

Teacher:

**Subject / Course:** ELA, Social Studies

Date:

**Unit Title:** Mississippi Blues Trail Map

Grade:

**Duration:** 45–60 Minutes

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## Mississippi Social Studies Framework:

3. Describe and illustrate geographic aspects of a region using fundamental geographic vocabulary.
  - a. Use social studies tools (e.g., timelines, maps, globes, compasses, graphs, grids, technological resources, etc.) to describe the connections among the people, places, and environment of Mississippi and the southeastern region. (DOK 2)
  - b. Compare and contrast the ten geographical regions of Mississippi in terms of soil, landforms, etc. (DOK 2)
6. Understand diversity in Mississippi.
  - b. Identify the Mississippi artists, musicians, and writers who have made an impact on the state, nation and world. (DOK 1)

## CCRS:

- W.4.7** Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- W.4.8** Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.
- SL.4.4** Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.
- SL.4.5** Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.
- L.4.1** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing (printing, cursive, or keyboarding) or speaking.
- L.4.3** Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

## Summary of Unit:

### The Blues and Mississippi Blues Trail Map.

Learn about the blues and its history. After a lesson on the blues, students research a landmark on the Blues Trail and present a poster/pamphlet with information.

## Lesson Objectives:

- Discuss the blues as a genre of music and its history
- Discuss Malaco Records
- Research a Blues Trail stop
- Research a blues singer
- Create a poster/pamphlet with information on the stop and singer

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## Lesson Structure:

- The teacher will introduce “The Blues” to the students by showing “The Blues” *Mississippi, Believe It!*<sup>TM</sup> poster.
- The teacher will play an audio clip of blues music to the class. The teacher will ask the students to listen to the music and think about how the music makes them feel. In a classroom discussion the teacher will have the students tell how the music made them feel.
- The teacher will have the students read the “Do you have the Blues?” handout independently, then the teacher will discuss what was read.
- The teacher will then show the class the “Malaco Records” *Mississippi, Believe It!*<sup>TM</sup> poster.
- The teacher will discuss Malaco Records and where it is located on the Blues Trail.
- After the lesson on the Blues Singers, the teacher will show a map of the Blues Trail. The teacher and students will discuss the regions where some of the stops are located.
- The teacher will put the students in pairs or groups of three.
- The teacher will have each group pick a location of a Blues Trail stop. This can be a random draw or the teacher can assign each group a marker title.
- Each group will be given time to research its location and fill out the Blues Trail worksheet. The students can use the information they learned in the Blues Singers lesson and from researching in the library or on the Internet. This is at the teacher’s discretion, according to what resources are available to you.
- After the students have completed the sheet, the teacher will have a small conference with the group to help them get their ideas in order to create a poster or pamphlet. During this time, the teacher can correct any misunderstandings, help with wording, or clear up confusion on the worksheet. During this time, the teacher can also explain the rubric for grading to ensure understanding of the project.
- Groups will then be given supplies (see activity for list) to complete the poster or pamphlet.
- Students will present their posters/pamphlets to the class to share their information. As they present, the students will place a sign (see sign sheet) on the class map of Mississippi, marking their spot along the Blues Trail in the correct region.
- After all groups have presented, the class will have their own version of a map of the Mississippi Blues Trail.

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## Guiding Questions:

1. How does this music make you feel?
2. What are the blues?
3. Where was the blues started?
4. Who are some blues musicians?
5. What is Malaco Records and where is it located?
6. What is the Mississippi Blues Trail?
7. What region and town is your marker in?
8. Research a famous singer from that area.
9. What important information should be included in your poster/pamphlet for others to understand your landmark and singer?

## Poster Activity:

Supplies for each group:

- Poster
- Markers
- Pencils
- Pens
- Stickers
- Construction paper
- Glue

## Pamphlet Activity:

Supplies for each group:

- Large manila paper
- Markers
- Pencils
- Pens
- Stickers
- Construction paper
- Glue

Each group will use the Blues Trail worksheet to create an eye-catching poster. The poster should include all information filled out on the worksheet and be presented in a way that makes the audience want to learn about the marker along the Blues Trail. Students need to use their imagination and create the poster. This includes writing neatly, correct spelling, capitalization, and overall good appearance. This can be graded with the pamphlet/poster rubric as the students present their information.

Each group will use the Blues Trail worksheet to create an appealing pamphlet. The teacher will show the students how to fold the manila paper into a trifold pamphlet. This will help organize their work. The front needs to be eye-catching so the audience will want to read more about the marker. The inside must include neat writing, correct spelling, capitalization, and an overall good appearance. This can be graded with the pamphlet/poster rubric as the students present their information.

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**Key Vocabulary:**

- Blues
- Genre
- Emotion
- Mississippi Blues Trail
- Marker
- Regions of Mississippi

**Resources & Materials**

- Whiteboard
- Charts/Maps
- Computer
- Smartboard
- Video/Audio
- Textbook Pages
- Workbook Pages
- Handout
- Manipulatives
- Other:

**Assessments:**

- Pre-Test
- Post-Test
- Observation
- Oral
- Writing Assessment
- Journal
- Homework
- Demonstration
- Other:

## Do You Have the Blues?

The state of Mississippi is known as the Birthplace of America's Music and is especially home to the blues. The blues is a genre of music that originates from African-American work songs of the 19th century and folk music. These songs include a wide range of emotion. To have the blues is to "feel down in the dumps" or sad. The blues style of music went on to influence many different genres of music, such as jazz, rock and roll, soul and R&B.



Do the names Charlie Patton, Robert Johnson, W.C. Handy, John Lee Hooker, Bo Diddley, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Little Milton, or B.B. King sound familiar? These men were all blues musicians who got their start in Mississippi. These men travelled Highway 61, which is known as the most revered blues highway in the world. In 2006, the Mississippi Blues Commission created the Mississippi Blues Trail, which now includes 186 markers across the state, giving recognition to the most notable historical sites. This includes the birth, development and influence of the blues throughout the state of Mississippi and United States. "Some see the world in black and white. Others see varying shades of gray. But, Mississippi taught the world to see ... and hear ... the blues."

## Malaco Records



Malaco Records is an American independent record label based in Jackson, Mississippi, that has been the home of various major blues and gospel recording artists. Johnnie Taylor, Bobby Bland, Z. Z. Hill, Denise LaSalle, Benny Latimore, Dorothy Moore, Little Milton, Shirley Brown, Marvin Sease, and the Mississippi Mass Choir are just to name a few. Malaco Records also has an historic marker on the Mississippi Blues Trail.

(These are just some of the names of markers that can be placed in the different regions.  
You can find more marker names online, if you have a larger class.)

<b>B.B. King Birthplace</b>	<b>Birthplace of the Blues</b>
<b>Black Prairie Blues</b>	<b>Bo Diddly</b>
<b>Dorothy Moore</b>	<b>Elvis Presley</b>
<b>Howlin' Wolf</b>	<b>Malaco Records</b>
<b>Muddy Waters Birthplace</b>	<b>Oxford Blues</b>
<b>Peavy Electronics</b>	<b>Roots of Rock 'n' Roll</b>
<b>Tate County Blues</b>	<b>W.C. Handy Encounters the Blues</b>

# Mississippi Blues Trail Map

**Poster/Pamphlet Rubric**

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation	Appearance	Information	Spelling & Capitalization	Group Effort
<p><b>20</b> Speaks loud &amp; clear Complete Eye Contact Doesn't look at notes Keeps audience attention</p>	<p><b>20</b> Poster/pamphlet is creative and original Used all types of supplies to enhance appearance</p>	<p><b>20</b> All 7 facts are used on the poster/pamphlet and are accurate</p>	<p><b>20</b> There are no mistakes on the poster/pamphlet</p>	<p><b>20</b> Everyone participated equally Used time wisely Did not distract others</p>
<p><b>15</b> Mostly eye contact Speaks somewhat loud &amp; clear Sometimes looks at notes Keeps most audience attention</p>	<p><b>15</b> Poster/pamphlet is somewhat creative and original Used some types of supplies to enhance appearance</p>	<p><b>15</b> 4-6 facts are used on the poster/pamphlet and are accurate</p>	<p><b>15</b> There are 1-3 mistakes on the poster/pamphlet</p>	<p><b>15</b> Some did more work than others Used time somewhat wisely Somewhat distracted others</p>
<p><b>10</b> Doesn't speak loud &amp; clear Minimal eye contact Mostly looks at notes Does not have audience attention</p>	<p><b>10</b> Poster/pamphlet is not creative and original Used few types of supplies to enhance appearance</p>	<p><b>10</b> 0-3 facts are used on the poster/pamphlet and are accurate</p>	<p><b>10</b> There are 4 or more mistakes on the poster/pamphlet</p>	<p><b>10</b> Some didn't participate Did not use time wisely Distracted others a lot</p>
<p><b>Presentation Total</b></p>	<p><b>Appearance Total</b></p>	<p><b>Information Total</b></p>	<p><b>Spell/Capitalization Total</b></p>	<p><b>Group Effort Total</b></p>



1. What is the name of your Blues Trail Marker?

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2. In what region is your Blues Trail Marker?

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3. Who is famous from that area?

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4. List 3 important facts about the area where your Blues Marker is located.

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4. Why is your Blues Trail Marker an important stop along the Mississippi Blues Trail?

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