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# louis armstrong



Photo: Institute of Jazz Studies

## IMPORTANT FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT LOUIS “SATCHMO” ARMSTRONG

<b>Born:</b>	August 4, 1901, New Orleans, Louisiana
<b>Died:</b>	August 27, 1971, Chicago, Illinois
<b>Period/Style of Jazz:</b>	New Orleans Jazz
<b>Instrument:</b>	Cornet, trumpet, and vocalist
<b>Major Compositions:</b>	<i>West End Blues</i> , <i>Struttin' With Some Barbeque</i>
<b>Interesting Facts:</b>	Louis Armstrong's technical abilities on the trumpet set the standard for all trumpet players that followed. He was the first true jazz improviser. Armstrong was also known for his deep, gravelly voice.
<b>Suggested Listening:</b>	<i>West End Blues</i> , <i>What a Wonderful World</i>

## ■ The Story of Louis Armstrong (1901–1971)

Louis Armstrong was born in the Storyville district of New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 4, 1901. Storyville was a lively part of town filled with dance halls, cabarets and gambling establishments called sporting houses. Louis grew up hearing blues, ragtime, and the new hot music called jazz being played in these venues by musicians such as his idol, trumpeter Joe “King” Oliver.

In his early teens, Louis was sent to a reform school for boys after shooting a gun in public. There he joined the band and learned to play the cornet. When he was released about two years later, he started playing professionally, first with King Oliver, then replacing Oliver in a popular jazz band led by trombonist Kid Ory when Oliver moved to Chicago in 1919.

In 1922, Louis received a telegram from Joe Oliver, asking him to join his Creole Jazz Band in Chicago. There, Louis met Lillian Hardin, the piano player for the band, and they were married in 1924.

He later recorded with his own bands, the Hot Five and the Hot Seven, which included his wife Lil’ and Kid Ory. Now considered classics, these recordings turned jazz into a soloist’s art form and Louis’s warm and soaring tone set the standard for jazz trumpet playing. His engaging personality as an entertainer

earned Louis the nickname “Satchmo,” short for satchel mouth, because of his huge cheeks and wide smile. Later, Louis recorded the popular “West End Blues” and “Struttin’ with Some Barbecue.”



*King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band*

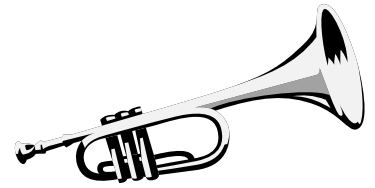


*Magazine ad, 1954*

Louis Armstrong was also a remarkable singer. According to Satchmo himself, while recording “Heebie Jeebies” in Chicago on February 26, 1926, the sheet music fell off the stand. Louis did not want to stop the recording session, so he continued singing, using nonsense syllables and making sounds similar to an instrument. The result was the first recorded example of what became known as scat singing, a jazz vocal practice still very popular today.

Armstrong eventually moved to New York and performed with many great musicians including the innovative arranger, Fletcher Henderson. As Armstrong’s popularity grew over the years, his music introduced the entire world to jazz. In 1968,

# armstrong word search



Look down, across, backward and diagonally to find the words that will complete the sentences below. Circle the words.

R	G	N	I	G	N	I	S	T	A	C	S
O	J	G	H	X	Z	S	O	R	H	O	K
N	E	W	O	R	L	E	A	N	S	R	S
K	I	K	D	S	T	I	D	E	N	N	N
F	A	H	U	H	O	T	S	E	V	E	N
S	E	D	T	R	Y	A	S	D	U	T	U
H	U	Y	S	D	T	H	D	U	I	R	H
F	Y	J	K	C	H	I	C	A	G	O	D
B	W	R	H	O	T	F	I	V	E	T	S
M	U	M	C	D	L	H	Z	A	T	P	V
J	O	E	O	L	I	V	E	R	D	K	E

1. In 1901, Louis Armstrong was born in \_\_\_\_\_, Louisiana.
2. Louis Armstrong first played the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When Louis was released from reform school, he joined a band led by \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When Louis Armstrong left New Orleans, he moved to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Louis Armstrong's nickname: \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The names of Louis Armstrong's bands in the early 1920s: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A kind of singing that involves the use of nonsense syllables: \_\_\_\_\_.

*Vintage postcards of New Orleans*

