

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the significance of Slim Dusty's contributions to Australian music and culture, as well as gain insights into the history of country music in Australia. The student will also create a personal connection to the music through engaging activities and discussions.

Materials and Prep

- Access to a device with internet for research
- Notebook and pen for taking notes
- Audio playback device (optional, for listening to Slim Dusty's music)
- A map of Australia (for geographical context)
- Basic knowledge of Slim Dusty's career and background (research before the lesson)

Activities

• Listening Session:

Start the lesson by listening to a selection of Slim Dusty's most popular songs. Discuss the themes and stories presented in the lyrics. Ask the student to pick their favorite song and explain why they like it.

• Research Project:

Have the student research Slim Dusty's life, including his early years, career milestones, and contributions to Australian culture. They can create a timeline of his career highlights and share interesting facts they discovered.

• Songwriting Exercise:

Encourage the student to write their own country song inspired by Slim Dusty. They should think about a story from their own life or a place they love in Australia. Provide guidance on song structure (verses, chorus) and help them brainstorm ideas.

• Field Trip Preparation:

Discuss what to expect during the visit to the Slim Dusty Music Centre. Have the student create a list of questions they would like to ask the staff or about the exhibits. This will help them engage more during the visit.

Talking Points

- "Slim Dusty is often called the 'King of Australian Country Music.' Can you think of why he might have earned that title?"
- "Did you know Slim Dusty was the first Australian artist to have a gold record? What do you think that means for an artist?"
- "His music often tells stories about everyday Australian life. What kind of stories do you think resonate with people?"
- "Slim Dusty traveled all over Australia. How do you think traveling influenced his music and the stories he told?"

- "What are some themes you notice in Slim Dusty's songs? How do they reflect Australian culture?"
- "As you prepare for our visit, think about what you hope to learn. What intrigues you most about Slim Dusty?"