

## 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?
<b>Instruments / Timbre</b> (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
<b>Structure / Form</b> (chord structure; lyrical structure; overall form of song)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmony: 12-bar blues progression (see slide 24.2)</li> <li>• Lyrical form: AAB (see slide 24.3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmony: 16-bar blues progression with a repeat of measures 5–8 (see slide 24.2)</li> <li>• Lyrical form: AAAB (see slide 24.3)</li> </ul>	
<b>Style</b> (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"> <li>• Big Mama sings in a powerful and raw (unrefined) manner, and uses “blue notes.”</li> <li>• Call and response interaction between Big Mama and other musicians—especially the musician playing the harmonica</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John sings with a pensive, soft voice.</li> <li>• Instrumental solos on guitar in between verses.</li> <li>• Guitar picking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocal qualities differ in power and emotional expression.</li> <li>• Both have instrumental passages.</li> <li>• Buddy Guy (Big Mama Thornton) strums the guitar, while John picks.</li> </ul>
<b>Texture</b> (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.
<b>Meaning</b> (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"> <li>• “Session Blues” is celebrating being together with talented musicians.</li> <li>• “Steamboat Whistle,” is mournful . . .</li> </ul>
<b>Time / Rhythm</b> (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.”