

Jazz is a uniquely American music genre that began in New Orleans and soon spread to cities like St. Louis and Kansas City. It is known for improvisation -where musicians make up their solos – right on the spot! There are many styles of jazz, including early, swing, bebop, fusion, Latin, and free jazz.



Charlie Parker was born and raised in Kansas City, MO, and grew up to be a famous saxophonist. He was known for playing long, exciting solos, and had a big influence on the development of the bebop style of jazz. His nickname was “Bird” because he loved to eat chicken! Find Kansas City on the Missouri map and draw a star around it for Charlie Parker, a jazz star!

Saxophone

A saxophone is usually made of brass, a bright, gold-colored metal. It’s played by blowing into it through a reed mouthpiece. While you color the saxophone, listen for its bright, distinctive sound in a performance by Charlie Parker and his band!

