**Gloria Gaynor: The Power of Resilience Through Music**

**Grade Level: 6-8**

**Time:** ~20 minutes  
**Objective:** Analyze how music can inspire people and reflect real-life challenges.

**NJSLS Alignment:**

* **English Language Arts:** RL.6-8.2 (Determine central ideas and themes in a text)
* **Social Studies:** 6.1.8.D.14 (Examine how culture shapes identity)

**Instructions for Students**

**Step 1: Gloria Gaynor’s Impact (5 min)**

Gloria Gaynor became famous in the **1970s disco era**, but her music has stayed popular for decades. “I Will Survive” became an anthem for people facing **difficult times**, encouraging them to be **strong and confident**.

📌 **Key Fact:**  
Gaynor’s song was adopted by many communities, including those fighting for **equal rights** and **self-empowerment**.

✏️ **Quick Question:**  
What makes a song’s message **powerful**? Write 3-4 sentences.

**Step 2: Music & Meaning Challenge (10 min)**

📖 **Your Challenge:**

* Choose a song (it can be “I Will Survive” or another song that inspires you).
* Write a **short paragraph** explaining its message and how it connects to real life.

💡 **Think About:**

* What emotions does the song bring out?
* How does music give people strength?

**Step 3: Be Inspired! (5 min)**

Gloria Gaynor once said:

"I will survive; as long as I know how to love, I know I will stay alive." – Gloria Gaynor

✏️ **Write long about:**  
How do **you** show resilience when facing challenges?

📢 **Want to learn about inspiring figures from New Jersey? Visit the New Jersey Hall of Fame at American Dream!**