# The History of Jazz

## 1700s-1800s



Thousands of men, women and children came from West Africa to work as slaves in cotton fields[1] in America. They had a very hard life. As they worked, the slaves sang spirituals[2]. The words of these songs were from stories in the Bible[3] about hope and freedom.

## 1850-1910



Thousands of Europeans went to the U.S.A. They hoped for a better life. In New Orleans, African-American slaves became free in 1865 and a new kind of music was born – jazz. Jazz was a combination of African and European music. Both the blues and spirituals had an influence[4] on jazz.

## 1920s



African Americans moved to big cities in the north, like Chicago and New York City, looking for a better life. They took their music with them. Young people danced to loud jazz music in clubs. This is sometimes called the "Jazz Age".

## 1930s-1940s



The 1930s were the hard years of the Great Depression[5]. People didn't have any money to go to clubs. They listened to big bands play jazz on the radio. This happy music reminded people of a better time.

## 1960s-1970s



African themes became popular in jazz. African-American musicians began to perform with younger white musicians and created a new musical style. Together, they brought this new style of music to a new audience.

## 1987-Today



In 1987, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution[6] that says jazz is "a rare[7] and valuable national treasure". Today, there are many styles of jazz. There are jazz festivals all over the world, like the Red Sea Jazz Festival in Eilat every summer.

[1]cotton fields שדות כותנה / حقول القطن
[2]spirituals שירים דתיים אפרו-אמריקנים / أناشيد دينية
[3]Bible תנ"ך / الكتاب المقدس
[4]influence השפעה / تأثير
[5]Great Depression השפל הגדול / الكساد الكبير
[6]resolution החלטה / قرار
[7]rare נדיר / نادر



LIVEWORKSHEETS