

Emergency Lesson Plans

Eighth Grade 2026-2027

Choose 2 of the reflection questions below. Using your notes and your recollection of class discussions, answer the question with a well organized reflective paragraph, giving detailed reasons for your answers. Your answers are due the first day we are back in school and NO LATER than the third day – otherwise you will be counted absent and receive a grade of 0 on a formative level assignment.

1. Describe the opera of ancient China. What did you like about it and what did you not like about it?
2. How are the musical instruments in China categorized and how does this differ from the way it is done in our culture today? Which system do you think is better?
3. Other than opera, what two musical genres did we see in China that were distinctive? Describe them and discuss what you like/dislike about each one.
4. Which country has instruments that are basically copies of some of the instruments of China? Name two examples and discuss why you think they are so similar to China?
5. What is Kabuki Drama? What makes it unique and how long does it take for an actor to qualify for a role in a play? Why are there no female actors in this style of drama? Where are the musicians located in Kabuki and why?
6. What are the distinctive musical styles we studied in India? Which musical traditions did you like and which did you not like? Tell me why you like/dislike them.
7. Describe snake charming and the role that music plays in that art form. What is it that “charms” the snake? How long do they keep the snakes? Would you ever try snake charming and why/why not?
8. Describe ancient Greece and its importance for our society today. Name 5 things that our society got from this culture.

9. Why is Alexander the Great important to us today? How did he assimilate conquered peoples into his empire and also make them Greek at the same time?
10. What happened to Europe when the Roman empire fell? How did the fall of Rome impact the lives of everyday people in Europe? Give examples of the changes that occurred.
11. Describe the music of the Church during the Middle ages and comment on how it changed during the period. Why was Pope Gregory I important to music history?
12. What did the Black Death and the Crusades do to change European society prior to 1400? What aspects of the way people lived during this period made them so susceptible to the spread of the Black Death?