

TEACHER'S TOOL KIT

History • English Language Arts • Visual Arts • Music

ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 6-8



Reba

ALL THE WOMEN I AM



LIMITED-RUN EXHIBITION, AUGUST 2013-JUNE 2014

Reba: All the Women I Am examines the life of Reba McEntire, a hard-working recording artist, actress, and business woman who rose to stardom from humble Oklahoma roots. Use the following biography and tools to create lessons before or after a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum or as a creative way to connect Reba's music and story to the classroom.

Exhibit support provided by:



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Reba

ALL THE WOMEN I AM

Begin by asking your students what they know about Reba McEntire. Once students have shared, read Reba's biography (see back page) to the class or pass out copies for the students to read themselves. Then, select the activities that best correspond to your subject area.



Above: Reba in a 1975 barrel racing competition in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Right: Commemorative belt buckle, presented to Reba for singing the national anthem at more than ten National Finals Rodeo events.



HISTORY

- **Geography:** Conduct geographical research about Kiowa, Oklahoma, Reba's hometown. What is the primary industry? What are environmental characteristics of the area?
- **History:** Select one of Reba's albums and research three major historical events that happened in the same year it came out. Present your findings to the class.
- **Economics:** Discuss the way that place and the economy are related. How did Reba's life change when her tape was taken to Nashville?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- **Writing (Persuasive):** Write a letter from Reba to MCA Records persuading them to sign you.
- **Writing (Informative/Explanatory):** Choose a social media outlet such as Pinterest, Tumblr, Facebook, or Instagram, and design it for Reba as if she made it herself. Write an essay that explains the choices you made.
- **Writing (Creative):** Listen to the song "I'm a Survivor" (*Greatest Hits Vol. 3: I'm a Survivor*, 2001) and create your own poem or song about an obstacle that you've overcome.



Grammy award given to Reba and Linda Davis for 1993 Best Country Vocal Collaboration, for their duet "Does He Love You."

VISUAL ART

- Listen to the song “I’m a Survivor” (*Greatest Hits Vol. 3: I’m a Survivor*, 2001) and create artwork based on the scenes and emotions you hear in the song. Use color to emphasize the feelings and emotions.
- Choose one of Reba’s albums and create a new album cover that you feel represents the theme of the album.
- Create a Reba comic strip with four frames.



Cover of Reba's 2001 album *Greatest Hits Vol. 3: I'm a Survivor*.



ACM Milestone Award, given to Reba in 2005 in recognition of being named Top Female Vocalist a record seven times.

MUSIC

- **Performance:** Learn to play one of Reba’s songs proficiently and perform for your classmates.
- **Composition:** Write your own song based on Reba’s musical style. Compose your own music and lyrics.



Reba in concert, 2010.

BIOGRAPHY



Reba McEntire was born in 1955 in Kiowa, Oklahoma. By the time she was six, Reba was waking before dawn to help gather the 3,000 cattle on her family's ranch. As Reba grew older, she participated in more than fifty rodeos each year, and was actively involved in track and field and basketball at her school. Reba sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the 1974 National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, where she met Red Steagall. He took her tape back to Nashville, and a year later she was signed to Mercury Records.

Reba's career didn't take off right away. Her first Top Ten hit came four years after she joined Mercury. In 1984, Reba switched to MCA Records, and her fortunes skyrocketed. She released two albums that year, *Just a Little Love* and *My Kind of Country*. She also received her first major award, Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year.

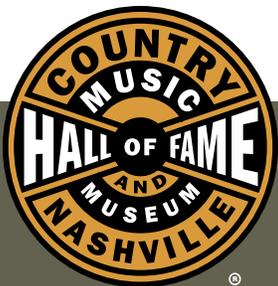
Reba quickly became one of the era's most popular country artists, and she continued to explore new styles and themes. She developed a pop-influenced sound with her album *Rumor Has It* (1990). *For My Broken Heart* (1991) was Reba's musical response to the tragic loss of eight band members and crew, who were killed in a plane crash returning from one of her concerts. With these two albums, Reba began her most successful decade as a record maker.

In 1988, Reba formed Starstruck Entertainment with her manager, Narvel Blackstock. He would go on to become her husband. Starstruck currently includes artist management, a state-of-the-art recording studio, and a music publishing company.

Reba also expanded her career to the stage and screen. She co-starred in several TV movies, including *The Gambler Returns: The Luck of the Draw*, and she had leading roles in TV movies such as *Is There Life Out There?*, *Buffalo Girls*, *Forever Love*, and *Secret of Giving*. In 2001, Reba conquered Broadway, starring as Annie Oakley in a revival of *Annie Get Your Gun*. Her work was praised widely by critics and fans alike. She also starred in the popular TV sitcom *Reba* and, more recently, in the comedy series *Malibu Country*.

In the early twenty-first century, Reba began receiving the kind of lifetime honors reserved for the most significant and influential American artists. She was named *Billboard's* Woman of the Year in 2007 and won the ASCAP Golden Note Award in 2008. In 2011, Reba was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Despite her many successes, Reba continues to be a driven, hard-working artist and business woman.

The Encyclopedia of Country Music, Second Edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.



The museum's educational programs are supported by



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