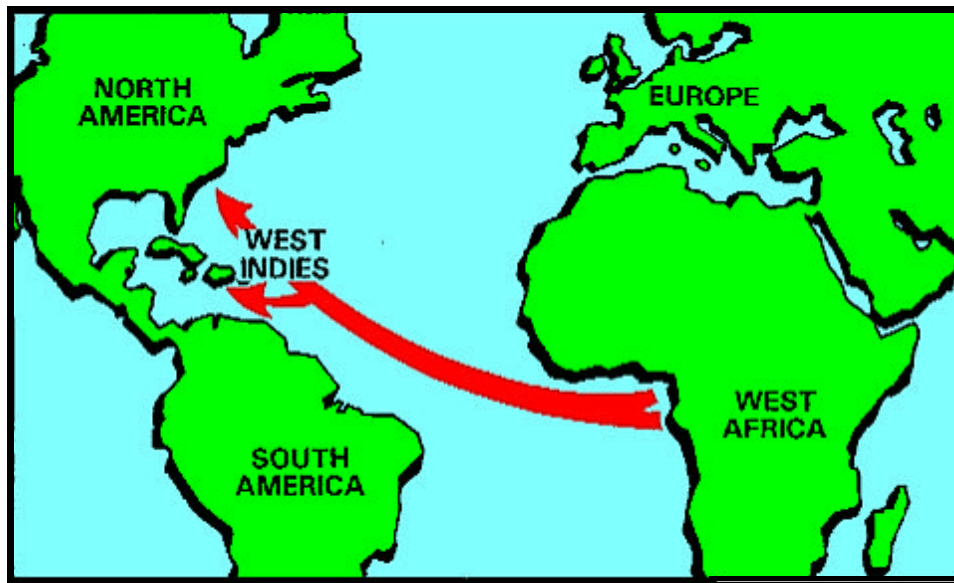


Where Blues and Jazz started

During the 18th and 19th centuries thousands of people were taken as slaves from Africa to America. For these Africans life became a nightmare. Many died on their long journey by sailing ship. Those that survived were sold in auctions and put to work on farms in the Southern states of America. Families were often split up. Children were taken from their parents and husbands from their wives. The life of slavery was cruel and horrible.



Slavery was a nightmare come true. Yet the slaves played and sang music which later influenced music all over the world. From the music of slaves came blues and jazz.



Tasks

Put the title 'Blues Music' in your book with today's date. Remember to underline your title.

1. Copy the map above and mark in the slave movement.
2. Why did thousands of African go to America in the 18th and 19th centuries?
3. What made life horrible for the Africans?

Introduction to Blues Music

For the Africans music was a way of life. It is not surprising that music played an important part in the lives of African slaves. In the songs Slaves expressed unhappiness. They also had songs for healing the sick and lullabies for the babies. While working in the fields the slaves also sang **rhythmic** tunes to keep the beat as they worked.

Instruments of the Slaves

African music is famous for exciting rhythms. These were played on the **drums** as the drum is the most popular African instrument. The slaves made drums of many different shapes and sizes. They played them in a variety of ways, e.g. with the palms of their hands, their fingertips, or with sticks. Other percussion instruments were the **shakers** made from containers half filled with pebbles, and **tambourines**.

Sometimes the slaves wore anklets and when they stamped in time with the music they would jingle. The jangling created an **off beat** rhythm. The Slaves had to make instruments out of what ever they could find. They used the bones of cattle. Large beef bones were used like wood blocks or drum sticks. Jawbones became **scrapers** when the teeth were scraped with keys or metal objects. The slaves also made string instruments. The most popular was the fiddle which was played with a curved bow.

Tasks

Answer the following in full sentences.

1. Why did music play an important part in the lives of the African slaves?
2. Which was the most popular instrument used ? Describe the way it was played.
3. How were Jaw bones turned into percussion instruments?
4. What is an off beat rhythm?
5. Make a list of all the instruments used.

Now listen to different examples of Blues music.

1. Traditional blues
2. Modern blues - for example Eric Clapton.

Try to identify what the singer is singing about?

How does the use of instruments change between traditional and modern blues?