

MUSIC LITE BITE ACTIVITY

'The World in a Song'

Resources you will need / preparation: Something to play CDs on. Ask young people to bring in a song and / or lyrics that mean something to them. Also bring a song that deals with a global issue (examples below).

Time it will take: 30 – 90 minutes depending on length of discussion

Group size and age: Any age, any group size

Purpose:

To explore power of music in identity and sense of belonging

To explore global influences in music

Role of music in personal expression and in changing the world

How it works:

- Listen to each individual's choice of songs – share why the songs have meaning for them.
- Discuss issues of language – what ideology is being represented? What are the global influences on popular music?
- Play a song that deals with a global issue for example Green Day's 'American Idiot' – about post 9-11 paranoia and propaganda in the US, Kanye West's 'Diamonds from Sierra Leone' with remix by Jay-Z, or 'Where is the Love? By the Black Eyed Peas
- What does the group think about the lyrics - do they agree or disagree? Do they think lyrics can change opinions and also behaviour?

Adaptations:

Depending on the age / make up of the group you will have to consider what lyrics / language are appropriate

To extend the activity – look at origins of music (for example rap music, R&B and links with trans-Atlantic slave trade)

What next:

Young people could generate their own alternative lyrics – to express issues that have meaning for them

They could also generate music – depending on what facilities are available

Useful Information

- There is a full section on 'Musical Youth: Global Youth Work and the World of Music' by James Edleston in 'Global Youth Work: Taking it Personally' ([see Support and Resources Section](#))
- Where to get song lyrics – www.lyricsmania.com
- Eco-portable music devices –
www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/toxins/electronics/how-the-companies-line-up
Campaign to challenge iPods 'built-in throw away design' - the high cost and difficulty of replacing batteries www.greenmyapple.org. Baylis
Eco Media Player – wind up device to re-charge batteries
- Fair trade in music www.tuneyourworld.com
- Protest music – '21 World Music Rebels', Songlines, issue 45 www.songlines.co.uk

