

# STAR QUEST

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**Grade level:** 7

**Subject area focus:** Language Arts, Technology

## **Brief Summary:**

Students will follow a “star map” of websites to locate information about legendary stars of bluegrass. They will use the information to answer worksheet questions and write paragraphs as directed.

## **Goals and Objectives:**

- Students will use basic computer Internet skills to locate information on websites, gaining knowledge of legendary bluegrass performers.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of writing skill by properly constructing paragraphs in response to writing prompts on worksheet. They will use a graphic organizer to record the facts for the paragraphs.

## **Summary of Lesson:**

- Assign partners
- Hand out “Star Quest” and “Map of the Stars” (attached)
- Allow 45 minutes for students to locate websites, complete the questions and write using a graphic organizer for the paragraphs.
- Bring the students together to discuss the answers they have found.
- Play music from various bluegrass artists as background while students work.

## **Evaluation & Assessment:**

- Teacher will move among students to make sure they are on task.
- Students will answer question during discussion.
- Teacher will collect and check worksheets.

## **Follow-up Activities:**

- Students will view DVD, *Discover Bluegrass* to deepen their knowledge of legendary bluegrass artists.
- Students may find additional information in *Bluegrass Music Profiles Magazine*, available in class.

## **Additional info, including national and/or state requirements or standards addressed:**

Language Arts—Informational, Technical Standards, Writing Process, Conventions & Research Standards

Technology—Technology & Information Literacy

## **Resources Used**

### Audio Resources

CD's of various artists, instrumental & vocal

### DVD Resources

IBMA *Discover Bluegrass* DVD

### Song Resources

Students will listen to "Wildwood Flower" by the Carter Family at [www.geocities.com/vienna/7059/carters](http://www.geocities.com/vienna/7059/carters)

### Internet Resources

See "Map of the Stars" (attached)

### Other Materials

"Star Quest" Worksheet

"Map of the Stars" handout

Graphic organizer

*Bluegrass Music Profiles Magazine* (info: <http://www.bluegrassmusicprofiles.com/>)

## **Lesson Plan Outline: Star Quest**

**Objectives:** Students will use the Internet to gain basic information about legendary bluegrass performers. They will demonstrate their knowledge by filling out "Star Quest" worksheet.

### **Materials Used:**

Computers with Internet access

Worksheet ("Star Quest")

List of websites ("Map of the Stars")

Copies of various graphic organizers

### **Prior Knowledge and Experiences/Curriculum Content:**

Basic knowledge of computer/Internet use

Experience using graphic organizers

### **Procedure:**

1. Assign partners & give each pair a "Map of the Stars" & "Star Quest" worksheet. Play bluegrass music as background.
2. Allow 45-50 minutes for students to locate information online and complete worksheets, using a graphic organizer to help in writing the paragraphs as assigned.
3. Move among students to assure that they stay on task.

4. Bring class together to discuss information found.
5. Collect, assess and record completed worksheets.

**Indicators of success:**

Students will

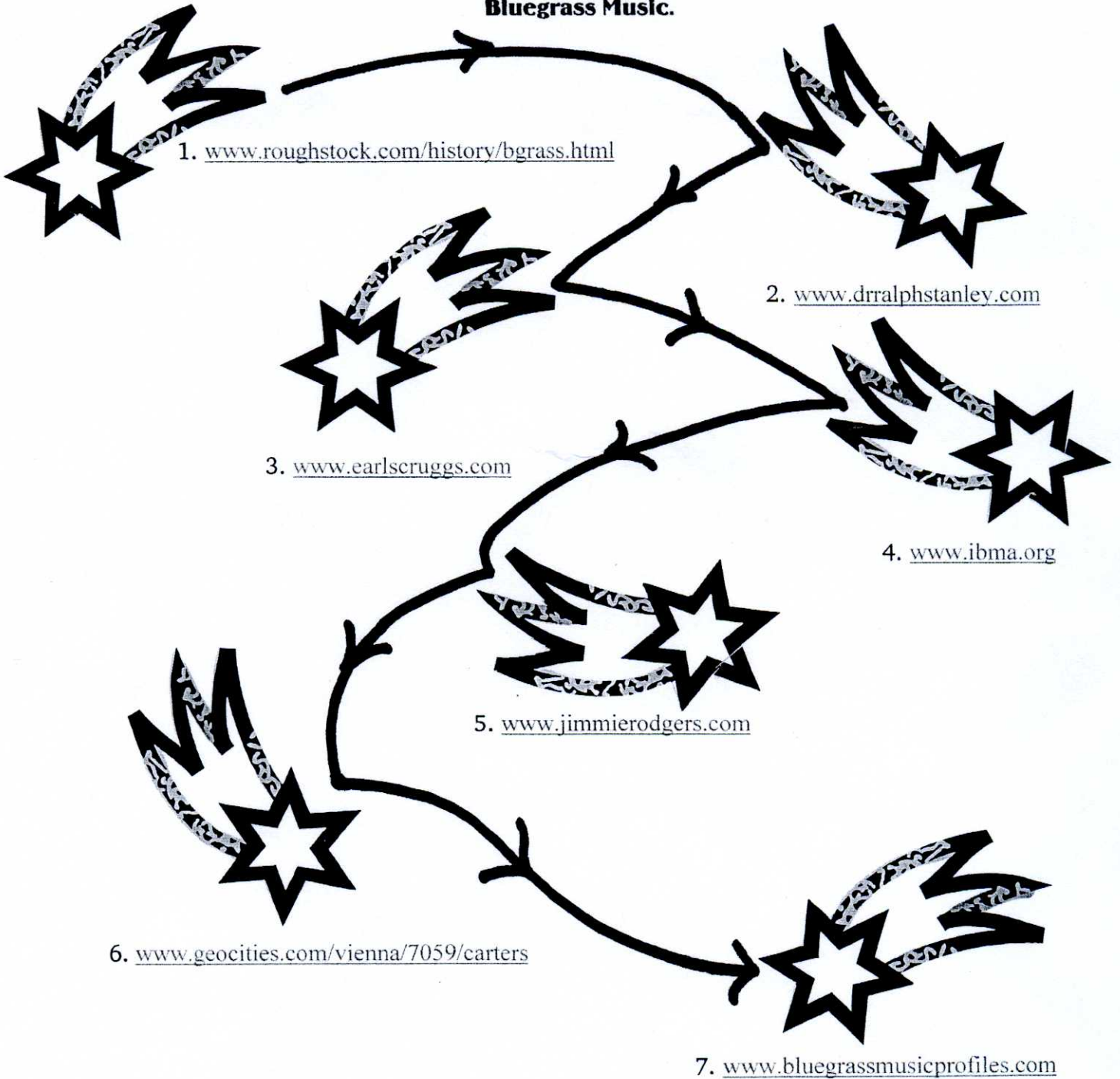
- locate and summarize important information from multiple sources
- organize information
- use correct writing conventions-spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.
- select and evaluate information

**Attachments:**

- #1. "Map of the Stars" handout
- #2. "Star Quest" worksheet
- #3. Key for "Star Quest" workshop

## MAP OF THE STARS

Follow the map below to find out information about the legendary performers of Bluegrass Music.



## STAR QUEST

**Select a partner and follow the Map of the Stars to find the answers to the questions below about some of the legendary performers of bluegrass music.**

1. A) Bill Monroe had to use creativity in overcoming a physical problem in order to play a musical instrument. What was that physical problem?

B) Whose “driving banjo sound” completed the Bill Monroe bluegrass sound?

2. A) What is the name of Dr. Ralph Stanley’s band?

B) What instrument does Ralph Stanley play?

3. A) How old was Earl Scruggs when he began playing the banjo?

B) How old was he when he came up with the three-finger style of playing?

4. A) Using your favorite graphic organizer, write a paragraph about the origins of bluegrass music.

B) What is the location of the childhood home of Bill Monroe, father of bluegrass music?

5. A) When and where was Jimmie Rodgers born?

B) What amazing thing had he accomplished by the time he was 13?

C) Name two of the songs that made him famous.

6. A) The Carter Family help to switch the emphasis in country music from instrumentals to \_\_\_\_\_.

B) Name two of the songs for which the Carter Family is well known.

7. A) What is the name of a magazine where you can learn more about today's bluegrass musicians?

B) What honor did Doyle Lawson receive on September 15, 2006? Where was it awarded?

## KEY FOR MAP OF THE STARS

1. A) Bill Monroe had very poor vision.  
B) Earl Scruggs' "driving banjo sound" completed the classic sound of bluegrass music.
2. A) The Clinch Mountain Boys is the name of Dr. Ralph Stanley's band.  
B) Ralph Stanley plays the banjo.
3. A) Scruggs began playing at the age of four.  
B) He created his three-finger style of playing at the age of 10.
4. A) Answers will vary.  
B) Bill Monroe's childhood home was on Jerusalem Ridge, just outside of Rosine, Kentucky.
5. A) Jimmie Rodgers was born on September 8, 1897, in Meridian, Mississippi.  
B) By the time he was 13, Jimmie had put together two traveling shows.  
C) "T for Texas," "Away Out on the Mountains" and "Mule Skinner Blues" are a few of the songs that made him famous. Answers may vary.
6. A) The Carter Family help to switch the emphasis in country music from instrumentals to vocals.  
B) Answers will vary. ("Wildwood Flower," "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," etc.)
7. A) A magazine that gives information about today's bluegrass musicians is *Bluegrass Music Profiles*. (Answers may vary. Additional magazines include *Bluegrass Unlimited*, *Bluegrass Now*, *International Bluegrass*, *Moonshiner* in Japan, *Bluegrass Europe*, *Banjo Newsletter* and more.)  
B) Doyle Lawson received the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship in Washington, D.C.