

Ragtime Music

This activity accompanies chapter 6 from *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* by James Weldon Johnson, record number 1756.

Activity Title: Ragtime Music

Description: The students will research and present information using technology.

Subject: Reading/Language Arts

Skill: Information and Media Literacy

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will select a topic to research, and present their findings while incorporating technology.

Materials:

- *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* chapter 6, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access and/or history books

Procedures:

Read the chapter with the class, or have the students read it on their own. Discuss with the students the meaning of the following quote regarding ragtime music:

“Whatever new thing the people like is pooh-poohed; whatever is popular is spoken of as not worth the while. The fact is, nothing great or enduring, especially in music, has ever sprung full-fledged and unprecedented from the brain of any master...”

Next, have the students work with a partner to research a type of music, art, or dance that was unpopular with the public when it was first revealed, yet has become classic, or has become influential over time. Have the partners use technology to enhance the presentations of their topic and research. Once the students have finished their presentations, have them present to the whole class.

