



Key Knowledge

The **blues** is a **musical style** created in response to the hardships endured by generations of African American people during the slave trade. It originated in the rural Mississippi Delta region at the beginning of the 20th century. **Blues** has contributed significantly to the development of jazz, rock music, and country and western music. **Country Blues** is a simple acoustic style of music, whilst **City Blues**, or **Rhythm 'n' Blues**, was a much livelier, rhythmic and electric style, developed in the newly developing cities of the USA, such as Chicago and New Orleans.



Further Listening & Links

BB King – The Thrill Has Gone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fk2prKnYnl>

Bessie Smith – St. Louis Blues: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpVCqXRlXx4>

A Short History of The Blues: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnaorRAXhmU>

Y9 Music

The Blues

SPEAK
READ
ARTICULATE
THINK
QUESTION
WRITE
SPELL



Key Vocabulary

Instrumentation – *the instruments you can hear*

Work Songs – *songs, sung by slaves, as they worked.*

Spirituals – *songs with a religious theme or content*

A Capella – *singing without instrumental accompaniment*

Improvisation – *creating musical ideas that are not written down, making it up as you play.*

Call & Response – *a short vocal or instrumental melody, is answered by a similar melody, like a musical question and answer*

12-bar Blues – *a repeating pattern of chords used in Blues music*

Blues Scale – *a pattern of notes that is used in blues music*

Blues Notes – *the 3rd and 7th notes of a blues scale*

Images

