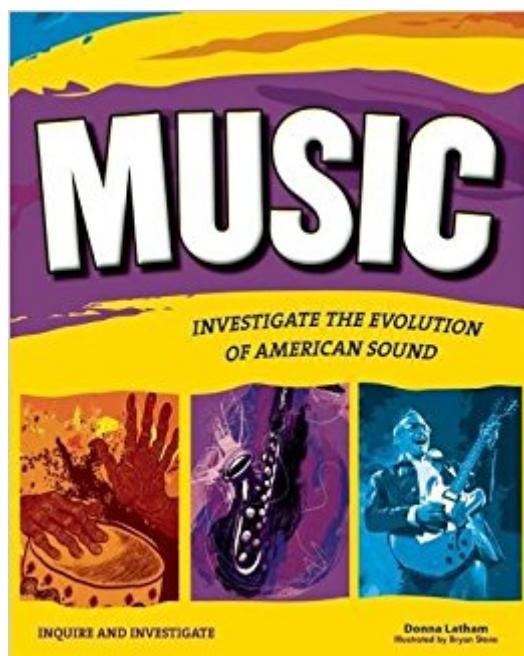


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# Music: INVESTIGATE THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN SOUND (Inquire And Investigate)



## **Synopsis**

The United States boasts a rich musical diversity. Colonial Americans integrated European traditions with new cultural influences to compose a unique musical identity. African traditions influenced hymns and folk songs that connected people to religion and to the trials and tribulations of everyday life. Patriotic tunes created unity in wartime. America's jazz, blues, rock, and hip-hop continue to evolve from their African-American origins. *Music: Investigate the Evolution of American Sound* invites kids ages 12 and up to explore the roots of American music genres as they investigate the social, political, and religious influences that inspire musicians. Activities encourage readers to inquire into the art and science of music. Readers can engage in a hands-on exploration of the physics of sound vibrations, decibel levels, and acoustics, or use vocal styling to improvise and discover the rhythm of their bodies to create a beatbox. *Music* encourages readers to analyze lyrics, their meanings, and rhythms, and then use that analysis to write their own songs. This title meets common core state standards in language arts for reading informational text and literary nonfiction and is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards. Guided Reading Levels and Lexile measurements indicate grade level and text complexity.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1040 (What's this?)

Series: Inquire and Investigate

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Nomad Press (November 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1619301997

ISBN-13: 978-1619301993

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.6 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,170,319 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Music > History #109 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science > Anthropology #137 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 6 - 10

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5-8 •This overview is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) advocate's delight. The book begins by discussing the science behind how humans hear music. The narrative then turns historical as readers are taken through the various stages of American music, beginning with the music of slave life, then the patriotic music of the 19th century, followed by the emergence of jazz, rock and roll, and hip-hop in the 20th century. The author skillfully connects the origins of Yankee Doodle to the social activism of Bob Dylan, offering a nuanced examination of the topic. Interspersed throughout the text are sidebars that include notable quotes and quick facts about various musicians and bands. Each chapter concludes with an "Inquire and Investigate" spread that encourages readers to engage in activities ranging from making their own wooden fife to warbling with wineglasses. The handful of fill-in-the-blank boxes makes this book less than ideal for library circulation. Cartoon illustrations are more decorative than informative; the glossary is extensive. Overall, this is an admirable synopsis of the multicultural history of American music. •Keith Klang, Port Washington Public Library, NY

School Library Journal "This overview is a STEAM advocate's delight. ...an admirable synopsis of the multicultural history of American music." Marla Conn, educational consultant •Music is highly motivating and well written. The activities are thought provoking, engaging and entertaining, allowing students to connect the text to self, the world, and other texts! I love this book! It hits EVERY standard for reading informational text, history, and science. •Cecil Adderley, Ph.D., Chair, Music Education Department, Berklee College of Music •Provides the young reader with a glimpse into the evolution of American music with outlines of historical events that encourage further discovery. Diverse musical styles provide a broad scope of all things American. •Dr. Deborah Check Reeves, Curator of Education and Woodwinds, Associate Professor of Music, National Music Museum, The University of South Dakota •Surveys the blending of cultures and styles that produces a unique American sound. Not only does it explore music as an art, it introduces music as a science. Students and teachers will especially like the "Inquire and Investigate" sections at the end of every chapter. •

This has some good information, but unfortunately, too much of the author's bias is evident.

As a budding musician, I know that I need to have the basic skills to be able to branch out into my own style. I have read many "adult" books about music and I find myself confused, or just plain

bored. The other day I remembered that when I wanted to learn about something, I went to the library and checked out kid's books. I started doing this again. I did not purchase this book, but, in fact, did check it out from the library. I have to say, it has truly been a very long time since I was in school, and I don't remember learning a lot of this stuff. Ms. Latham has taken a subject I am already interested in and made it so easy for me to learn more (or perhaps re-learn) some basics on music. I particularly enjoyed the little side notes, telling the reader to listen to certain songs, or watch certain videos. While I have to admit, I didn't do most of the experiments (they would be great for a kid interested in music though), I did the exercises and I loved it!

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