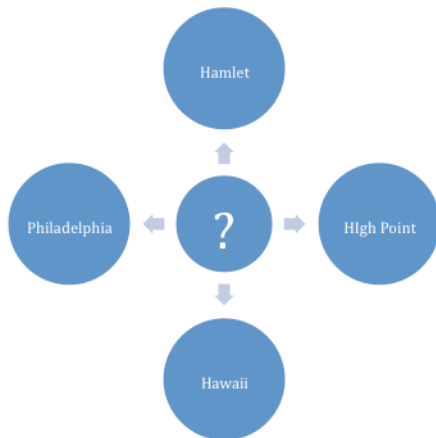


John Coltrane, *Revolutionary jazz musician*

By Maria Gontaruk

STUDY GUIDE

1. Which best describes the significance of the places listed in the graphic organizer below?



- A. where Coltrane went to school
 - B. where Coltrane lived and worked
 - C. where Coltrane studied and composed music
 - D. where Coltrane participated in civil rights events.
2. Which musical form is most associated with John Coltrane?
 - A. blues
 - B. gospel
 - C. jazz
 - D. rap
 3. Which describes “sheets of sound”?
 - A. loud
 - B. rapid
 - C. rhythmic
 - D. shrill
 4. What does “explorations of sound” refer to?
 - A. Coltrane played all of the songs in jazz songbooks.

- B. Coltrane played fewer chords and stopped playing melodies.
 - C. Coltrane's music mimicked the varied sounds heard in nature.
 - D. Coltrane played with many musicians and his band featured many instruments.
5. What happened to Coltrane when he shifted to "free jazz"?
- A. He composed music for and played in trios.
 - B. He played only music that he wrote and published.
 - C. He became a street musician and played without pay.
 - D. He played by himself and did not plan ahead what he would play.
6. What inspired Coltrane to write "Your Lady" and "Alabama"?
- A. The March on Selma
 - B. The Greensboro sit-in
 - C. Bombing of church that killed four young girls
 - D. Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham Jail
7. Who does "revolutionary" refer to, in the title of this profile?
- A. A talent scout
 - B. A change agent
 - C. Someone who fights in a war
 - D. Someone who overthrows the established government
8. What is the best word to complete the analogy?
- conventional: experimental as _____: change
- A. constant
 - B. radical
 - C. same
 - D. true
9. Which does "icon" mean in the context of this profile?
- A. A nobody
 - B. A role model

- C. A religious symbol
- D. A graphic symbol on computer screen

Jazz terms: Listen to and read more about jazz. Add to this list of terms and find examples of music that illustrate what each means:

JAZZ TERMS
1. bop: jazz form, developed in 1940s, with complex rhythms, harmony and instrumentals.
2. hard bop: a jazz form, developed in eastern U.S. in the late 19f0s, 'aggressive, hot style,' less complex than bop.
3. vamp: accompaniment, improvised made up of simple chords.

EVALUATIONS:

Respond to the prompts in one page (or more). If needed, conduct research to obtain additional facts to support your analyses.

1. Search the World Wide Web for music performed by John Coltrane. Try to find examples at each stage of his career, when he played with Miles Davis, his own band and on his own. LISTEN to what you find.

- A. Do you hear "sheets of sound"?
- B. Do you hear bass and piano in his band?
- C. Do you find improvisations?

Do you enjoy any or all of his sounds? Which do you prefer? Why?

- 2. How would Coltrane introduce himself if you met him today? Create a tagline that he might use when he met you.

NEWS CONNECTIONS:

1. Find a modern-day musician featured in your newspaper. What style and/or type of music does he or she play and/or his or her group play?
2. In the news, do you find individuals who experiment, take chances and devote themselves to their work? Explain.
3. While alive, Coltrane was inducted into the Down Beat Jazz Hall of Fame, but he received many more awards and additional recognition after his death. What motivated him to continue working hard, in your opinion?

Write a headline for a story that might have appeared when he received one of the awards.

4. Coltrane played eight benefit concerts to support the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. Find stories in the news about leaders in arts and entertainment who support specific causes. Identify other leaders who use their influence to call attention to issues.

Written by Sandra Cook and Cynthia McFadden

Provided by the N.C. Press Foundation