

# Music Genres

Specific focus — Blues Music

W/C: 27th April 2020



Your focus this week is Blue Music. Blues music is said to have originated in America at the start of the 20th century. Parents, please use the blues links provided or check any music in full before you play it to your children .

## Subject: Music

Activity Outcome: To listen with concentration and make evaluations.

Explain:

See page 2 of this document for links to songs and evaluation questions.

## Subject: Music/DT

Activity Outcome: To make our own instruments.

Explain: Lots of blues music features an instrument called a harmonica. You play a harmonica by blowing through it.

Follow the instructions below to make your own homemade harmonica.

Can you change the pitch of the sound it makes by moving the straws ?

What does it sound like when you play your harmonica along with the blues songs from activity 1?

## Subject: Music

Activity Outcome: To write lyrics in the style of the blues.

Explain: Blues songs are normally about problems in life. For example, missing a home town or a person.

They usually use repetitive lyrics. We are going to use the examples we listened to in session 1 to help us write our own mini blues verse.

See page 4 of this document for more guidance.

## Subject: PE

Activity Outcome: To create your dance routine.

Explain: Listen to the piece of music on this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euJ22UqLD5Y>

Plan and think about a dance routine that you could do to this piece of music that has 3 or 4 moves. (You could repeat them to make your dance longer).

Choose your moves carefully to show the mood and speed of the piece.

You could perform your dance to your family. Maybe you could even teach them your dance!

You could film it and send it to school or if you're feeling really brave add it to our Twitter feed!

# Listening to the Blues



**Skip to my blues** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqYCnDmYyKs>

**Sweet Home Chicago** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euJ22UqLD5Y>

Listen to at least the first minute of these songs.

Then, pick your favourite to listen to in full.

Evaluate your chosen piece by:

Saying why you chose this piece.

Naming instruments you think you can hear.

Talking about how the music made you feel. Is this a happy song or a sad song?

What is the tempo (speed) of the piece like?

# A homemade harmonica

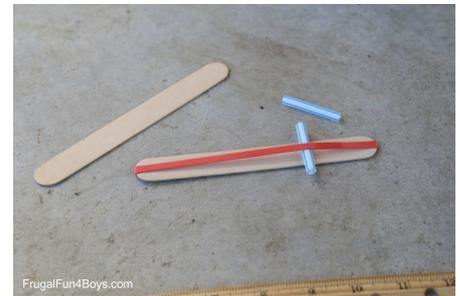
## To make one, you will need:

- 2 lollipop sticks—The wider the better
- A wide rubber band
- Two smaller rubber bands
- A straw
- Scissors



Cut two pieces of straw that are 1 – 1.5 inches long.

Stretch the thick rubber band around one of the craft sticks. Place one of the straws under the rubber band.



Put the other craft stick on top and attach them with one of the small rubber bands on the same end as the straw.

Stick the other piece of straw at the other end of the harmonica, but this time place it on top of the wide rubber band. Secure the end with the second small rubber band.



To play the harmonica, all you have to do is blow. Our younger kids were wanting to hum into it at first, but then they got the hang of it.

It makes a really cool noise! When you blow, the wide rubber band vibrates and makes a sound.

To change the pitch, slide the straws closer together or farther apart. When you slide them closer together, the section of rubber band that is vibrating is shorter, so it makes a higher sound. Slide the straws all the way to the edges to get the lowest possible sound (which is still pretty high, but lower).

# Writing Blues Lyrics

**Skip to my blues** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqYCnDmYyKs>



**Sweet Home Chicago** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euJ22UqLD5Y>

We are going to use the melody of one of the songs above to help us write our own version of these songs.

Blues songs are usually about problems in life such as missing people or places, losing something or having something that you need help with.

Here are the lyrics for the first verses of the songs above.

## Skip to my blues

There's a fly in my sugar bowl,  
Shoo fly ,shoo,  
Fly in my sugar bowl,  
Shoo fly shoo,  
That fly in my sugar bowl  
Shoo fly shoo  
Skip, skip, skip to my blues.

## Sweet Home Chicago

Come on, baby don't you want to  
go,  
Come on, baby don't you want to  
go,  
Back to that same old place  
Sweet home Chicago.

How could we change them to make them our own? These are my versions :)

## Where are my shoes?

I need to leave the house  
Doo Be Do  
I need to leave the house  
Doo Be Do  
I need to leave the house  
Doo Be Do  
Where, oh where are my shoes?

## I miss my gran's house

Hey mum, I really want to go,  
Hey mum, I really want to go,  
Back to that same old place  
I miss my gran's house.