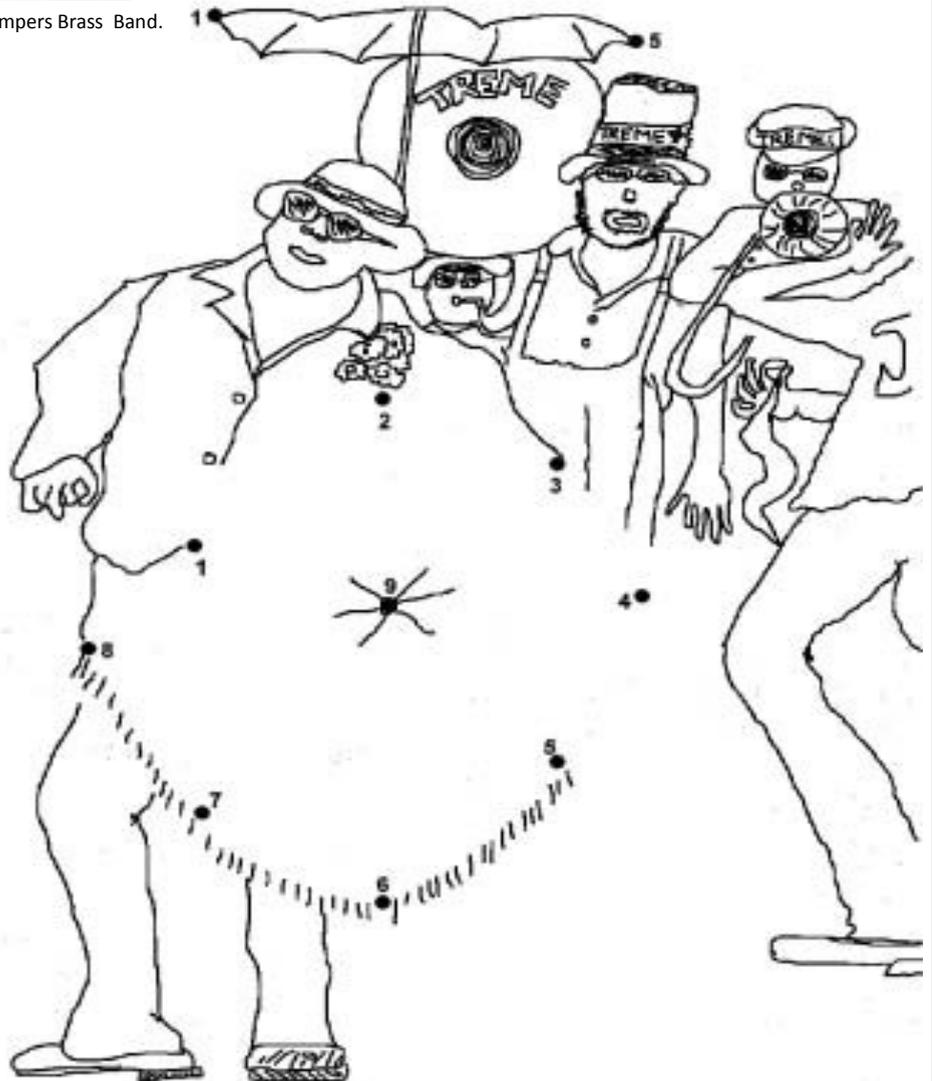
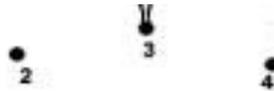


French Quarter Festival, New Orleans, 2010. Storyville Stompers Brass Band.

By Derek Bridges.

What object is used in the second line jazz bands of New Orleans that doesn't play music? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Connect the dots to reveal this fun object, rain or shine!



### What is a Second Line?

Second line parades come from the city's jazz funerals, and apart from a casket, mourners and a visit to the cemetery, they carry many of the same traditions with them as they march down the street.

Second line parades include a brass band, jubilant dancing in the streets and the participants dressed out in brightly colored suits, sashes, hats and bonnets, parasols and banners.



## THE CORNET

The cornet is a brass musical instrument

that looks like a shortened trumpet. Cornets

and trumpets have the same range, but the

cornet has a softer tone. Louis Armstrong

started his career playing the cornet, but most of his recordings are on the trumpet.



## ACTIVITY 9:

### **Sidney Bechet**

I was nine years old when I first played a *clarinet*.

### **Louis Armstrong**

Most folks call me Satchmo. I started out playing a tin horn, but became famous playing a *cornet*, and later a *trumpet*.

### **Sweet Emma Barrett**

I played jazz *piano* in a time when women jazz musicians were rare.

### **Kid Ory**

I was raised upriver in plantation country, but came to the big city to learn more about my 'tailgating' *trombone*.

### **"Professor" Jelly Roll Morton**

I was born in New Orleans, and folks call me Professor because I'm a great *piano* man.



## Who Played What?



# What Does Jazz & Gumbo Have In Common?

## Making a New Orleans Jazz Gumbo



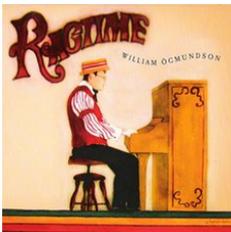
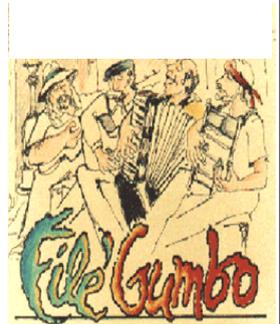
### What is Gumbo?

Gumbo is a tasty dish, similar to soup, and was created in Louisiana. The name is from a West African word meaning “okra”. Gumbo, like jazz, is a result of many different cultures sharing their knowledge in order to create something extraordinary.

Native Americans introduced powdered sassafras or file’, enslaved West Africans supplied the vegetable okra, French Europeans added a roux, and folks from all over south Louisiana added seafood or wild game to this continually evolving dish with many variations.

### What is a Jazz Gumbo?

New Orleans is often described as a ‘cultural gumbo’, meaning a mixture of many different groups of people, each adding their own distinctive flavor to the pot. Jazz music is one result of this cultural blending, of diverse African, European, Caribbean, and American folk music styles.



### Ragtime

*Ragtime* was an important pre-jazz musical craze that relied on printed sheet music and piano players to spread its popularity. New Orleans musicians often “ragged”, or applied a rhythmic *syncopation* to popular songs of the day, that increased the songs dance appeal.

**African American Folk Music** Beginning with the Emancipation Proclamation, African-Americans from around the south migrated to New Orleans, introducing the rural sounds of *blues*, *spirituals* and other songs to the existing Afro-Caribbean, Creole and European musical landscape.



**Instrumentation** Typical New Orleans jazz bands feature a “front line” of *trumpet* or *cornet*, *clarinet*, and *trombone*, backed by a rhythm section of *piano*, *bass*, *guitar* or *banjo*, and *drum set*. Parading brass bands replaced the string bass and drum set with tuba, snare and bass drums.



## The Caribbean & Latin America

Jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton called the Afro-Caribbean rhythms he often played on the piano a “*Spanish Tinged*”, one of the necessary ingredients needed to create jazz. Traces of the Caribbean are still evident in the music, food, language, and architecture of New Orleans.

### Brass Band Marches

Almost any kind of social event in New Orleans calls for a brass band. Festivals, funerals, and anniversary parades are just a few examples of social functions that have a brass band with renditions of familiar marches, “ragged” tunes, hymns, and popular tunes.



**Popular Dance Music** Quadrilles, schottisches, mazurkas, and two steps were some of the dances of European origin fashionable in New Orleans. Eventually, traditional styles began to blur with the wildly popular ragtime craze. Soon, followers of “King” Buddy Bolden and other bands were dancing the latest dances to his infectious beat.



### Putting It All Together

The making of jazz came from the many different ingredients that were used to play it, and then putting it all together to make beautiful music. New Orleans’ jazz is a unique blend of Africa and Europe, of the Caribbean and the American south, and makes for a distinctive cultural mix. Various music styles like ragtime, blues, marches, spirituals, Creole folk songs, and popular dance tunes simmered together in one big gumbo pot and an entirely new American musical art form was created.



# Activity 10: Start Your Own Jazz Band

New Orleans was very far away from the rest of the world when it first became a town, so people had to make their own music when they wanted to sing and dance.

The Indians played cane flutes, rattles made from gourds and log drums. The Africans brought drums and stringed instruments. The Germans brought accordions and brass horns. The French and Italians brought violins. The Spanish brought guitars.



**Jazz Musicians & Junior Park Rangers,  
Love to Make Music,  
Sing & Dance**



Many people and many instruments combined to make many different sounds and beats. The most famous music from New Orleans, is jazz. You can see some of the instruments and listen to jazz and other New Orleans style music at the visitor center.



## Junior Ranger Jazz Band

Put together your own jazz band. Name the instruments that you would like to have in your very own jazz band and name the person who would play it.

Make sure you write down the instrument that you would like to play.

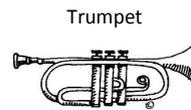
WHAT	WHO
Drums	_____
_____	_____
_____	Me
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will there be a singer in your band? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need microphones or speakers for your band? \_\_\_\_\_

What will you name your band? \_\_\_\_\_

Orleans style music at the visitor center.



Trumpet



Piano

Saxophone



Tambourine



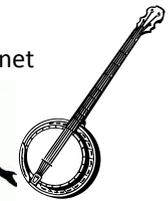
Bass Tuba



Clarinet



Trombone



Banjo



Singer

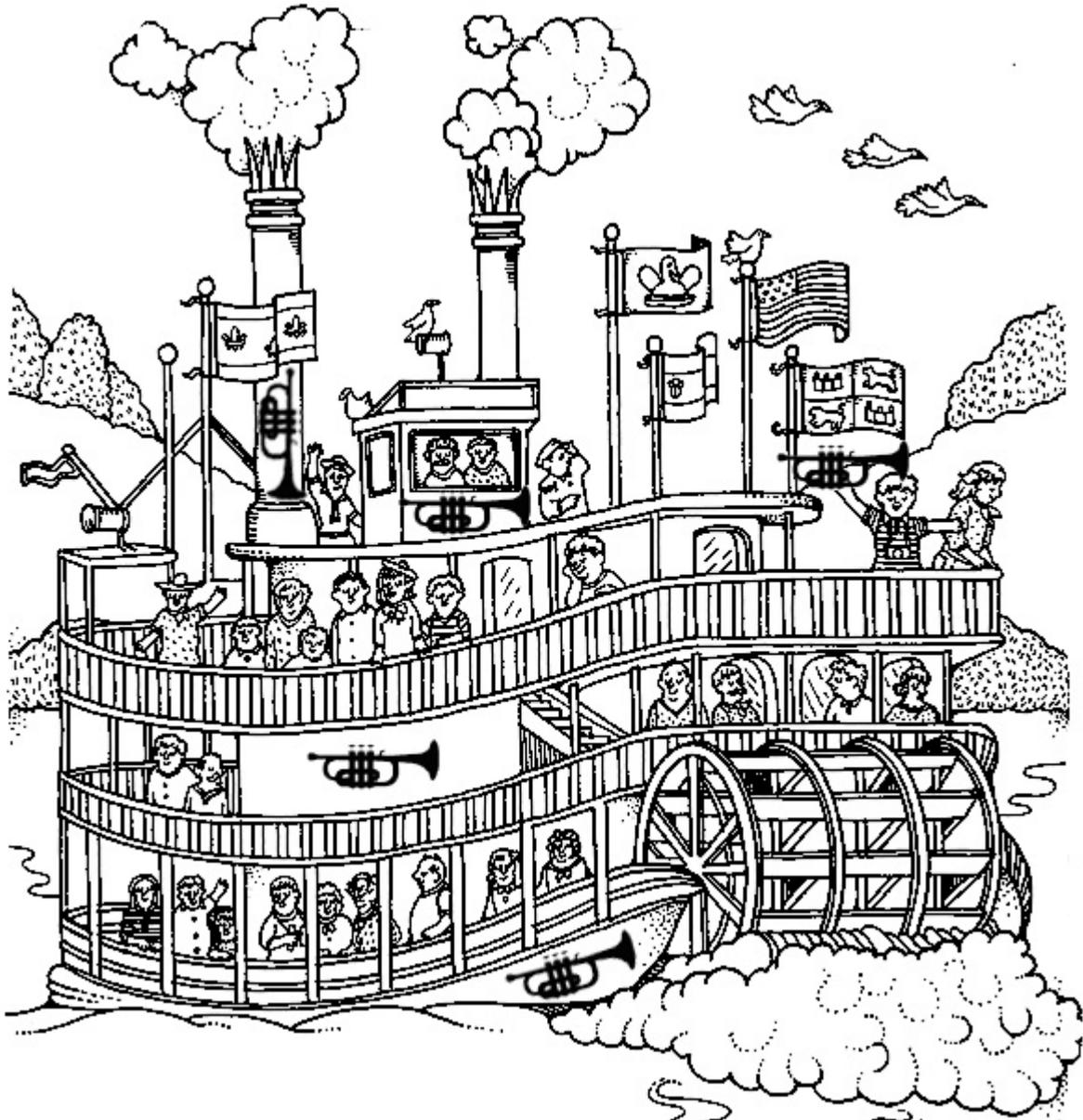


Bass

# Activity 11: Find 5 Trumpets

Jazz musicians found work in restaurants, dancehalls and on the riverboats of the Mississippi River.

~ Study the picture below and find the five hidden trumpets.



## Activity 12:

# Test Your Knowledge

You're almost a junior ranger. Just answer the next few questions and you're done!

1. What state is New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park in?

Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, or California \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name one jazz musician from New Orleans: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where is the home of the New Orleans Jazz NHP program called *Music For All Ages*?

Baton Rouge

The Superdome

French Market

Armstrong Park

4. What object did you draw by connecting the dots? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is a national park?

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## Congratulations!

You are now a junior ranger. Sign below and then mail your book to the park for a ranger to sign and send you a National Park Service Junior Ranger badge.

Sign Your Name Here \_\_\_\_\_

Park Ranger Sign Here \_\_\_\_\_



MAIL TO: **New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park**  
**Junior Park Ranger**  
419 Decatur St.  
New Orleans, LA. 70130



# New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

*This certifies that*

\_\_\_\_\_ Has earned the rank of Junior Ranger  
at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park.



Signature of Park Ranger

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park



*This certifies that*



\_\_\_\_\_ Has earned the rank of Junior Ranger  
at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park.

Signature Park Ranger

Date

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



# New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



## Congratulations!!

You are now a Junior Ranger!

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**(504) 589-4841 • [www.nps.gov/jazz](http://www.nps.gov/jazz)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Park Ranger

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Junior Ranger Promises:

- As a Junior Ranger, I promise to look for something special in every National Park I visit.
- As a Junior Ranger, I promise to discover all I can about jazz & to explore different kinds of music, & to share my discoveries with others.
- I will listen to music whenever I can & will show my appreciation of the musicians by clapping and dancing to the music.
- I promise to not be afraid to ask a Park Ranger any question. I promise to respect my environment & everyone & everything in it & to help others do the same.