



14. Now that you have learned more about DeFord Bailey and country music, it is time to create your own connection. What does DeFord Bailey have in common with one of your favorite musical artists?

YOU DID IT!

Show your completed seek and find at the information desk to receive a prize!



Would you like to check your answers? Scan here for an answer key.



Keep learning about DeFord Bailey at home and even take a harmonica lesson using a tutorial on our website. Visit our Discover DeFord Bailey webpage here.



This program is made possible by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

DISCOVER DEFORD BAILEY COUNTRY MUSIC SEEK AND FIND



Use this activity to learn about the life and music of Country Music Hall of Fame member **DeFord Bailey**, one of early country music's most popular performers and the first Black star of the Grand Ole Opry radio program.

READY...SET...GO!

Try your best to answer the following questions and have fun!

**Hint: Questions are in order as you walk through the gallery. Look for the display case names in GOLD. An answer key is on the back page!*

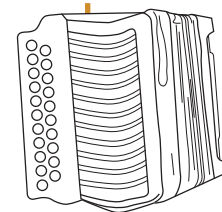
3RD FLOOR



1. FROM "BARBARA ALLEN" TO "OMIE WISE": FOLK MUSIC FROM THE BRITISH ISLES

DeFord Bailey gained a love of music from his family, who would often gather together to make music and perform. The Bailey family played stringband instruments like the guitar, banjo, mandolin, and harmonica. DeFord's grandfather, Lewis Bailey, was even a champion fiddle player!

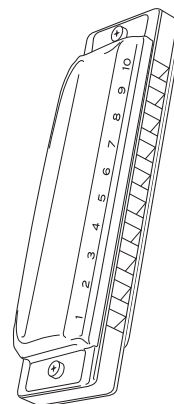
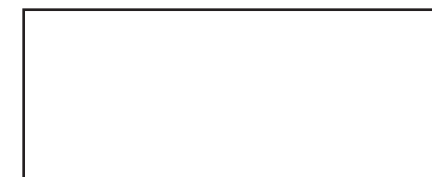
Find the **fiddle**. How many strings does it have? _____



2. WITH A BANJO ON MY KNEE: MUSIC OF THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY STAGE

DeFord was a multi-instrumentalist who also sang and composed music. He was best known for playing the harmonica, which he called a "harp." This pocket-sized wind instrument was popular due to its small size, affordability, and musical flexibility. Though they look different, a harmonica and an accordion create sound in a similar way. When air enters the instrument, a reed vibrates in the center, which makes musical sounds.

Find an **accordion**. Draw one detail.

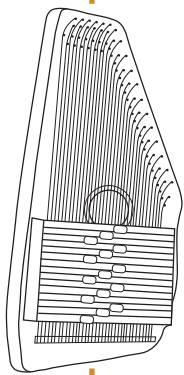


3. FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS: THE DAWN OF COUNTRY RADIO

Long before television and YouTube, many people listened to music on the radio. DeFord Bailey became famous by performing live on the radio, but he also made records and played concerts too. He was called the "Harmonica Wizard" because of his exciting playing style, which included fast passages, quick changes from high to low notes, and "double stops," a playing technique that makes two notes sound together.

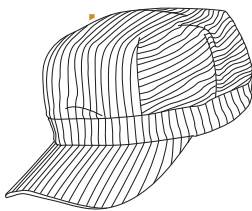
Find **DeFord's artifacts**. What kind of harmonica did he play? What device did he use to make it sound louder?

2ND FLOOR



4. REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE: EARLY COUNTRY RECORDINGS
DeFord took part in the first commercial recording session ever held in Nashville. In 1928, he recorded eight tunes for producer Ralph Peer. A year earlier, Peer had gone to Bristol, Tennessee, and recorded two other important early country music acts: the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers.

Find the **autoharp** played by Sara Carter of the Carter Family.
How do you think you make music with an autoharp?



5. REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE: EARLY COUNTRY RECORDINGS
When he was three years old, DeFord became sick with a dangerous disease called polio. While he lay in bed for a year recovering, he learned to play the harmonica. He taught himself to imitate the sounds of the trains that passed by his home in rural Smith County, Tennessee. Later, he used these sounds in his train song, “Pan American Blues.” Another early country musician was also inspired by trains.

Find the **railroad worker cap**. Who owned this hat? What was his nickname?



6. TENNESSEE SATURDAY NIGHT: NASHVILLE TAKES THE LEAD
The longest-running radio show in America is the Grand Ole Opry, which first broadcast from Nashville in 1925 and is still on the air today. DeFord was one of the Opry’s first and most popular performers, appearing on the show from 1926 to 1941. Another favorite Grand Ole Opry performer and friend of DeFord was singer and fiddle player Roy Acuff.

Find the **flour sack**. What toy could be made with this sack when it is empty?



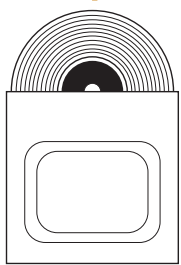
7. SWEET DREAMS: THE NASHVILLE SOUND
DeFord showed interest in music at an early age and spent a lot of time playing his harmonica as a child. Around age ten, people began to travel from far distances to hear him play. Brenda Lee is another artist who began her musical career at a young age. One of her biggest hits, “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree,” was recorded when she was thirteen years old.

Find the **Brenda Lee artifacts**. How much did the comic book cost in 1962?



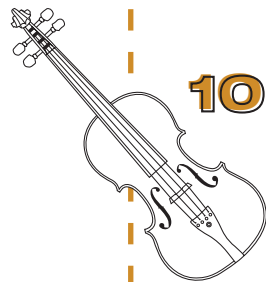
8. THE PRECIOUS JEWEL
As a Black man, DeFord Bailey experienced racism and discrimination that often prevented him from doing things that white people did. For example, he was not always allowed to eat at restaurants or stay in hotels with his fellow Grand Ole Opry members when they toured together. Musician Bill Monroe looked out for DeFord when they were on the road and tried to make sure he was treated fairly, got good meals, and could stay in a hotel with the rest of the musicians.

Find **Bill Monroe's artifact**. What instrument did he play?



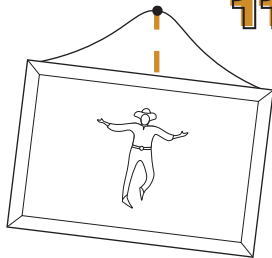
9. WHEN TWO WORLDS COLLIDE: COUNTRY MUSIC MEETS MASS MARKET
Ray Charles brought new audiences to country music by remaking country hits in his own musical style. DeFord was also known as an interpreter of songs. With his harmonica, he created new versions of well-known songs, making them sound different than the original version. “Most people play in one gear—up and down,” DeFord said about his playing style, “I’ll be blowing one minute in one gear and the next minute in another gear. Nobody will ever catch up with my music because I don’t stay nowhere long with my music. I change.”

Find the **album cover** to Ray Charles’s 1962 release. What was this record called?



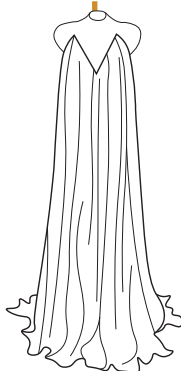
10. WHEN TWO WORLDS COLLIDE: COUNTRY MUSIC MEETS MASS MARKET
DeFord grew up in rural Tennessee, and his music was inspired by sounds he heard around him in the country. As a professional musician, he performed songs like “Old Hen Cackle” and “Fox Chase.” Another artist whose music was inspired by nature was John Hartford.

Find **John Hartford's fiddle**. What is painted on the instrument?



11. SECOND FLOOR GALLERY HALLWAY
DeFord Bailey was a showman. That means he knew how to entertain an audience. In addition to playing the harmonica in his shows, he sang while playing banjo or guitar, he did yo-yo tricks, and he sometimes added a beat to his harmonica tunes by knocking two pieces of wood (sometimes called “bones”) together with his free hand. Another performer known for being a showman is Garth Brooks.

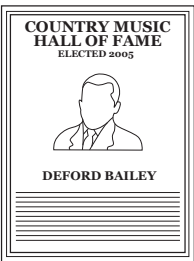
Find Garth Brooks in a **large color photo**. What is he doing?



12. AMERICAN CURRENTS: STATE OF THE MUSIC
Mickey Guyton and Allison Russell are modern day Black country artists who have been open about experiencing racism and discrimination. Both artists use their music to communicate stories about their personal journey and hope for change. Even though they have faced hardships, DeFord, Mickey, and Allison provide music and stories that inspire countless musicians and listeners.

Find the **Mickey Guyton artifacts**. Who designed the red dress she wore on the cover of her album *Remember Her Name*.

Find the **Allison Russell artifacts**. What instrument does she play?



13. HALL OF FAME ROTUNDA
The Country Music Hall of Fame honors people who have made important contributions to country music, including musicians, songwriters, record producers, business leaders, and more. DeFord Bailey was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005.

Find **DeFord Bailey's plaque**. What year was he born?
Bonus: How old would DeFord Bailey be today?
