

**Shared reading (Charanga Unit 3) Oh when the saints... famously recorded on May 13, 1938, by Louis Armstrong and his orchestra.**

**Musical style**

New Orleans is one of the most important cities in the history of American music, and is a great example of the wonderful things that can happen when different cultures live, play and learn together.

From as early as 1835, enslaved African people would gather in public squares in New Orleans to play music and dance. Europeans arriving in the city brought Marching Band music and instruments like cornets and clarinets. Cubans brought Afro Cuban rhythms and drums.



Over time, musicians borrowed, adapted and shared the music they heard, and so developed a new kind of music that had various names, including New Orleans Jazz and Dixieland.

**What is the song about?**

The words from this song have their roots in the Bible. The saints are marching into heaven, and the song expresses a desire to join them on that march into heaven.

**Culture and history**

Today, New Orleans is famous for its Jazz Marching Bands: groups of musicians that parade around the streets playing instruments such as trumpets, clarinets, sousaphones and percussion.

Marching Bands developed at the same time as New Orleans Jazz and became extremely popular across America. Today, Jazz Marching Bands play at all sorts of events, including weddings and funerals, and play an important part in the annual Mardi Gras celebrations that New Orleans is famous for.



Questions:

- a. Name the three groups of people whose music eventually developed into New Orleans Jazz.
- b. What is the song, 'Oh when the saints' all about?
- c. Complete: New Orleans is famous for its \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Find out what a sousaphone is. Can you draw one?
- e. Which events do the Jazz marching bands play at?
- f. If you were to learn to play jazz music, which instrument would you choose to learn and why?
- g. *'wonderful things can happen when different cultures live, play and learn together'***

Do you agree with this statement? What do you think it means? Are you able to define 'cultures'?

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# Cultures



**Culture is the beliefs and values  
of people.**

**Different countries have  
different cultures.**

