**American Musical Culture – Roots of the Blues**

**Points for discussion**

1. **Imagine yourself as a slave. You have been stolen from your own country, carried thousands of miles away, told you will work or you will die!**
   1. **What would your days be like?**
   2. **How would you take your mind away from your misery?**
   3. **How would you make your life easier, out in the fields under the hot sun, for 12 – 14 hours a day?**
   4. **How would you express your sorrow if your “master” sold your family to another “master” and you never saw them again?**
2. **Imagine what life would be like as a “second class” citizen.**
   1. **Black Americans in the late 1800s through the 1950s**
   2. **How would you express your sadness and anger?**
3. **Talk about music that makes you sad.**
   1. **Why does it make you sad?**
      1. **Is it the words (“lyrics”)?**
      2. **How can lyrics make you sad?**
      3. **Is it the melody?**
      4. **How can a melody make you sad?**
4. **Blues music literally changed the Western world, and is now global in its influence. Can you think of any other music with that kind of impact on society?** 
   1. **Discuss the power of music.**
   2. **Does music have that much power in China?**
5. **Does China have its own type of “blues” music?**
   1. **What is it?**
   2. **How would you describe it?**
   3. **Is it similar to Western blues?**
   4. **How?**