

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

## Spirituals

In the 17th and 18th centuries Africans were captured from their native countries and forced to work in the southern states of America as slaves. Although they did not have many personal possessions, they did have their \_\_\_\_\_. Many slave owners did not allow their slaves to speak to each other, so the slaves would communicate using \_\_\_\_\_ and songs. These songs, called \_\_\_\_\_, were religious in nature and described hope for a better life.

## Ragtime

After slavery was abolished in 1865, many freed slaves still had trouble finding work. Some \_\_\_\_\_ (mixed race of white slave owners and black female slaves) had received musical training as children and became traveling musicians. Others joined variety shows known as vaudeville. This is where an upbeat music called \_\_\_\_\_ became popular. It fused African and European musical styles and used syncopated or "ragged" rhythms. "The Entertainer" is a famous ragtime song by \_\_\_\_\_ an African American composer.

## Blues

Blues music also originated in southern African American communities in the late 19th century. It was a blend of African work songs, spirituals, and field chants. The blues is characterized by its chord progression, the use of flattened or "blue notes", and its \_\_\_\_\_ lyrics. \_\_\_\_\_ was a blues composer and musician known as the "Father of the Blues" and greatly popularized this art form in America. \_\_\_\_\_ was a famous blues singer loved by black and white Americans.

## Word Bank

creoles      music      melancholy      spirituals      Bessie Smith  
W.C.Handy      drums      ragtime      Scott Joplin