

Unit 2: The Blues

Music KO

Harmonica	An instrument played with the mouth, commonly used in blues music.
I IV V Chord progression	Roma numerals used to represent chords number 1 (CEG), 4 (FAC) and 5 (GBD). I = 1 IV = 4 V=5
Blues scale	The notes used in blues music to create a jazzy 'blue' sound. The blues scale includes some 'flattened' (b) notes.
Walking bass line	A low pitched accompaniment used in blues and rock 'n' roll music. Played with the left hand on the piano.
Call and response	A leader performs a short pattern, and others respond with a set pattern (e.g. your class clapping rhythm).
Improvise	Making something up as you go along. In blues, melodies are improvised using the notes of the blues scale.



Learning to Play the 12-Bar Blues

C / / /	C / / /	C / / /	C / / /
F / / /	F / / /	C / / /	C / / /
G / / /	F / / /	C / / /	C / / /



C Blues scale	C Eb F F# G Bb C
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Turning the Blues into a Walking Bass Line

Timbre	Describes the type of sound/sound quality of an instrument.
Acoustic	Non-electrical/non-amplified instruments.

Musical skills you will develop this term
Perform the 12 bar blues chords.
Perform a walking bass line.
Compose in a blues style.
Transposing your 12 Bar Blues to a new key
Understand the historical context of blues music.

Constructing a major scale

T T S T T T S
C. D. E. F. G. A. B. C

T. T. S. T. T. T. S
G. A. B. C. D. E. F#. G