



# CLIBURN IN THE CLASSROOM

## TEXAN LIKE ME!

A musical tour of the Lone Star State



### CLASS ACTIVITY:

#### Fiddlin' Around

Grade Level(s): 4-5

Subject Areas: Music, Social Studies, History, Geography

### OBJECTIVE

Fiddling is an integral part of Texas history and culture. There are as many different styles of fiddle music and dancing as there are people in the state. In this activity, students explore the various styles of Texas fiddling and discover their cultures and regions of origin.

### SPACE AND EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Students will need internet access, as well as a word processor or pencil and paper to write down their findings.

### MUSIC TO EXPLORE

Allow the students to create their own YouTube playlists independently and share with the class.

### ACTIVITY

1. Start by watching this Cliburn Kids Episode, Fun with Fiddles, together as a class: <https://cliburn.org/project/kids-fiddles/>  
Supplemental activities and worksheets are included on the website.
2. Continue with a reading of the included handout to facilitate understanding of the importance of this art form to Texas culture. The class can also explore these websites for additional information:

<https://www.texasfiddle.org/>

<https://texasfolklife.org/article/curriculum-guide-texas-style-fiddle>

<https://fiddlerman.com/forum/country/texas-style-fiddling/>

<https://www.aastateofplay.com/musical-playgrounds-all-about-fiddling/>

3. Assign each student a style of Texas fiddling from the listed suggestions on the next page. Allow class time to research the style, then have students answer the questions below. Have them make a Spotify or YouTube playlist of their findings to share with the class once their research project is complete.

### BONUS

Tessa Lark isn't the only fiddling friend of the Cliburn! Check out this Cliburn Kids Video featuring Austin native Charles Yang:

<https://cliburn.org/project/kids-standbyme/>



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### FIDDLE STYLES

This list is by no means comprehensive but is meant to create a starting point for resources. Encourage students to explore each genre beyond the given websites.

Western Swing: <https://fiddleschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/a-Lesson-22-Notes.pdf>

Jazz: <https://www.allaboutjazz.com/fit-as-a-fiddle-how-the-violin-helped-shape-jazz-part-1-2>

Mariachi: <https://www.fiddlingaround.co.uk/mexico/mexicoframe.html>

Son Huasteco: <http://drdosido.net/fiddleclub/tag/son-huasteco/>

Old Time/Old Texas Fiddle: <https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/reviving-old-style-texas-fiddling/>

Tejano: <https://sugarmaplefest.org/2021/06/preserving-the-tradition-of-conjunto-fiddle/>

Cajun: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cajun\\_fiddle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cajun_fiddle)

Blues: <https://blog.sharmusic.com/blues-fiddle-popular-music-history.html>

Bluegrass: <https://www.fiddlingaround.co.uk/bluegrass/bluegrassframe.html>

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What cultures/countries are represented in Texas fiddling?
2. What time periods or major historical events happened during the development of Texas fiddling?
3. What other instruments did you notice playing with the fiddlers?
4. How do these styles sound similar? How do they sound different? Compare and contrast.