

Compare and Contrast Worksheet (answer guide*)

*This is not an exhaustive list of all the answers. You may have more to share with your students!

	“Session Blues”	“Steamboat Whistle”	Comparison: how are they similar or different?
Instruments / Timbre (Which instrumental timbres do you hear? Acoustic instruments? Electric instruments? Vocal timbre, range of singer?)	Electric instruments: electric guitar, electric bass. Also: piano, drums, harmonica, voice (see slide 24.5)	Acoustic guitar, voice (see slide 24.5)	Electric vs. acoustic instruments
Structure / Form (chord structure; lyrical structure; overall form of song)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony: 12-bar blues progression (see slide 24.2) Lyrical form: AAB (see slide 24.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmony: 16-bar blues progression with a repeat of measures 5–8 (see slide 24.2) Lyrical form: AAAB (see slide 24.3) 	
Style (How do the musicians express the sounds? Do they interact? Is there improvisation? Guitar picking/stumming patterns; blue notes? Yells?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Mama sings in a powerful and raw (unrefined) manner, and uses “blue notes.” Call and response interaction between Big Mama and other musicians—especially the musician playing the harmonica 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John sings with a pensive, soft voice. Instrumental solos on guitar in between verses. Guitar picking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocal qualities differ in power and emotional expression. Both have instrumental passages. Buddy Guy (Big Mama Thornton) strums the guitar, while John picks.
Texture (Many instruments? Only a few instruments? Do they play at the same time? Take turns?)	At least 5 instruments, interacting with each other, taking “improvisational breaks”	Only guitar and voice	The band has more instruments interacting, but both songs alternate between the voice and the instruments.
Meaning (what is the song about? How do you know?)	Big Mama is singing about playing music and touring with the members of her band. A “session” is a term used to describe a group of people who gather to play music together.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Session Blues” is celebrating being together with talented musicians. “Steamboat Whistle,” is mournful . . .
Time / Rhythm (beat, are there repeated rhythmic patterns, simple?, complex?, strumming patterns, syncopation)	There is a “swing,” or “shuffle” to the beat, which can be heard as 4 groups of 3 beats per measure.	Straight beat, grouped in 2s	Though “Session Blues” is more upbeat, it is slower than “Steamboat Whistle.”