
Exploring the Electric Guitar

Presenter: Monica Smith, Exhibition Program Manager for the Smithsonian Lemelson Center

Web Site: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcast>

Teacher Guide

Listen to *The Invention of the Electric Guitar* Podcast (13:36)

- Download the podcast as an MP3
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/ElectricGuitar.mp3>
- View the enhanced podcast <http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/ElectricGuitar.m4a>
- Use the images in the Zip folder as visual aids
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/ElectricGuitar.zip>

Discussion Questions

The following questions can be used for in-class discussion or short written responses from students after listening to the podcast.

- What needs or problems did the different inventions and versions of the electric guitar address?
- What does the story of the electric guitar teach us about invention?
- Who were some of the inventors involved in the creation of electric guitars?
- Who were some of the musicians mentioned in the podcast?
- Do you know any other (famous or not-yet-famous, from the past or still performing) electric guitarists?
- What recent invention (from during your lifetime) do you think will have the most lasting impact on American popular culture?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History

- The Invention of the Electric Guitar online exhibition - <http://invention.smithsonian.org/centerpieces/electricguitar/index.htm>
- Online exhibition teacher's resource guide - http://invention.smithsonian.org/downloads/guitar_educators_guide.pdf

Related Thinkfinity Resources

- Not to Fret – from Illuminations - <http://illuminations.nctm.org/Lessons/Fret/Fret-AS-NotToFret.pdf>
- There's a Song in Everyone - from Arts Edge - <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/3745/>
- Exploring Measurements, Sequences and Curves with Stringed Instruments – from Illuminations - <http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?ID=L594>

Related National Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

Era 9: Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)

1B: The student understands how the social changes of the postwar period affected various Americans.

Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)

2D: The student understands contemporary American culture.

Name:

Date:

Period:

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Student Worksheet

Listen to the podcast (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/ElectricGuitar.mp3>). Take notes and answer the questions.

1. What needs or problems did the different inventions and versions of the electric guitar address?
2. What does the story of the electric guitar teach us about invention?
3. Who were some of the inventors involved in the creation of electric guitars?
4. Who were some of the musicians mentioned in the podcast?
5. Do you know any other (famous or not-yet-famous, from the past or still performing) electric guitarists?
6. What recent invention (from during your lifetime) do you think will have the most lasting impact on American popular culture?