



Lesson Ideas

Younger Students

- After students have learned about BB King's guitar Lucille, ask them to create a children's book about BB's passion for the blues and his relationship with Lucille. Encourage them to create a simple tale with illustrations. Listening to and/or reading the following links will help the students learn more about Lucille:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Y8QxOjuYHg>
http://www.lyricsmania.com/lucille_lyrics_bb_king.html

- Ask students to imagine their school is presenting BB King with a life time achievement award. Divide students into small groups. Ask each group to write a short commemorative speech for the awards ceremony. Their speeches could include five of his top accomplishments and they could choose a favorite BB King song to play in the background. Ask each group to present their speech to the class.

Older Students

- Play *Why I Sing the Blues* for the class: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uixMv902Ui0>

Pass out the lyrics to the first three verses (in the table below) to each student. Challenge students to write a new fourth verse to BB King's song and sing it with a passionate and bluesy voice for the class.

<i>Everybody wants to know Why I sing the blues Yes, I say everybody wanna know Why I sing the blues Well, I've been around a long time I really have paid my dues</i>	<i>When I first got the blues They brought me over on a ship Men were standing over me And a lot more with a whip And everybody wanna know Why I sing the blues Well, I've been around a long time Mm, I've really paid my dues</i>	<i>I've laid in a ghetto flat Cold and numb I heard the rats tell the bedbugs To give the roaches some Everybody wanna know Why I'm singing the blues Yes, I've been around a long time People, I've paid my dues</i>
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Lyrics courtesy of <http://www.sing365.com>

- There is a BB King Museum in Indianola, Mississippi, a city close to where King was born. The museum is broken up into four sections: BB's childhood (1930s), the beginnings of his career (1950s), his time touring across all of the United States and overseas (1960s +) and an interactive blues music and instrument exhibit. Ask students to create a drawing, diagram, story board, model or other artifact to put on display in one of the sections of the museum.

Listening Activity

- BB King's *Live at the Regal* is considered by some to be the best blues album of all time. Musicians like Eric Clapton and John Mayer listen to the album to get inspired before they perform in front of a live audience. Set out a range of creative materials for your students to use (pencils, paper, clay, paints, markers, yarn, glue, wood, reusable junk, etc). Play songs from *Live at the Regal* and tell students to let the music inspire them to create a poem, piece of art, a new invention or anything the music motivates.



Borrow *Live at the Regal* from the library or use the following links:

<http://www.cduniverse.com/search/xx/music/pid/1104036/a/Live+At+The+Regal.htm>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYxPz7KpdG8>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSZuwTZaTjk>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCoDgva6tQo>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpnJry5Buak>

Suggested Listening List

Links to download recordings from iTunes & view on YouTube are available in the Resources Area

http://www.funmusicco.com/private/pmlp_module_4/resources

- *Woke Up This Morning* - BB King
- *Ain't Nobody Home* - BB King
- *The Thrill Is Gone* - BB King
- *Three O'Clock Blues* - BB King
- *You Upset Me Baby* - BB King
- *Don't Answer the Door* - BB King
- *Slow Blues* - BB King and Jimi Hendrix
- *When Love Comes to Town* - U2 and BB King
- *Rock Me Baby* - BB King

Internet Links

- <http://www.bbking.com> - The BB King Official Website
- <http://www.whosdatedwho.com/music/songs/b-b-king.htm> - Provides a range of BB King songs and their lyrics
- <http://www.jazzandbluesmasters.com/bbking.htm> - A detailed biography on BB King
- <http://www.bbkingmuseum.org> - The BB King Museum
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B.B._King - A detailed description of BB King's life

YouTube Links

- <http://www.last.fm/music/B.B.+King> - BB King Radio and excerpts from some of his songs
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDh_Fg4G0uE - *Woke Up This Morning*, BB King
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yk_PaywkX8 - *Ain't Nobody Home*, BB King
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6xSpiRYa7I> - *Three O'Clock Blues*, BB King
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fk2prKnYnl> - *Thrill is Gone*, BB King (live)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ4qY6JSrVA> - *You Upset Me Baby*, BB King Live At the Regal
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zh9X79wQvw> - *Don't Answer the Door*, BB King
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyuSDajZTNo> - *Since I Met You Baby*, BB King and Gary Moore
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4PUa-CvUno> - *Slow Blues*, BB King and Jimi Hendrix
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=th1kQER770M> - *When Love Comes to Town*, U2 and BB King
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F40XrmxDp44> - *Rock Me Baby*, BB King, Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy and Jim Vaughan

