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

**Grade Level: 9-12**

**Time:** ~20 minutes  
**Objective:** Explore the impact of music on culture, identity, and resilience.

**NJSLS Alignment:**

* **English Language Arts:** RL.9-12.2 (Analyze themes in texts and media)
* **Social Studies:** 6.1.12.D.14 (Evaluate cultural contributions to society)

**Instructions for Students**

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

Gloria Gaynor’s hit **“I Will Survive”** became an anthem for personal strength, independence, and resilience. Over time, it has been embraced by people facing personal struggles, social injustices, and global challenges.

📌 **Key Fact:**  
The song became a **symbol of empowerment** in the **women’s movement, LGBTQ+ rights, and beyond**.

✏️ **Quick Question:**  
What makes a song last for generations? Write 4-5 sentences.

**Step 2: Music as a Cultural Force (10 min)**

📖 **Your Challenge:**

* Research a song that had a **major cultural or historical impact** (it can be “I Will Survive” or another song).
* Write a **1-page analysis** discussing its themes, impact, and why it remains important today.

💡 **Think About:**

* How does the song reflect the time it was created?
* How has it been used in different movements or historical events?

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

Gloria Gaynor once said:

*“We all know that self-esteem comes from what you think of you, not what other people think of you."*

✏️ **Write long about:**  
How does **music shape identity and culture**?

📢 **Explore the impact of great musicians at the New Jersey Hall of Fame at American Dream!**