



# Explore Curriculum: Blues

## Remember-Know - Explore











### Let's Remember

Simple pictures can be used to represent the structure (organisation) of music.

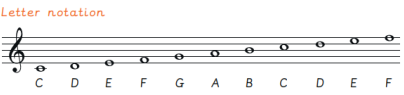
A slow tempo and a minor key (pitch) can be used to make music sound sad.

In written notation, notes can go on or between lines. The lines show the pitch of the note.

**Staff notation**

Quaver		Half	½	
Crotchet		One	1	
Minim		Two	2	
Dotted minim		Three	3	
Semibreve		Four	4	

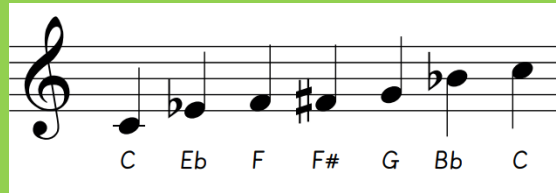
**Letter notation**



### I Need to know that...

Blues music is often sad and emotional, which is why we say we have 'the blues' when we feel sad. Its main features are the **12-bar blues** and the **blues scale** and it includes a lot of **improvisation**.

The **Blues scale** to accompany the **12-bar Blues** is made up of these notes:



The **12-bar blues** is a series of chords played in a specific order.

1	CCCC	2	CCCC	3	CCCC	4	CCCC
5	FFFF	6	FFFF	7	CCCC	8	CCCC
9	GGGG	10	FFFF	11	CCCC	12	CCCC

### With these skills you could be a...

#### A musician in a blues band

You could travel around the world perform blues music to audiences.

### Glossary

**ascending scale:** a scale in which the pitch of the notes goes up.

**bar:** a section of music with a specific number of beats (in blues there are usually 4 beats in a bar).

**bent notes:** a musical note that varies in pitch usually going up slightly at the end.

**blues:** a style of music developed by African American musicians in the southern United States.

**blues scale:** a set of notes used to play a melody over a 12-bar blues.

**chord:** two or more notes that are played at the same time and work in harmony.

**descending scale:** a scale in which the pitch of the notes goes down.

**improvising:** making up music as it is played or performed.

**quaver:** a note which lasts for half a beat.

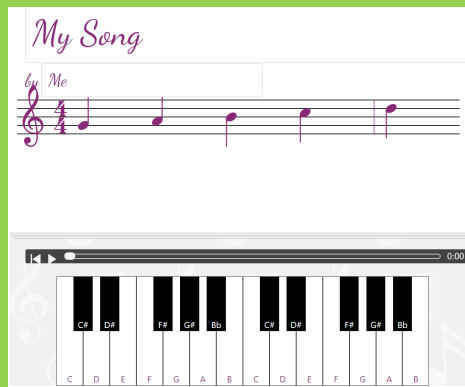
**scale:** any set of musical notes which are in order of their pitch.

## Let's Explore

Investigate the history of Blues Music. Create a presentation about an area of The Blues that takes your interest, for example: famous Blues musicians, popular Blues songs or the story behind a song that you have enjoyed listening to in your research.

Use your composition skills to create your own piece of Blues inspired music.

<https://insidetheorchestra.org/2020/03/25/>



Muddy Waters  
1913–1983



Howlin' Wolf  
1910–1976



Etta James  
1938–2012



B.B. King  
1925–2015



John Lee Hooker  
1912–2001



Bessie Smith  
1894–1937



Listen to variety of Blues Songs from the past and the modern era. Create an album cover for a song you found interesting.