

PROJECT

Listen!

Music of the Civil Rights Era arose from several different styles of music, most notably gospel, folk, blues, and jazz. What did these different styles offer? How did they combine to form music that was completely new?

🕒 **Listen to the following music samples on YouTube.** As you listen to each song, jot down some notes on your reactions. Use the following questions to guide your thinking.

- Do you like the song? Why or why not?
- How does the song make you feel—happy, sad, encouraged, or something else?
- What can you learn about these songs by listening closely to the lyrics?
- Do any of the songs make you want to get up and dance?
- Is it a song you have heard before?
- Is there one genre (or style) of music that you would like to hear more of? Why or why not?
- Do you have a favorite song among these four selections?

Mahalia Jackson (1911–1972) was a famous gospel singer. Here she sings “Move on Up a Little Higher.”



🔍 Jackson move on up

In the 1960s, the trio of Peter, Paul, and Mary was one of the biggest acts in folk music. Here they sing “If I Had a Hammer.”



🔍 Peter, Paul, Mary hammer

B.B. King (1925–2015) was one of the greatest blues musicians of all time. Here he performs “Why I Sing the Blues.”



🔍 BB King blues

Ella Fitzgerald (1917–1996) was one of the greatest jazz singers of all time. Here she sings “Cry Me a River.”



🔍 Fitzgerald cry me river

TEXT TO
WORLD

What songs do you listen to today that reflect the culture you live in?