

How are instruments used to communicate the blues tradition?

Music

A number of activities in this download require you to listen to audio clips - please refer to online worksheet.

Ms Charatan



“St Louis Blues” - Velma Middleton and Louis Armstrong

You can listen to the audio in the worksheet

1. Name two instruments you can hear.
2. Describe Velma Middleton's style of singing. What can you hear?
3. There is call and response between which parts?
4. What is the trumpet doing?



Scat singing

In Jazz and Blues, singers sometimes sing **'scat'** style. Scat singing means singing with **made up words!**

Why would that be useful?

Louis Armstrong was known as a trumpeter, but he is said to be the first person to do scat singing.

Listen to his 'West End Blues' and write down three words to describe his singing.

You can listen to the audio in the worksheet



Quick quiz:

List three features of the vocals in the blues

Which instruments play in a blues band?

Listen to the track on the worksheet to remind you, and list typical instruments used in the blues.

Stretch: what techniques do you know on these instruments?



Put the techniques in the correct boxes
Stretch: list the drum techniques

Guitar

Bass

Piano

Slide

Vibrato

Crushed notes

Tremolo

Bottlenecking

Slap

String bend



Listening practice - writing a paragraph

Question: How does the instrumentation show this is a typical piece of blues music? (you can listen to the audio on the worksheet)

At the beginning, we hear the....

Their role in the band is to play the...

They are playing in a blues style because...



References

- Slide [2] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [Ralph F. Segners] - [Velma Middleton]
- Slide [2] - [Wikimedia Commons] - [World telegram staff photographer] - [Louis Armstrong restored]

