

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Louis Armstrong

### Before reading

#### 1 Guess

How much do you know about Louis Armstrong? Choose a word to complete these sentences. If you don't know the answer, guess.

- Louis Armstrong was ...  
 American  Australian  South African
- He grew up in a ... family.  
 rich  poor  happy
- He was ...  
 a footballer  a musician  a politician

### While reading

#### 2 Comprehension

Read up to the section break on page 27. Find words in the story to complete these sentences.

- Until he was five, Louis lived with his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Louis joined a street gang and he took \_\_\_\_\_ for older gang members.
- Louis and four other boys sang for money on \_\_\_\_\_.
- Louis was very \_\_\_\_\_ when he became leader of the band at the Home for Colored Waifs.
- Louis's first wife Daisy \_\_\_\_\_ after only a few years of marriage.
- In New York City, Louis developed his famous singing style where he made \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_, with his voice.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Al Capone loved listening to Louis Armstrong.

#### 3 Comprehension

Read to the end of the story. Choose the correct word to complete these sentences.

- Many / Only a few* people lost their jobs in the Wall Street Crash.
- Louis Armstrong had to leave Los Angeles because he got into trouble with *the police / gangsters*.
- Louis was the first African-American to play on national *radio / television* in the United States.
- In 1957, Louis refused to go on a tour to Russia because of political events in *Russia / the United States*.
- 1964 was a *successful / an unsuccessful* year for Louis.
- Louis *enjoyed / hated* the experience of working as an American culture ambassador.

### After reading

#### 4 Comprehension and writing

Answer these questions in sentences.

- What kind of life did Louis have when he was a young boy in New Orleans?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Lots of different people helped Louis to become a musician in New Orleans. Name at least three.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- What sad thing happened in Louis's life in 1922?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Why was Lil Hardin good for Louis's development as a musician?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Why did Louis change his agent in 1935?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Louis was very busy between 1947 and 1956. What was he doing?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5 Language

Complete these sentences. Use the verbs in brackets in the past simple or the past continuous.

- Louis (to live) \_\_\_\_\_ on the streets when Mr Karnofsky (to offer) \_\_\_\_\_ him a bed for the night.
- Louis (to celebrate) \_\_\_\_\_ New Year's Eve when he (to fire) \_\_\_\_\_ a gun into the air.
- Louis (to practise) \_\_\_\_\_ the cornet when Professor Davis (to come) \_\_\_\_\_ into the room and (to ask) \_\_\_\_\_ him to be leader of the band.
- King Oliver (to invite) \_\_\_\_\_ Louis to join his Creole Jazz Band at just the moment when Louis (to wonder) \_\_\_\_\_ where to take his career.
- Louis (to play) \_\_\_\_\_ at the Sunset Café when the gangster Al Capone (to sit down) \_\_\_\_\_ at a table.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

*Louis Armstrong*

- 6 Louis (to move) \_\_\_\_\_  
to Los Angeles where the sun (to always shine)  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Louis's lips suddenly (to become)  
\_\_\_\_\_ too sore to play  
while he (to play) \_\_\_\_\_ a  
concert tour in Europe.
- 8 Nine African-American students (to try)  
\_\_\_\_\_ to enter Little Rock  
Central High School in 1947 when a group of white  
students (to stop) \_\_\_\_\_ them.

### 6 Vocabulary

Find meanings for these words at  
[www.collinsdictionary.com/cobuild](http://www.collinsdictionary.com/cobuild). Use each word in a  
sentence that makes the word's meaning clear.

- 1 tough \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 to practise \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 audience \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 disaster \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 to spread \_\_\_\_\_

### 7 Writing

- 1 Imagine Louis grows up in the car-making city of  
Detroit and not the music city of New Orleans. How is  
his life different, do you think?
- 2 In the 1920s, Louis was very popular with rich, white  
New Yorkers. Why do you think this is?
- 3 In the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, America tried  
to increase its power in the world by taking its culture  
to other countries. The US government spent a lot  
of money on tours for American art and artists, and  
performers like Louis Armstrong. Do you think the US  
government was right to spend money in that way?

### 8 Research

You are arranging a concert to celebrate a big anniversary  
– 75 years since the United Nations was established in  
1945. You can invite any performers you like. Who will you  
choose? What will they sing or play? Why?  
You can use the Internet and the 'Further Research'  
document to learn about performers who might be right for  
your concert.

## ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

*Louis Armstrong*

### 1 Guess

- 1 American
- 2 poor
- 3 a musician

### 2 Comprehension

- 1 sister, grandmother
- 2 messages
- 3 street corners
- 4 proud
- 5 died
- 6 sounds, words
- 7 gangster

### 3 Comprehension

- 1 Many
- 2 the police
- 3 radio
- 4 the United States
- 5 a successful
- 6 enjoyed

### 4 Comprehension and writing

*Answers will vary.* Suggested answers:

- 1 It was a tough life, with no money and street gangs.
- 2 Mr Karnofsky, musicians in the clubs, Professor Davis at the Home for Colored Waifs, the New Orleans brass bands and the musicians on the Mississippi riverboats.
- 3 His wife Daisy died.
- 4 She introduced him to classical music and gospel music.
- 5 Because with Johnny Collins, he had had trouble with gangsters in Los Angeles and his tour of Europe was a financial disaster.
- 6 He was appearing in films and making recordings.

### 5 Language

- 1 was living, offered
- 2 was celebrating, fired
- 3 was practising, came, asked
- 4 invited, was wondering
- 5 was playing, sat down
- 6 moved, was always shining
- 7 became, was playing
- 8 were trying, stopped

### 6 Vocabulary

*Answers will vary.*

### 7 Writing

*Answers will vary.*

### 8 Research

*Answers will vary.*