

# **Music as a historical artifact**

## **Extra credit in Mr. Kyle's U.S. History class**

Music, like all artifacts, can be a window into the past. To earn extra credit you will be analyzing the lyrics of a song, researching the content and describing what you learned about the people, events and era related to the music. As with any assignment or extra credit, the more effort you put forth, the more reward you will receive. Extra credit is assigned based on how thoroughly and thoughtfully you complete the task. ***Limit two songs per semester.***

### **REQUIRED FOR EXTRA CREDIT:**

- A copy of the song lyrics. You can find this on the internet or by simply listening to the song repeatedly and transcribing the words.
- A thorough explanation of the historical references found in the lyrics. Who or what is being described? What is the significance of the events? How do people react/feel about the subject? This may require research on your part to truly understand what the song is about. Your historical summary should be a paragraph in length.
- A thoughtful description of what you learned about the historical time period, people, or events described in the song. What, exactly, did this musical "artifact" help you understand about the past? About history? Do NOT be brief. Explain what you learned in detail.

### **FOR MAXIMUM CREDIT (and greatly appreciated):**

Provide a digital copy of the song, if possible, on a CD or flash drive. I would love to hear it and add it to my collection of historically relevant music!