

12 Bar Blues

Lesson 1

Learning Intention: To learn a little about the history of the blues. To learn a blues song and learn the chord pattern.

1. Read through the history of the blues and listen to a few examples of gospel and blues music.
2. Learn the 'school blues' song and discuss methods of performance.
3. Give pupils time to rehearse chord pattern in 2s or 3s. Those who can manage full chords should. Try with keyboard backing rhythm if possible.

Plenary: Listen to good examples of performance.

Lesson 2

Learning Intention: To improvise a 2 bar phrase on given notes.

1. Sing through song as a class and demonstrate instrumental sections. This is the 'call and 'response'.
2. Watch video of blues performances with improvised sections.
3. Use simplified blues scale to come up with at least 2 improvised phrases.

Plenary: Listen to examples from the class with the rest of the class singing.

Lesson 3

Learning Intention: To rehearse the song in groups incorporating vocals, chords and instrumental sections.

1. Explain learning intention and split into groups of 3 to 6.
2. Give pupils time to rehearse.
3. Discuss any clothing or other requirements for performance next week (eg microphones.)

Lesson 4

Learning Intention: To perform a 12 bar blues song to an audience, thinking about group layout and visual and acoustic presentation.

1. Give groups time to rehearse.
2. Watch performances and ask evaluation questions of the listeners.

To extend this activity the children could write their own 12 bar blues song using worksheet provided or add another verse with their own words.