Jazz Funeral: A Visual Sequence

NEW ORLEANS CULTURAL STUDIO | LESSON 71 | GRADES 6–8 | CULTURE & SOURCES

Context before technique

Some New Orleans funerary traditions include musical processions grounded in Black mutual-aid and neighborhood history.

Whose story is being told?

Teach this lesson through identified New Orleans institutions and, where possible, community-authored testimony. Name the people, places, and historical context in your examples. Explain what remains unknown or contested.

Responsible artistic engagement

Do not stage a mock funeral or imitate families' mourning; include opt-out for bereaved students.

Visual permissions

Do not download photographs or artwork from source websites for public display unless permission or a valid license is confirmed. A live research link is not a license. The included lesson illustration is original conceptual artwork and not historical evidence.

Starter research sources

New Orleans: Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs

https://www.neworleans.com/things-to-do/music/history-and-traditions/social-aid-and-pleasure-clubs/

HNOC: Social Aid and Pleasure Club Narratives

https://hnoc.org/club-narratives

Louisiana Visual Arts Benchmarks

Louisiana Department of Education arts standards (official PDF)

Discussion prompts

- Who created or maintains this tradition, space, or object?
- What do outsiders often overlook?
- Which images would require permission, and whose voices are missing?

Teaching note

These starter sources support inquiry, not a complete ethnography. Prioritize up-to-date local perspectives and appropriately compensated cultural partnerships when possible.