

# 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!**

---