

Key concepts

- 'The Blues' is a genre of music from the deep south of America. It began with Black African slaves singing to pass the time when they were working and felt blue (sad).
- It was originally sung by one person, accompanied by somebody playing a guitar or banjo.
- A lot of Blues music is worked around twelve chords, played in a specific order. This is known as 'The Twelve Bar Blues', eg:  
The chord of C which has the notes CEG in it  
The chord of F (FAC)  
The chord of G (GBD)
- The 'Blues Scale' is a set of notes used to play along to Twelve Bar Blues.
- 'bent notes' are often used in Blues music.
- The hash symbol (#) is used to denote a flat note.

Key Vocabulary

chord	More than one note played at once
Bent note	Notes with a variation in pitch
banjo	A stringed instrument with a thin, circular membrane
Flat note	Lower in pitch
structure	The arrangement of different sections within the whole piece.
dynamics	How loud or soft the music is (volume)
bar	A segment of time corresponding to a specific number of beats

Famous Blues Artists



McKinley Morganfield, known professionally as **Muddy Waters**, was an American blues singer-songwriter and musician who is often cited as the "father of modern Chicago blues".



Chester Arthur Burnett, known as **Howlin' Wolf**, was a Chicago blues singer, guitarist, and harmonica player. Originally from Mississippi, he moved to Chicago in adulthood.

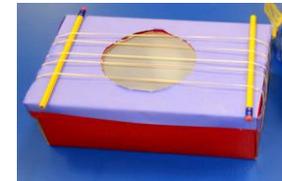


**Robert Leroy Johnson** was an American blues singer, songwriter and musician. He was born in Hazlehurst, Mississippi in 1911.

Things to do at home – Bending a Note

'Bent notes' are notes where there is a variation in pitch. They are heard a lot in Indian music. They are most obvious on a guitar where you can actually see the string being moved (bent) to change the note.

Have a go at making one of these.



You will need an empty tissue or shoe box, two pencils and some elastic bands. Pluck the Bands to make a sound. Now try bending it and see if the sound changes.