

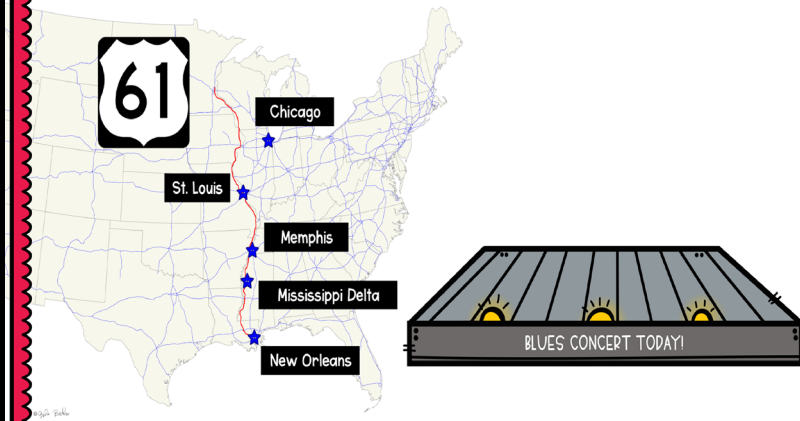
THE "BLUES HIGHWAY"



VIRTUAL field trip

Pack Your Bags!

Click on each destination to explore the different blues music influences and styles. There are stickers of famous blues musicians to collect throughout your journey. Cut them from each destination (Ctrl + C) and paste them on your stage (Ctrl + V).



INTERACTIVE MAP & ARTIST STAGE

colorful, interactive movable pieces that students can drag and drop to solve problems, making learning more engaging and hands-on.

Artist Spotlight: Muddy Waters



Watch the video to learn about the famous blues musician Muddy Waters.



Why did Muddy Waters move to Chicago?

How did Muddy Waters influence the Chicago Blues Style?

How did Muddy Waters influence modern music?



Muddy Waters

Return to Stage

"The blues had a baby and they named it rock 'n' roll."
— Muddy Waters

BLUE ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Watch the video to learn about the famous blues musician Muddy Waters.

INTEGRATES READING

Short reading passages
introduce key vocabulary
and build background
knowledge.



Blues Style: That's Why They Call It The Blues



Call & Response: Blues music is rooted in African American work songs. Before the Civil War, enslaved African Americans would sing in the fields. Usually, a leader would sing one line. Then the group would sing a second line in response. In blues music, you may hear a singer call and other singers respond. You may also hear the singer call and instruments respond.



Lyric Structure: The lyrics in blues music follow a pattern. You will often hear three lines of rhyming lyrics. The singer sings a line, then repeats it. Then, the singer will sing a third line that is related to the first two lines. This is called an "A A B" pattern.



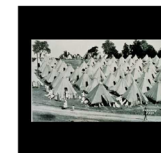
Blues Notes: The unique sound of blues music comes from the use of flat notes. Flat notes create a more soulful sound. African music uses flat notes, which likely influenced blues music.

Listen to "When the Levee Breaks" by
Kansas Joe & Memphis Minnie

What elements of blues music do you hear?



Memphis Minnie



Return to Stage

A large yellow rectangular box for writing.

WRITING

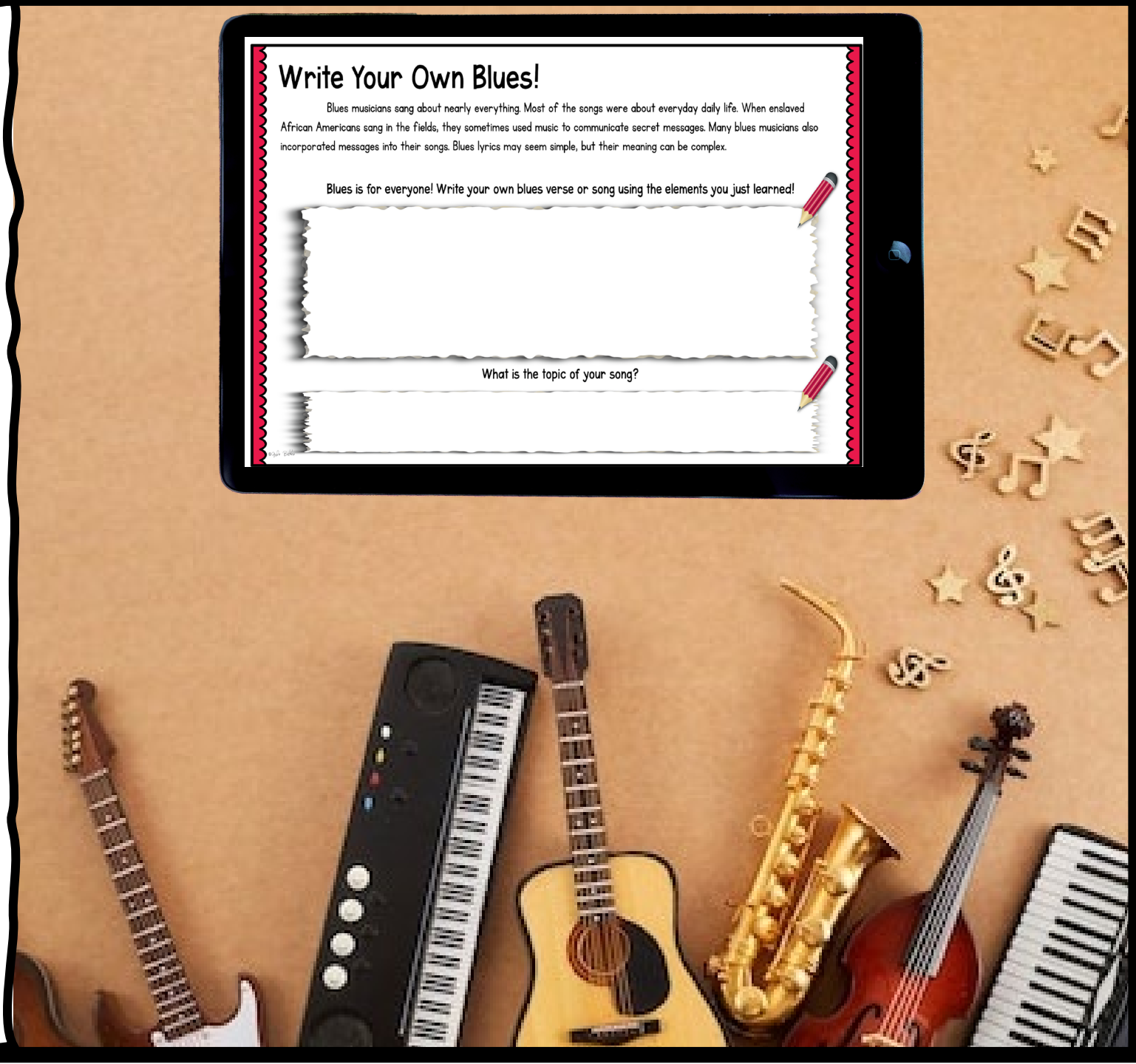
Students write reflections,
using critical thinking skills.

Write Your Own Blues!

Blues musicians sang about nearly everything. Most of the songs were about everyday daily life. When enslaved African Americans sang in the fields, they sometimes used music to communicate secret messages. Many blues musicians also incorporated messages into their songs. Blues lyrics may seem simple, but their meaning can be complex.

Blues is for everyone! Write your own blues verse or song using the elements you just learned!

What is the topic of your song?



Let's Explore!: The Mississippi Delta

The Mississippi Delta covers Northwestern Mississippi. It includes parts of Arkansas and Louisiana. The area is about 200 miles long and 80 miles across. The Mississippi and Yazoo rivers have flooded for thousands of years. The flooding makes this land good for farming.

Before the Civil War, the Mississippi Delta was home to many enslaved African Americans. They lived and worked on farms called plantations. They were prohibited from speaking their native African languages. They were forced to abandon much of their culture. Under these restrictions, they developed their own culture of work songs and spirituals.

After the Civil War, new laws made it difficult for African Americans to earn money and own property. A system called sharecropping was developed. Workers leased land and supplies from landowners in exchange for a portion of their crop.

Watch the video to learn more about sharecropping.



How was sharecropping unfair for the workers?

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Students dive deep into this engaging topic and learn to draw conclusions and make judgements.

Let's Explore!: Chicago, Illinois



Watch the video about the Great Migration.



Watch the video about the Chicago Blues.



Why did so many African Americans move to northern cities?

How did the Great Migration impact blues music?

What is the difference between delta blues and Chicago blues styles?

SOCIAL STUDIES

Develop a deeper understanding of history by learning the history of the Blues Highway.

Suggested Uses

- Assign in Google Classroom or SeeSaw
- Whole Class Activity
- Small groups or center
- Early Finisher
- Incentive or Fun Friday

Google Slides and SeeSaw



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