



Country Music is for Every Age



Country Music, also called country and western music, is a popular type of American music featuring **string instruments**. It grew out of the country (rural) parts of Southern and Western United States around 100 years ago. These **songs tell stories** of long-ago and recent history and daily rural life.

The fiddle (violin) and guitar are the lead instruments over the supporting rhythm of guitar, banjo, mandolin, and string bass. Other instruments added are the harmonica or Appalachian dulcimer. Lyrics (words) are sung by one person or several people in high close harmony.

Family members taught their children how to play from a young age and included them in performances. **Old and newly written Country Music is performed and enjoyed today.**

ACTIVE LISTENING ACTIVITY



Below is a link to a video of **10-year-old Carson Peters** performing “Blue Moon of Kentucky”, written by Bill Monroe, a Country Music leader. The older man who introduces Carson is Ricky Skaggs. He has won many honors for his mandolin-playing and Country Music work. When Skaggs was only 6 years old, Bill Monroe invited him to play mandolin with his Country Music band.

1. Look. Listen. Meet Carson Peters and Ricky Skaggs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Moea6mm7H5c>

(make the video full screen to see the musicians better)

2. Appreciating the Parts and the Greater Whole:

Paying close attention to music allows us to hear the different instruments separately and all together. Alone, each instrument has a unique sound. Together, the instruments make a beautiful noise that they cannot make by themselves. **Each one of us has unique talents and qualities. Together, we can do things that we could never do by ourselves.**



Get ready:

- Print out the instrument strip below (or draw each instrument on a piece of paper).
- Find a marker (coin, paper clip, cheerio).

Listen to “Blue Moon of Kentucky” again:

- Place your marker on the instrument that you hear or see most at the beginning of the video.
- Move your marker each time you can see or hear a different instrument playing (the human voice is also an instrument!).
- The goal is to try to place your marker on each instrument at least once, however, some instruments may not be used.



Country Music is for Every Age





Think about it:

One:

- Which instruments could you hear the most? Which ones the least? Could you hear every instrument? Did the instruments sound good together?
- What else did you notice while the music played? Was it always the same volume? Was it always the same speed or tempo?

Two:

- **How did this music make you feel? Why?** 
- **What did you notice about the musicians? How were they the same? How were they different?** 

Three:

- Do you play an instrument? If so, which one? If not, what instrument would you like to be able to play? Why?
- **What is something you do very well? Is there a project that you'd like to do with the people you live with that you can't do by yourself?** 