

Planning a Bluegrass Festival

Summary

In this activity, students will work in small groups to plan a fictional bluegrass festival from beginning to end, using online resources and local print media.

Objectives

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- explain how bluegrass music gained popularity across the country and around the world
- describe the roles of artists, patrons and music organizations in producing bluegrass music festivals
- use a variety of technological resources to gather, synthesize and communicate knowledge
- work cooperatively in small groups to plan an event

Time

2-4 periods

Background

One of the most important settings for playing bluegrass is a bluegrass festival. A festival is a gathering (usually in a park or country setting) where people listen to many bands over the course of a few days, and also camp out and play music themselves. Bluegrass festivals actually are part of a much older tradition of traveling tent shows and camp meetings (often religiously themed) that were held in the rural South throughout the early 1900s. However, festivals as we know them are more recent. Since they depend on people being able to drive long distances and take long vacations, they became very popular in the mid 1960s, when the nation's interstate highway system (begun in 1956) was nearly complete. Camping out was just getting popular and