

Vocabulary	Meaning
Blues	a style of music developed by African American musicians in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
Lyrics	the words to a song
Structure	the order of sections within a piece of music or song
Bar	music is divided into bars which each contain a certain number of beats (in this case 4)
Chord sequence	a way of structuring music where the harmony follows a pattern
12-bar blues	a chord sequence which lasts for 12 bars which is used a lot in blues and jazz music
Chord	more than one note played at the same time, which makes the harmony part in music
Rest	a fixed period of silence in a musical part
Scale	a set of pitches that are used in a piece of music
Pentatonic Scale	a scale which contains five pitches
Improvise	creating music 'on the spot.' If you are a singer and want to improvise, scat singing is an easier way to do it as you don't have to think of words.
Verse	a section of lyrics in a song (these are different every time, unlike a chorus which stays the same)
Melody	the tune, often performed by a singer or solo instrument

### Key knowledge - development of 'blues' music

Blues is a style of music which was developed by African Americans in the southern states of the USA in the 1860s. Blues developed out of Spirituals and other styles of music that were around at the time. Some of the key elements of blues music are the sad, repetitive lyrics which tell a story, the 12 bar chord sequence, the pentatonic scale, and improvisation. Blues is extremely important in the history of popular music: elements from Blues can be heard in all popular music we listen to today.

### Key knowledge - 12-bar Blues

12-bar Blues uses a pattern of chords over 12 bars. We use roman numerals when we label the chords in the scale

I = 1st  
IV = 4th  
V = 5th



### Key knowledge - Structure

Pieces of music have a structure. In blues song the structure of the lyrics follow an A A B pattern

