



# **Fifth Grade Social Studies**

**5th Grade Social Studies  
Activity 4**

\*There will be a short video lesson of a Knox County teacher to accompany this task available on the KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.

**Topic:** Tennessee's Music Industry & Three Grand Divisions

**Standards:**

5.51 Discuss the development of the music industry in Tennessee.

5.53 Compare and contrast the three grand divisions of Tennessee.

**Goals:** To discuss the role that Tennessee played in the development of major music industries and compare and contrast the three grand divisions of Tennessee.

**Task for Students to Complete:**

- Watch the video that accompanies this lesson.
- Read the text that goes along with this lesson.
- Use the information you learned to complete the Star Event - 5Ws sheet attached.
- Use the information you learned to complete the Triple Venn Diagram to compare the Three Grand Divisions of Tennessee.
- Pretend you are a teacher coming up with a quiz for students to answer. Write five multiple choice questions about the content you learned about. Give the questions to someone you know to see if they can answer them correctly.

**Text to Read:**

Excerpts from Gallopade chapters 33 and 35 attached or pull up online at <https://gallopadelogin.weblms.io/#/login>

**Additional Links for More Information:**

Watch the BrainPOP video about Elvis Presley and explore the games and activities that are connected to the video.

<https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/famoushistoricalfigures/elvispresley/>

## I've Got the Blues!

The music in West Tennessee had a different sound. It came from the mournful songs sung by slaves on plantations. This musical form became known as the **blues**. Famous blues performers made an enormous impact on American music that eventually was heard around the world!

### W.C. Handy

**W.C. Handy** was called the “Father of the Blues.” He wrote and composed the first commercially successful blues song, “Memphis Blues,” and before there was anything called a “hit record,” he sold more than one million copies of his “The St. Louis Blues.” In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Handy helped to create an entire industry based on the music called the blues! In 2017, he was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame.



Postage stamp featuring  
W.C. Handy



Bessie Smith

### Bessie Smith

**Bessie Smith** was a blues music star in the 1920s and 1930s. Called the “Empress of the Blues,” she sang about liberated women. She had a unique voice, and her style even had an element that we might recognize in rap music today! She was the highest-paid black performer of her day. Born in Chattanooga, she went on to win a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and in 1989 was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. There is an annual “Bessie Smith Strut” in Chattanooga!



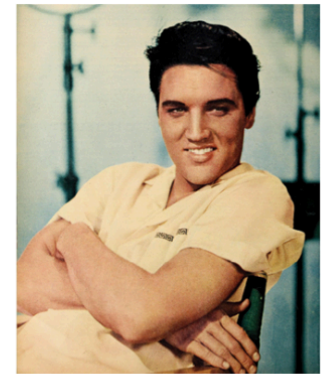
B. B. King

### B.B. King

**B.B. King** was a fixture on Beale Street in Memphis for many years. In 1947 he hitchhiked to Memphis to pursue his music career. His unique sound on the guitar, as well as his distinctive voice, brought him fame and fans around the world. B.B. liked to say, “Education is something no one can take away from you.” He was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, among many other honors.

## I've Got Rock 'n' Roll!

In the 1950s, new singers were making records in Memphis. One of them was a young truck driver from Mississippi. He combined country and western music with rhythm and blues and called it “rock ‘n’ roll.” And the rest is history—**Elvis Presley** became one of the most popular singers around the nation and the world! He sang gospel music, hip-shaking tunes like “I Ain’t Nothin’ but a Hound Dog,” and acted in movies. When he served in the U.S. Army, he was probably the most famous soldier ever!



Elvis Presley

## The Business of Music

Music became big business in Tennessee, and brought economic benefits to the state:

- ➔ **Stax Records**, originally based in Memphis, was a record company famous for producing Southern and Memphis soul music. Stax Records employed both black and white staff and musical talent, which was unheard of in the South during the 1950s and 1960s.
- ➔ **Sun Studio**, founded in Memphis in 1952, is said to be the birthplace of rock ‘n’ roll. This recording studio recorded songs by many famous and talented musicians and singers, including Elvis Presley.



Today, Memphis, Nashville, and all of Tennessee continue to make an important impact on the American music industry. We might say, “Alexa, play Elvis!” but what we hear is an example of the unique music that started in the state of Tennessee.



# Three Grand Divisions

## East Tennessee

East Tennessee is geographically dominated by the Appalachian Mountain chain. This includes:

- The **Great Smoky Mountains** on the eastern border of the state. These tall mountains include the state's highest point, Clingman's Dome.
- The **Great Valley** region is where most of East Tennessee's main cities (Knoxville, Chattanooga, and the Tri-Cities) are located. The geography here is deep valleys divided by wooded ridges.
- The **Cumberland Plateau**, on the west side of this Grand Division, has flat-topped mountains and sharp valleys.



Dairy cows

East Tennessee is well-known for its dairy farms.

## Middle Tennessee

Middle Tennessee's boundary with East Tennessee is along the Cumberland Plateau. Middle Tennessee is where the state capital of Nashville is located. This is a land of rolling hills and valley streams. **The Highland Rim** includes hills, ridges, and valleys. The **Nashville Basin** is lower in elevation than the Highland Rim and has rich, fertile farmland.



Tobacco

Tobacco is an important product in Middle Tennessee.

## West Tennessee

West Tennessee is located between the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. It is the lowest of the three Grand Divisions. Part of the **Gulf Coastal Plains**, the land here is relatively flat and fertile, making it valuable farmland. While cotton was grown here in the past, crops like soybeans are more common today. The main city here is Memphis.



Soybeans

Soybeans are an important crop in West Tennessee.

The state of Tennessee is officially divided into three Grand Divisions—East, Middle, and West. Each of these areas is roughly one-third of the state's land area. The three white stars on Tennessee's flag proudly represents these geographic, cultural, legal, and economically distinct regions.

To give each division a fair share of power, no more than two of the five justices on the state Supreme Court can be from any one division. Additional laws give each Grand Division equal representation.



Three Grand Divisions of Tennessee

## Dividing Lines

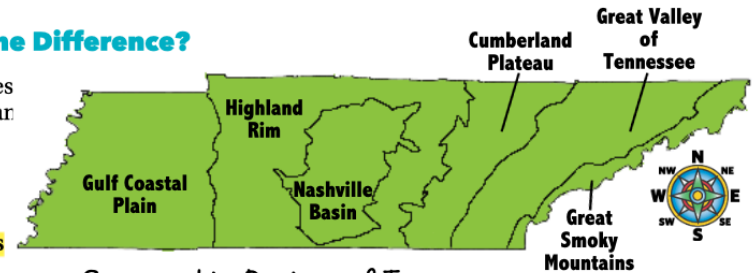
The boundary between East Tennessee and Middle Tennessee is on the Cumberland Plateau. This was a major obstacle to travel and commerce during Tennessee's early history.

The part of the Tennessee River that flows through the state is the boundary between Middle Tennessee and West Tennessee.

Most of East Tennessee is in Eastern Time Zone. Middle and West Tennessee are entirely in the Central Time Zone.

## What Makes the Difference?

Some of the features that make each Grand Division distinct are geographic or cultural. There are **six distinct geographic regions** within Tennessee's three Grand Divisions.



Geographic Regions of Tennessee

# STAR EVENT – 5W's

## THIS PERSON IS A STAR!

Choose a person connected to Tennessee's music industry.  
(You can choose anyone related to our state, whether they were featured in this chapter or not.)

Use the graphic organizer to describe important facts about this person.  
Be sure to explain why they are significant to Tennessee.

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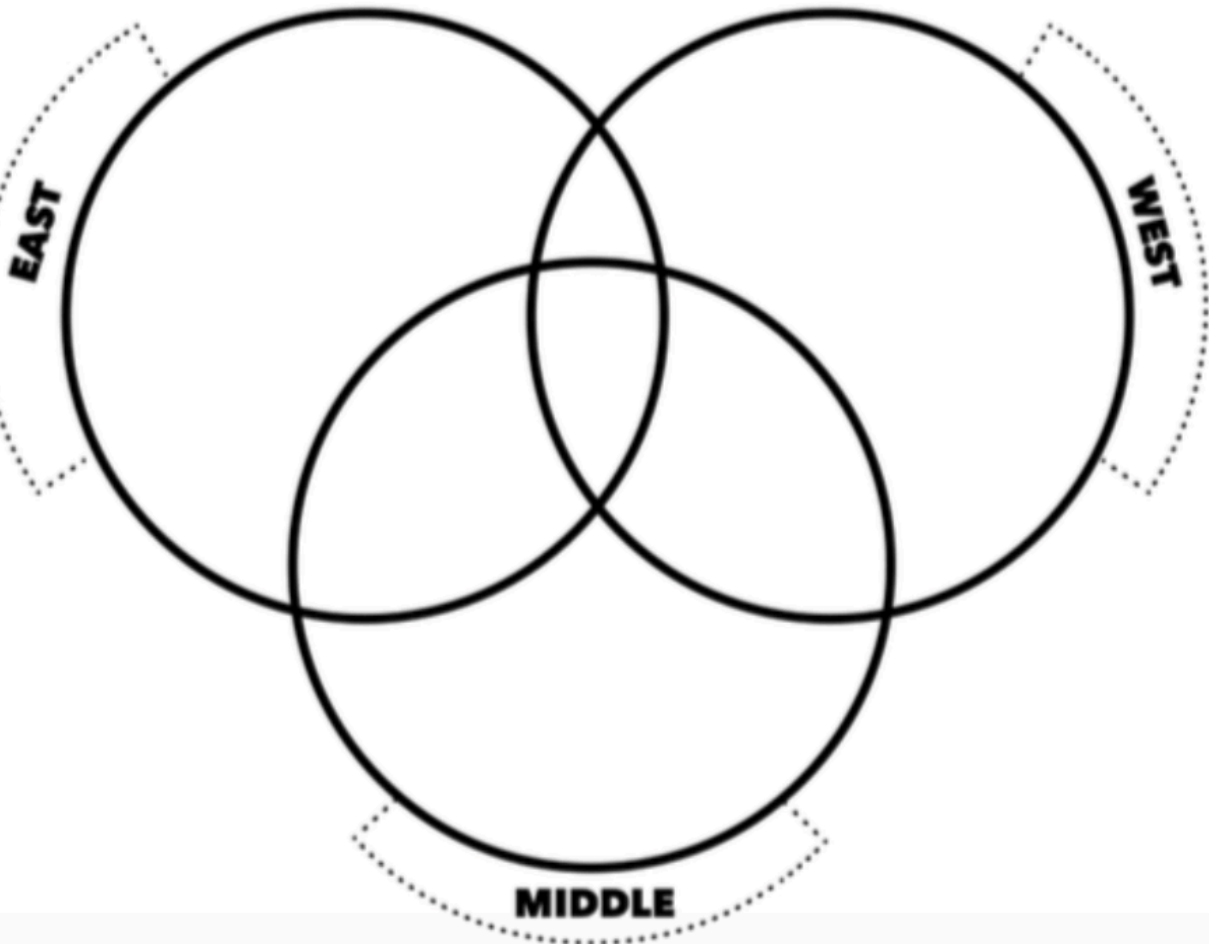
# COMPARE AND CONTRAST

## THREE GRAND DIVISIONS OF TENNESSEE: WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE?

Complete the Venn diagram based on the information you learned in this chapter about each of the three Grand Divisions of Tennessee. Possible items to include are:

- Types of geographic features.
- Types of industry.
- Historic or other sites.

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# My Review Quiz

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: Tennessee

**Directions:** You get to be the teacher and come up with a quiz for others to review important information about Tennessee's Music Industry or the Three Grand Divisions. Write five multiple choice questions about the content you learned. Write four answer options underneath each question, making sure only one answer is correct. Give the questions to someone you know to see if they can answer them correctly.

## Question #1

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- A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #2

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- A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #3

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- A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #4

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- A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #5

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- A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_