

SUMMARY:

In Their Footsteps is dedicated to bringing together U.S. and European students around their shared World War I and World War II history. The program was originally designed with a number of “virtual” components, which will enable it to adapt to the realities of the current global pandemic. This outline describes a proposed approach for linking U.S. and French students around the subject of the 369th Infantry Regiment during World War I, particularly with regards to its world-famous regimental band.

OVERALL STRUCTURE:

Participating students will carry out the following exploratory activities. Specific timeframes and lessons will be developed based on input from participating classroom teachers.

1. Students “meet” each other by creating and sharing introductory video clips.
2. Students learn the story of the 369th Infantry Regiment and contextualize its importance in history, civil rights and music
3. Students explore personal stories of key individuals in the 369th, including notables such as band leader James Reese Europe and composer Noble Sissle, as well as regular soldiers who died overseas and are buried in France
4. Students work in small groups to explore the structures and lyrics of songs performed by the 369th Infantry Band or inspired by its legacy, and then create presentations that reflect this inquiry.
5. Using videoconference technology, students share their presentations with overseas peers (in small groups).

INTEGRATION WITH 369TH EXPERIENCE:

- ▶ Students will have the opportunity to learn from/interview professional musicians, historians, and other experts associated with the 369th Experience
- ▶ Students will explore and analyse songs from the 369th Experience’s playlist
- ▶ Students will interview current members/alums (college students) of the 369th Experience
- ▶ Students will attend (virtually) the 369th Experience Time Travel concert. Students may also have the opportunity to contribute educational content that would be shared at the concert.

