

Instructional Unit Title: Feeling Blue

As an introduction the teacher may share a story such as *Jazz and Blues* by David Armentrout and Patricia Armentrout so that students can begin to understand the cultural origin of the Blues and Jazz genres of music.

The teacher may share a story such as *The Middle-Child Blues* by Kristyn Crow so that students can identify the emotional influence found in the Blues.

The teacher may share a story such as *The Blues Singers (Ten Who Rocked the World)* by Julius Lester so that students can identify the variety of style between Blues performers.

The teacher may give examples of improvisation so that students can consider the ways in which emotions drive musical decision making.

The teacher may provide composed musical examples of the 12 bar Blues progression so the students can begin to connect the musical elements they hear with the structure/musical form of the Blues.

The teacher may introduce the I-IV-V chords with some type of visual icon (shapes, colors, numbers, letters, pitches), so students can identify and perform these chords on a variety of instruments.

Teacher may facilitate composing the 12-bar Blues progression so that students can explore and personalize a musical composition.

(Post Performance Assessment) Teacher may revisit the elements of Blues music and the student performance itself so that students can reflect on the composition and improvisational processes.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: You are a recording artist and you are working on an album. Your producer suggests that you need a bit more variety in your album list and that you should include a Blues song. This song will be included on your new album for your fans. You will write appropriate lyrics that reflect traditional Blues cultural music expression and an improvisation (for an instrument or singing) for a 12-bar Blues progression.

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples>.