

Directions: Please do one activity per day as assigned. Please record it on an activity log attached and write a detailed reflection of what you saw or listened to using complete sentences and correct grammar. Remember you are in middle school one-word reflections are not going to be accepted. Put some thought into your work, it is your grade. The activity log is editable so you can reflect however much you would like.

DAY OF THE WEEK	ASSIGNMENT
MONDAY	Anchor Standard 7 Perceive and analyze artistic work. Anchor Standard 8 Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We are the World” Assignment attached • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AjkUyX0rVw • Fill out the worksheet provided
TUESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the video about the Haiti rendition of “We are the World” • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Glny4jSciVI • Compare the similarities and differences in your reflection from the 1985 version to the Haiti version.
WEDNESDAY	<p><i>Quote of the week: Music can wash from your soul, the dust of everyday life.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal and/or research the “Quote of the week.” • What does this quote mean to you? • How is it reflective in our society today?
THURSDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Teams Meeting at 2:30 on Thursday.....
FRIDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the Cup Game from the movie Pitch Perfect • You can play this game alone or with someone in your house • Write a reflection on how easy or difficult it was to learn this. • Send me a video if you have the capability • It may take more practice than just 3 minutes. • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Grb1oa72kmk • If you find a better link please post it on the Teams Page

We Are the World:

(Read “the stars who sang the solo’s” before watching the video)

- **This song was originally released in 1985.** This was a benefit single for victims of famine in Africa. It raised over \$60 Million, which was distributed to Ethiopia, Sudan, and other impoverished countries.
- **Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie wrote this song, and Quincy Jones produced it.** This talented trio was perfect for the job: Quincy Jones was the hottest producer around, and his Rolodex (what would now be a contact list) was filled with the biggest names in music; Richie had written songs that went to #1 on the Hot 100 each of the previous seven years (“We Are The World” made it eight); Michael Jackson had the biggest album of 1984 with Thriller (produced by Jones) and was the biggest star in the world.
- **The USA For Africa project began as an idea calypso singer Harry Belafonte had for a benefit concert.** In late December 1984, looking for artists to participate, Belafonte called Lionel Richie’s manager. He convinced Belafonte that they could raise more money and make a bigger impact with an original song; Belafonte agreed and Richie came on board to help. They asked Quincy Jones to produce, and Jones enlisted Michael Jackson. Richie got Stevie Wonder involved, and from there, word got out and many members of the music industry signed on to help. The project from conception to recording took about a month.
- **This song project was recorded at A&M Studios in Los Angeles on January 28, 1985, the night of the American Music Awards.** Since the artists were all in town for the awards, it was much easier to get them together to record the single.
- **The stars who sang solos were, in order, Lionel Richie, Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon, Kenny Rogers, James Ingram, Billy Joel, Tina Turner, Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Dionne Warwick, Willie Nelson, Al Jarreau, Bruce Springsteen, Kenny Loggins, Steve Perry, Daryl Hall, Michael Jackson (again), Huey Lewis, Cyndi Lauper, and Kim Carnes.** Bob Dylan and Ray Charles were also featured on the song and given close-ups in the video.
Harry Belafonte, who had the original idea for the project, was in the chorus but didn't get a solo, joining Bette Midler, Smokey Robinson, The Pointer Sisters, LaToya Jackson, Bob Geldof, Sheila E., and Waylon Jennings as backing singers.
- **Prince was asked to join the project, but he declined on the grounds that he does not record with other acts.** Instead, he donated an exclusive track called “4 The Tears In Your Eyes” to the follow-up benefit album, which was also called We Are The World.

- Before the session began, Jones decided where everyone would stand. He put tape on the floor with each singer's name on it.
- Richie came up with the "We are the world, we are the children" line, and Jackson wrote most of the other lyrics, which are about how helping those in need benefits the giver ("We're saving our own lives").
- This won Grammy Awards for Song of the Year and Record of the Year.
- The single exceeded expectations in terms of sales. The single went to #1 in the US on April 13, where it stayed for four weeks. In the UK, it hit the top spot on April 20 and stayed for two weeks. The song was also a #1 R&B hit, topping that chart on May 4 and staying for two weeks.
- The recording session for the vocals (Quincy Jones recorded the instrumental tracks beforehand) took about 12 hours, which is very efficient considering the scope of the project. Since the recording took place after the American Music Awards, it served as a de facto after party, with the artists mingling and in some cases exchanging autographs. By 8 a.m. the next morning, all of the performers had left except for Lionel Richie, who was still there with Jones.
- Billy Joel (from *Rolling Stone* magazine, December 15, 2005): "Most of us who were there didn't like the song, but nobody would say so. I think Cyndi Lauper leaned over to me and said, 'It sounds like a Pepsi commercial.' And I didn't disagree."
- Springsteen helped quell tensions in the studio, as the rockers weren't happy with the song and concerned about their credibility. Springsteen refused to take sides, and led by example with his wholehearted participation.
- Taping was stopped when musicians complained about Cyndi Lauper making an "annoying noise" - her bracelets were rattling next to the microphone as she was singing.
- Dan Aykroyd was in the chorus. He was a singer in the semi-fictional band The Blues Brothers, but was invited to represent the movie industry.
- John Oates said of his memories of recording this song: "It was really interesting and unique. Who knows, it may never happen again in history. You have some of the world's greatest singers in one room. We ran the song down once. The next thing you knew they ran the tape back and it was goosebump time. It was an amazing experience."
- On January 12, 2010, Haiti was struck by an earthquake, which devastated the country and resulted in a death toll of approximately 200,000. [A new version of the song](#) was recorded on February 1, 2010 to raise funds for the stricken Haitians.

Name _____

We Are the World

- 1. What year was the original “We Are The World” released?**
- 2. What did it raise money for?**
- 3. What two artists wrote the song?**
- 4. How were all the stars able to “conveniently” get together to record it?**
- 5. Why did Prince refuse to participate?**
- 6. What two awards did the song win the year it came out?**
- 7. How long did it take to make a final recording of the song?**
- 8. What was the “annoying noise” that caused taping to stop for a bit?**
- 9. What year was a new version of the song recorded?**
- 10. What did the new version help to make money for?**

