

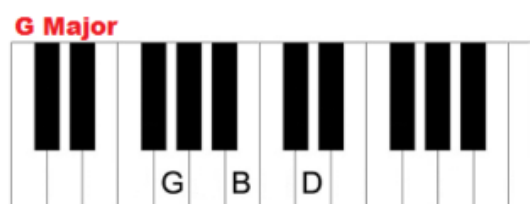
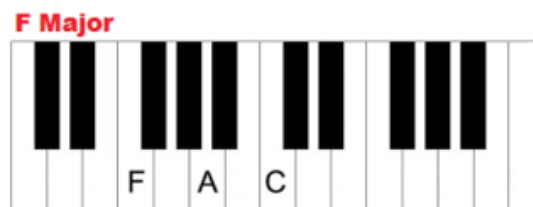
12-Bar Blues Chords

The 12-bar blues consists of 12 bars (hence the name) repeated. The 12-bar blues we are going to learn is in C major. Traditionally, the 12-bar blues uses the 1st, 4th and 5th, chords. This means that we will be using the chords of C major, F major and G major.

Using the chord chart below, have a go at playing our 12-bar blues

- ✚ Each bar is worth **4 beats**
- ✚ If you are finding playing the full chord (3 notes) try playing the first note, **C,F,G**- these are the most important of the chord.
- ✚ First try playing **each** chord for a **semibreve** each (4 beats)
- ✚ When you are comfortable play **each** chord for a **crotchet** (1 beat)
- ✚ Try improvising your own **rhythms** for the chords

C Major	C Major	C Major	C Major
F Major	F Major	C Major	C Major
G Major	F Major	C Major	C Major



12-Bar Blues Melody

- Have a go at performing this melody
- Notice that it uses notes from the chords we learnt for the 12-bar blues
- Once you are comfortable in playing the melody on its own, try putting the chords and melody together.

Spot The Dot Blues

Chord progression: C C G A G C C C C G A G C C

1 2 3 + 4 + 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 + 4 + 1 2 3 4

Chord progression: F F C D C F F C C G A G C C

1 2 3 + 4 + 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 + 4 + 1 2 3 4

Chord progression: G G F F C C G A G C C

1 2 3 + 4 + 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 + 4 + 1 2 3 4

The History of the Blues

Blues music first started in the USA about 100 to 130 years ago. It is the traditional music of the Afro-American people.

Firstly, look at the three diagrams below. They show the three routes of the Slave Trade Triangle. Can you imagine what it must have felt like to be one of those slaves.

The slave trade consisted of three journeys.

1. The **outward** journey from Europe to Africa carrying manufactures goods.
2. The **middle** passage from Africa to the Americas or the Caribbean carrying African captives (slaves) and other commodities.
3. The **homeward** passage carrying sugar, tobacco, rum, rice, cotton and other goods back to Europe.

By the 1790's there were half a million slaves. It is estimated that 11-12 million Africans were transported across the Atlantic into slavery. Many more died on the journeys across the sea.



When African people were brought to the USA to work as slaves, they brought the rhythms and sounds of their music with them.

This music gradually changed over the years and became a new type of African/American music which people called **Blues**.

The slaves used to sing work songs while working in the fields as a form of communication. At first these songs were used as communication but then developed into a complex form of conversation and often carried forbidden or secret information in the form of codes. Their songs used a technique called *Call and Response* which is where one person would sing a line and everyone else would respond with another line.

Because of its beginnings with the slaves, Blues songs are often about sad things or people in different kinds of trouble. A slang word for feeling sad is feeling 'Blue' that is another reason why the music is called the **Blues**.





Answer the following questions:

- Q1 How long ago was it when blues first appeared?
- Q2 How many different journeys were there in the slave trade?
- Q3 What were some of the items that the slaves were traded for?
- Q4 In the 1790's how many slaves were there?
- Q5 Can you describe what Blues songs are about?
- Q6 Make a copy of the slave trade triangle




Blues Research Task

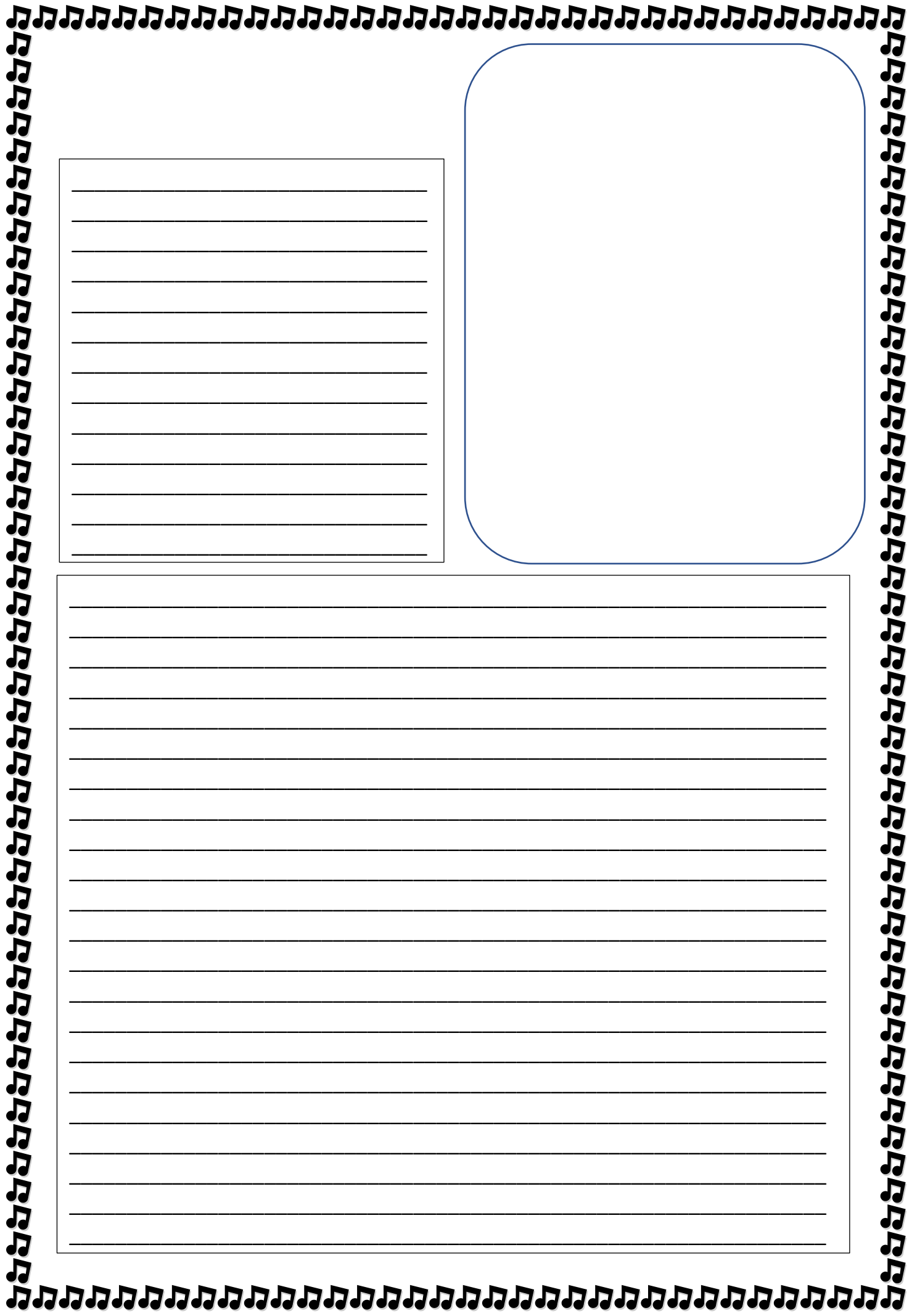
Using the template on the next page, create a Facebook profile or fact file on a famous Blues artists.

You should include:

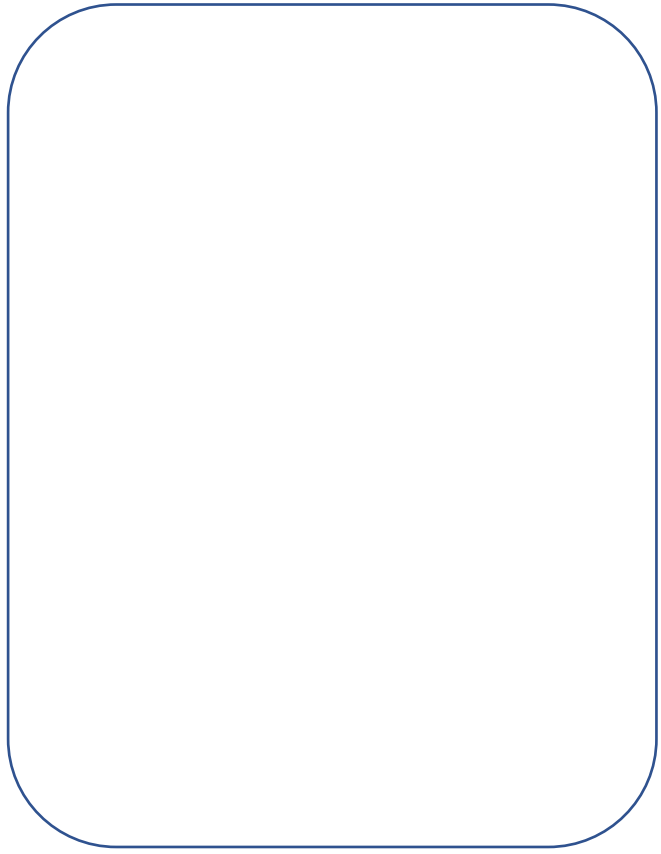
-  A picture
-  When they were born and died (if applicable)
-  Information on their upbringing
-  How they became famous in the genre of Blues

If you can't find any famous Blues artists choose from:

-  Robert Johnson
-  Bessie Smith
-  Eric Clapton



A rectangular box containing ten horizontal lines for writing.



A large rectangular box containing twenty horizontal lines for writing.