



Chicago

(Has Got Everything You Need)

Words and music by Fernando Jones

LESSON PLAN

Chicago (Has Got Everything You Need)
Words and music by Fernando Jones
From
2009 Summer Teacher Institute
at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
and Blues Kids of America
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Rationale

This hands-on lesson is designed to effectively teach the 12-bar Blues pattern through the lens of Chicago via the pairing of call-and-response (voice) and “C” harmonica. As a team building exercise, Learners will role play as “Blues” characters. All Learners will participate by singing, clapping, and playing their harmonicas in an interactive setting. Chicago has many crown jewels and the Blues is the city’s ambassadorial tool of goodwill to the world. Through lyrics this great city will be toured. This lesson plan can also be modified to spotlight other American cities, given an appropriate song.

Objectives

Learners will be able to:

- Analyze and discuss lyrics of a song.
- Make a connection between song and place.
- Recognize the 12-bar Blues pattern and AAB (call-and-response).
- Identify instrument(s) when listening to a recording.
- Recognize similes and metaphors.
- Perform a song by singing and playing the harmonica.

Related Educational Standards

- IL.1 GOAL: Read with understanding and fluency.
- IL.1.A STANDARD: Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.
- IL.1.C STANDARD: Comprehend a broad range of reading materials.
- IL.2.A STANDARD: Understand how literary elements and techniques are used to convey meaning.
- IL.3.C STANDARD: Communicate ideas in writing to accomplish a variety of purposes.
- IL.4 GOAL: Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations.
- IL.4.A STANDARD: Listen effectively in formal and informal situations.
- IL.5 GOAL: Use the language arts to acquire, assess and communicate information.
- IL.5.A STANDARD: Locate, organize, and use information from various sources to answer questions, solve problems and communicate ideas.
- IL.5.B STANDARD: Analyze and evaluate information acquired from various sources.

Target Level

4th- 8th grade (but could be modified for most K-12 classrooms)

Time Frame

1-2 class periods

Materials

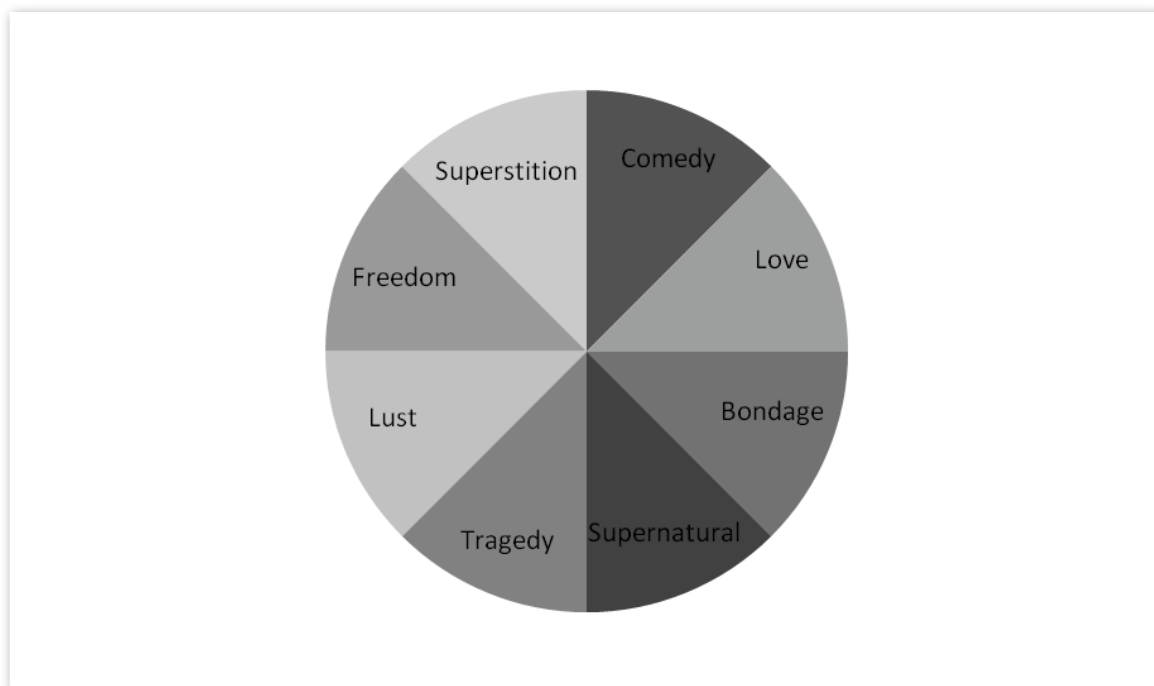
“Chicago (Has Got Everything You Need)” CD
“C” Harmonicas
Song lyrics
CD Player

Background Information

Rooted in the African tradition of call-and-response, the Blues, mother and father of Jazz, Rock & Roll, Rhythm & Blues, Gospel, and even Hip-Hop music, is an indigenous African American art form. It's also a cultural institution filled with volumes of autobiographical, economical, sociological, and historical information expressed through the arts in disciplines such as, but not limited to music, literature, dance, and theater. In brief, it's a documentary of Black America.

Musically, for more than seventy-five years, the Blues has been an ambassadorial tool of goodwill from America to the world. Culturally, it's been embraced and consumed globally just like McDonald's hamburgers and Coca-Cola have been. Some scholars have considered the Blues to be an artistic phenomenon due to its uncanny ability to transcend and address controversial issues such as race, class, gender, politics, and even socio-economics.

Woven into the fabric of this country, this art form is nothing short of an in-depth autobiography of America. Created on Southern plantations by enslaved Africans and their descendants and expressed through moans, groans, street cries, ring shouts, and field hollers induced by circumstances and conditions, the Blues is a music and culture that is continually redefined by the next generation. Blues songs generally tell complete stories in just three verses exposing one's truths, tragedies, triumphs, and their trials & tribulations. Here is a chart with basic song themes. Use this chart to make up songs of your own.



One of the fundamentals of Blues music is call-and-response. Though an Africanism, call-and-response can be found in everything from nursery rhymes to Country & Western music. Harvard University Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. said the following in a December 12, 1996 *New York Times* article written by Dinitia Smith: "Embedded in all aspects of this oral tradition is the pattern of call-and-response. It is the structured principle of worship, the unbroken center of secular and sacred forms. It's never not been there." Below is a sample of call-and-response using the AAB structure.

Example: "The Blues Spares None" by Fernando Jones

1st Line A	2nd Line A	3rd Line B
Call	Response (or the answer)	Hook Line

(A) The Call (person 1)

I tumble like a tumbleweed, and roll like a rollin' stone.

(A) Response (repeated by the group)

I tumble like a tumbleweed, and roll like a rollin' stone.

(B) Hook Line (everybody together)

You'll never see, see me crumble.

And you'll never know the Blues I've known.

Procedures: Have Learners share images that come to mind when they think of Chicago. Can they name songs with "Chicago" as a theme? Write remarks on the board. Then add a verse from "Chicago (Has Got Everything You Need)" by Fernando Jones. Projectors and monitors can be used for examples.

Chicago (Has Got Everything You Need)

Words & Music by Fernando Jones 6/8/98 • ©1998 Bluefunkjazzroll Music, BMI

Chicago's got everything you need.

I said, Chicago's got everything you need.

We've got a Great Lake and gold plated streets.

We've got hot dogs and championship teams.

I said, We've got Soul Food and championship teams.

We're the city that works with a skyline that's mean.

We've got theaters and movie shows.

For a couple of bucks go where you want to go.

I said, Chicago's got everything you need.

We've got a Great Lake and gold plated streets.

Whenever I need a reason, a reason to smile.

I said, Whenever I need a reason, a reason to smile.

I go window shoppin' on the Magnificent Mile.

Chicago's got everything you need.

I said, Chicago's got everything you need.

We've got a Great Lake and gold plated streets.

Chicago's always got somethin' for you.

Chicago's always got somethin' new.

Chicago's the heart of the Blues.

Chicago's always got somethin' for you.

Chicago's always got somethin' new.

Chicago's the heart of the Blues.

Explain that songs are simply poems set to music. Ask students to name some sort the Championship teams and popular pro-players in Chicago and list them on the board. While listening to the CD, have Learners write out metaphors and similes in the song in their notebooks. Have Learners use a log sheet to collect data.

Get Learners to sing/answer the call lines to demonstrate the power of a catchy song and the call-and-response pattern.

When finished, break Learners into groups of 3-4 and have them write and sing an additional verse to the song based in information they already know about Chicago (such as the Chicago Bulls, Oprah, sky-scrapers, etc.) using the instrumental track.

As a treat, have Learners use the Internet to search for other popular songs with “Chi-Town” as a focus.

Evaluation

Learners will perform their verse/song/poem.
Journals will be reviewed and graded.

Enrichment/Resources

www.BluesKids.com
www.FernandoJones.com

I Was There When The Blues Was Red Hot by Fernando Jones (1989 / 2009)

Can be purchased at Amazon.com