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."

How does music shape identity and culture?

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