

The Eclectic Electric Guitar

1. Question & Research Task

What do Gibson and Fender both have in common? Well, they are both major manufacturers and innovators of the electric guitar over the past few decades. Without these innovators, some of our favorite musicians and rockers like Prince, Jimi Hendrix, Eddie Van Halen, Johnny Cash, Rolling Stones, and the Black Keys would not have produced the music we have today. The electric guitar has influenced the way music is played and sounds. It's hard to imagine what popular music would sound like today without the invention of the electric guitar and its innovations.



Click on the image to view a video about the history of the electric guitar in one song by G.E. Smith.

Image Source: [Smithsonianmag.com](https://www.smithsonianmag.com)

In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:

What was the most impactful innovation of the electric guitar?

2. Information Sources

Choose several of the information sources linked here to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3.

[Smithsonian Institution: Inventing Electric Guitar](#)

[The Science of Sound](#)

[Electric Guitar](#)

[Guitars](#)

[“Electric and Eclectic, the Guitar Has Defined, United Generations”](#)

[The Different Types of Electric Guitars Explained](#)

[8 Things You Didn't Know about the Electric Guitar](#)

[The Advent of the Electric Guitar](#)

["Present at the Creation: The Electric Guitar"](#)

*If you are prompted to login to access a resource, go the BCPS Digital Content page in the [Apps Portal](#). Open the app and then return to the direct link.



Image Source: publicdomainpics.net

3. Student Activity

As a class, we will examine the invention of the electric guitar and its innovations over time since the 1930s.

Use the information sources on Slide 2 to collaborate with a partner in order to examine a certain decade of innovation (between 1930s and today).

Use this [graphic organizer](#) or [Cornell notes](#) to take notes. If you prefer a paper copy, ask your teacher for a copy.

As you research, think about how the electric guitar has evolved over time as the result of various innovations.

You and your partner will present your notes to the class. Then your teacher can use Microsoft PowerPoint (see [How to Create a Timeline](#)), Google Slides, or bulletin board paper to compile every group's notes.



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4. Assessment Activity

Use the resources from slide 2 and the class timeline on the innovations of the guitar to take a stance on which of the innovations you believe had the most impact on the current electric guitar.

Your teacher may have you use one of these tools to participate in a small group/class discussion:

- Face-to-face discussion, using a format like Philosophical Chairs or Fishbowl
- VoiceThread ([Teacher resource](#))
- Schoology discussion

Use this [debate organizer](#) to plan and support your position.

Refer success criteria on this [rubric](#) as you create your final product.



Prince.

Image Source: [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_(musician))

What was the most impactful innovation of the electric guitar?

5. Enrichment Activities

SLIDE NAVIGATION

1

2

3

4

5

6

Next



Click on the image to view a video “Heartbeat of Rock ‘n’ Roll” about the decline of electric guitar sales.

Image Source: GALE In Context High School

The Washington Post shared in 2017 that the electric guitar sales have plummeted from about 1.5 million sold annually to just over 1 million. Why are sales declining? Over-production, new technology, and change in American music are a few of the factors, but the biggest factor is the lack of a modern-day guitar hero. For more information, check out the articles: [“Why Does the Electric Guitar Need a Hero?”](#) (on [NPR](#)) and [“Are Last Rites for the Electric Guitar in Order?”](#)

Who do you think is our modern-day guitar hero for this decade? Conduct some research and some interviews to develop a persuasive argument with reasons and examples to support who you think is the modern guitar hero. Share your opinion with the class through an online discussion or Web 2.0 tool.

Want to express your innovator or artistic side?

Create a new innovation to the electric guitar. Consider the body style and design. Develop an artist statement to describe your new innovation of the electric guitar.

6. Teacher Resources

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
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Learning Standards Alignment

Content Learning Standards

Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy

Reading: 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Writing: 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

AASL Standards Framework for Learners Inquire: Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.

Think: Learners display curiosity and initiative by:

I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.

Create: Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes:

I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.

Share: Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes:

I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.

Grow: Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by:

I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

P21 Framework: 21st Century Student Outcomes

3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy: Access information efficiently and effectively; Use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand.

ICT Literacy: Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information.

High School Guitar

Objective: Students will conduct brief, focused research in order to describe which innovation of the electric guitar has had the most impact on popular music over time.

Time Frame: Two 90-minute class periods

Differentiation strategies for this lesson:

Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- Have students use learning supports provided in any BCPS-licensed Digital Content from the [Apps Portal](#) included in this lesson. Refer to [Digital Content Snapshots & Support resources](#) for guidance as needed.
- Consider [using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature](#) to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology.
- The 1930s and 1940s have many innovations which may need to be divided among different partner pairs.
- For the student and assessment activities, the students can create it digitally or complete a print version of the assignment.
- Have the students use the F11 shortcut to put the web browser in full screen mode.