

LESSON: Learning About Musical Traditions that are Located Along a Specific Heritage Corridor or Region of Washington State

[using one of NW Heritage Resources cultural heritage tour guides of Washington]

Learning Objectives: Students will demonstrate an understanding of musical traditions that are located along a specific heritage corridor (route or region) of Washington state and the communities they serve.

Lesson Summary: Students use one of NW Heritage Resources cultural heritage tour guides of Washington to help them identify three different musical traditions that can be found along the heritage corridor (route) presented in the tour guide. They also are able to describe aspects of the music, such as instrumentation, solo or group, function, ethnic identity, location, etc.

Lesson Outline

1. Students are given a copy of one of NW Heritage Resources' cultural heritage tour guides for Washington. They are asked to look through the guide book (text pages, maps, CD track listings, and other information), and identify three different musical traditions that appear in the tour guide.
2. After selecting their 3 different musical traditions, students are asked to listen to the CD track for those 3 musical traditions, and review any guide book text or photos that pertain to them.
3. Students are then asked to answer the following questions (either by writing the answer on paper or by answering verbally): 1) Is this music performed by one person or a group of musicians? Can you tell how many if it's a group?; 2) Is this vocal music or instrumental music? Or does it feature both singing and instruments?; 3) If this music is played on instruments can you identify what they are? Or what the instruments are made of?; 4) Is this music played for a specific purpose? For instance: Is it music to dance to? Music performed as a form of worship or for a religious purpose? Performed as a courting or love song? Is it simply performed to entertain others?; 5) Is this music associated with a specific ethnic group that lives in this region or along this heritage corridor?; 6) Where along this heritage corridor would someone hear this music? 7) Are there other things you can tell us about this music? Does it have a fast or slow tempo? Are there parts of the music that are repeated? – such as a chorus for a song or repeated sections of a fiddle tune? Can you hum the melody?