

Year 7 – The Blues– Knowledge Organiser



Key Terms 1—Instruments

Key Terms 2—Music Theory

Strings	A Double Bass or Bass Guitar is used to play the Bass Line . Guitar plays chords and melodies	Walking Bass	The bass part in the Blues ‘walks’ up the notes of a chord creating a ‘walking bass’ part.
Woodwind	Saxophones are sometimes used for melody.	12-Bar Blues	Traditional style of music using 3 chords over a 12-bar cycle
Brass	The Trumpet is often used for melody.	Syncopation	When music is played on the off beat (i.e. not played on the main beat of the bar). This creates a disjointed feel.
Percussion	The Drum kit is used to strengthen the rhythm of a blues song.	Improvisation	Music that is made up on the spot by a performer, often based on a given chord progression or set of notes.
Voices	Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass —any kind of voice can sing the blues	Swing Rhythm	The first bit of the beat is longer as it steals time from the second bit to give the music a swinging feel.
Keyboards	The Piano is often used to play the chords bass line and/or melody.		



Muddy Waters

B.B King

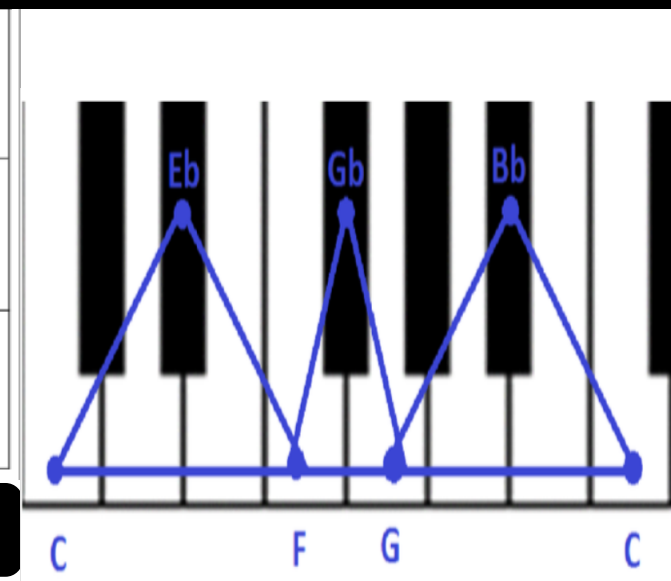
Nina Simone

The Blues scale in C

The melody of a Blues piece uses a special scale - The Blues scale is built using the flattened 3rd, 5th and 7th notes.

The 12-Bar Blues in C Major

C / / / C+E+G	C / / / C+E+G	C / / / C+E+G	C / / / C+E+G
F / / / F+A+C	F / / / F+A+C	C / / / C+E+G	C / / / C+E+G
G / / / G+B+D	F / / / F+A+C	C / / / C+E+G	C / / / C+E+G



You could listen to some music written by the three artists above whilst doing your homework