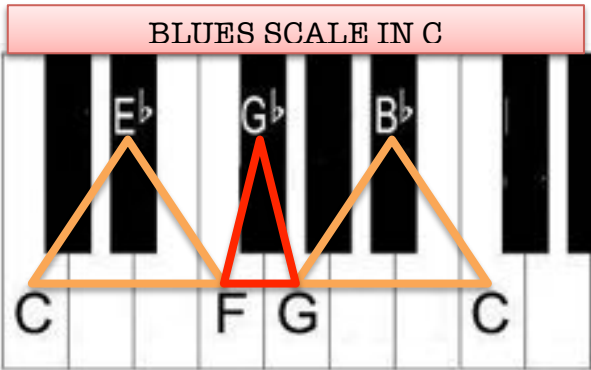


KEYWORDS	
Walking Bass	The bass part in the Blues 'walks' up the notes of a chord creating a 'walking bass' part
12 Bar Blues	Traditional blues style, using 3 chords over a 12-bar cycle.
Syncopation	When music is played on the off-beat
Improvisation	Music that is made up on the spot by a performer, often based on a given chord progression or set of notes
Swing Rhythm	When playing quavers, the first quaver is given a bit longer as it steals time from the second quaver to give the music a swinging feel.
Spiritual	Songs sung by slaves in the 19 th century with themes of yearning for freedom, to be lifted out of suffering and the belief that a higher power will help a person persevere in tough times.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- In the **1600s & 1700s**, millions of Africans were captured and sold as **slaves**. Many were taken to **North America**.
- It is widely accepted that Blues music evolved from the African **spirituals, chants, hymns, work songs and field hollers** that were sung on the plantations.
- Over the years, African musical features such as **Call & Response** singing, blended with **chords** was the beginning of the blues.
- Blues lyrics often deal with personal adversity. The blues is also about overcoming hard luck, saying what you feel, ridding yourself of frustration.
- The best blues music is visceral, cathartic and portrays genuine emotion.

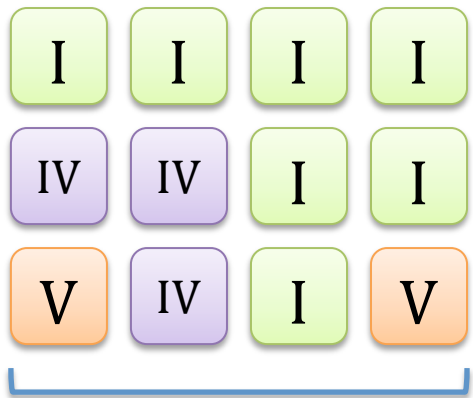


The melody of a Blues piece uses a special scale – The Blues scale is built using the **flattened 3rd, 5th and 7th notes**.

READING GUITAR TAB

- The thickest/lowest string = the bottom line
- The highest/thinnest string = the top line
- Number = represents the fret on the fret board that should be pressed.

YEAR 8 - BLUES MUSIC - KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



The Turnaround

Light Green: Tonic Light Purple: Subdominant Light Orange: Dominant

The 12-Bar Chord Structure

- There are lots of different types of blues, but the most popular song structure is the 12-bar blues.
- The 12-bar blues uses a set **chord pattern** that is **12 bars long**.
- The only chords are I, IV and V (**Primary Chords**)
- The 12-bar pattern is **repeated** throughout the song

The 12 bar blues in C would be as follows:

NOTES IN THE TREBLE CLEF

NOTES IN THE BASS CLEF

WADE IN THE WATER CHORDS

BLUES ARTISTS:

- BB King
- Bessie Smith
- Robert Johnson
- Muddy Waters