

What are the Blues?

- The Blues is the mother and father of Jazz, Rock & Roll Rhythm & Blues, Gospel, and even Hip-hop music.
- Is an indigenous (native) African-American art form.



What does It mean to have the blues?



The blues tells a story. Every line of the blues has
a meaning.

- **John Lee Hooker**

The road to the blues:

- 1820s Many slaves become Christian. They mix African music with church songs and religious ideas known as “Spirituals.”
- 1850s “Call and Holler” songs used by slaves in the field for morale.
- 1865 Civil War ends. The 13th Amendment ends slavery but some slaves do not receive word of their freedom.

The road to the blues (cont.):

- 1870s African-American music begins to focus its theme on “free life” because they now were free but had become sharecroppers.
- 1927 The Mississippi River floods the Delta causing great of life and property. Charlie Patton of Drew, MS records “Highwater Every Where” telling the story of the flood. Charlie Patton is considered the “father of the blues.”

Blues Name Starter Kit:

- Name of physical infirmity (Blind, Mute, Lame, etc.)
- First name (see above) plus name of food item (Lemon, cornbread, fighting okra, etc.)
- Last name of President (Jefferson, Johnson, Fillmore, Clinton, Obama, etc.)
- For example: Blind Lime Jefferson, Pegleg cornbread Johnson or Lame Fighting Okra Clinton, etc.