

Blues Music

Activity Goals	Learn about Blues music and its key figures through aural identification, lyric study, and compare and contrast. Explore & Compose Blues Music in AAB form.
Materials	 Access to the Internet & Computer Attached Worksheet Pencil

Definitions for this Lesson:

Blues: The Blues evolves from singing about earthly sorrows such as in spirituals and field hollers

Stanza: A group of lines forming the basic recurring metrical unit in a poem; a verse

Rhyme Scheme: the ordered pattern of rhymes at the ends of the lines of a poem or verse

Step 1 What is Blues Music?

LISTEN and WATCH this example: "Back Water Blues" by Bessie Smith https://youtu.be/4gXShOJVwaM

Discussion & Reflection of "Back Water Blues" Video	With a Parent, Guardian or Sibling, discuss the following:		
	What stood out in this song?		
	What did you notice?		
	How did it make you feel?		
	What instruments did you hear?		
	What was the tempo?		
	What did the lyrics say?		
	What genre of music does this song belong to?		

Step 2Jazz Poetry

LISTEN and WATCH: Langston Hughes Bio: https://youtu.be/IBijdHs8AVM

READ: "The Po' Boy Blues" https://poets.org/poem/po-boy-blues

Discussion & Reflection of "Langston Hughes Bio" Video & Poem

With a Parent, Guardian or Sibling, discuss the following:

What did you notice?

How did it make you feel?

What was the message?

What was the structure/form?

Step 3Writing Blues Poem

Write your own
Blues Inspired
Poem:

The Poem Must Include:

AAB Form

Follow the *rhyme scheme

Themes of sadness or anger

Complete two or more stanzas (6 lines)

*The rhyme scheme must follow this pattern: The last word of **line 1 & 2** or **A** must **rhyme** or be the **same word.** The **third line** or **B** does not have to rhyme



Music Resource Sheet

BLUES LYRICS



Blues lyrics always have two lines that are the same, and one that is different. CIRCLE the one that is different in the lyrics below.

Good morning blues, blues how do ya' do?

Good morning blues, blues how do ya' do?

Well I'm alright this mornin' how are you?

WRITE your own Blues inspired poem!! It must be in AAB form, follow the *rhyme scheme, the words should be written around themes of sadness or anger, and complete two or more stanzas. (6 lines)

*The rhyme scheme must follow this pattern: The last word of line 1 & 2 or A must rhyme or be the same word. The third line or B does not have to rhyme

\mathbf{A}_{\perp}			
A			
A_ B_			
A			
A			
B			