

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Sing It!

READ:

In the Mississippi Delta, African American farmers sang and chanted in the fields. Overtime, they began to add guitars, harmonicas, and drums to these songs. This created a new musical genre called the Blues which spread from the South to northern cities like Chicago. “Sweet Home Chicago” is a blues song first recorded by Robert Johnson in 1936. It became very popular and the unofficial song of the city. Since Johnson's record, it has been performed and recorded by many musicians and has appeared in movies and on television. Later versions changed some of the lyrics and incorporated each artist’s personal style. Now it is your turn to make it your own!

DO:

- **Listen** to a recording or two of “Sweet Home Chicago” on YouTube, or other website so you know what it sounds like or ask an adult to sing it to you!
- **Write** your own “Sweet Home Chicago” lyrics! Choose the template you want to try or try both! One is fill in the blank, the other is made for you to do more writing.
- **Prepare** to go on stage! Find some fun things to wear like a hat or sunglasses. If you have a toy microphone, grab it or make one using cardboard and tinfoil, or just use a hair brush!
- **Perform** your song for your family. If you can record yourself, you can also have a family jam night with everyone writing and singing together.

Approx. Time: 30—45 minutes

Materials:

- ⇒ My “Sweet Home Chicago” Mad Lib and Lyrics
- ⇒ Writing Supplies
- ⇒ Costume Accessories (optional)
- ⇒ Microphone Real or Imaginary (optional)
- ⇒ You Tube, Music Website to hear “Sweet Home Chicago” (optional)

SHARE:

- **Send** your recording to family members to brighten their day.
- **Post** a pictures of your new song, your recording or photos from your in home concert on social media with the hashtag #CHMatHomeFamilies!



Blues Performance in Chicago. ICHi-102320



My Sweet Home Chicago Mad Lib

By: _____

Directions: Fill in the blanks below to create your own blues song.

COME ON. _____, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?

1. Name or nickname of a friend or family member

COME ON. _____, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?

2. Repeat the name above or add a new name

BACK TO THAT SAME OLD PLACE, _____ CHICAGO.

3. A word or two that describes Chicago

COME ON. BABY, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?

COME ON. BABY, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?

BACK TO _____ IN SWEET HOME CHICAGO.

4. Your favorite Chicago place or landmark

ONE AND ONE IS TWO, TWO AND TWO IS FOUR.

COME ON BABY, LET'S _____ SOME MORE.

5. Verb or action

COME ON. _____, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO?

6. Repeat a name from lines 1 or 2 or add a new name

BACK TO THAT SAME OLD PLACE, _____ CHICAGO.

7. A word or two that describes Chicago



My Sweet Home Chicago Lyrics

By: _____

Directions: Fill in the lines to compose your blues hit.

[CHORUS]

COME ON. BABY, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO? _____

Option: Keep "go"
or choose a new verb.

COME ON. BABY, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO? _____

Option: Repeat your
replacement verb.

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1. Write 10 to 14 syllables to complete the chorus. The last word (or syllable) should rhyme with "go" or your replacement verb.

[REPEAT CHORUS]

ONE AND ONE IS TWO, TWO AND TWO IS FOUR.

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2. Write 10 to 14 syllables to complete the verse. The last word (or syllable) should rhyme with "four."

[REPEAT CHORUS]

TWO AND TWO IS FOUR, FOUR AND TWO IS SIX.

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3. Write 10 to 14 syllables to complete the verse. The last word (or syllable) should rhyme with "six."

[REPEAT CHORUS]

THREE AND THREE IS SIX, SIX AND THREE IS NINE.

-
4. Write 10 to 14 syllables to complete the verse. The last word (or syllable) should rhyme with "nine."

[FINALE CHORUS]

COME ON. BABY, DON'T YOU WANT TO GO? _____

5. Repeat line 1.

Option: Repeat your
replacement verb.