

The Evolution of Keyboard Instruments

1. Question & Research Task

Historically, the piano has held a central place in world music. With its diverse range of keys, octaves, and notes, the piano can convey a wide range of feelings, moods, and styles. However, the modern piano did not originally look like it does today, and it is actually an innovation based on another keyboard instrument.

Watch the video, [“The Piano: A \(Very\) Short History”](#) to build some background knowledge about the history of the piano.

In this Slam Dunk, you will be learning about the invention and innovation of keyboard instruments to answer the inquiry question:



Play the video: [The Piano: A \(Very\) Short History](#).

Image Source: [You Tube](#)

How have keyboard instruments evolved over time?

2. Information Sources

Choose several information sources linked here to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3. You may also search for additional reliable sources online. Remember to cite your sources as you research.

[Baroque Instruments](#)

[Meet the Music Makers](#)

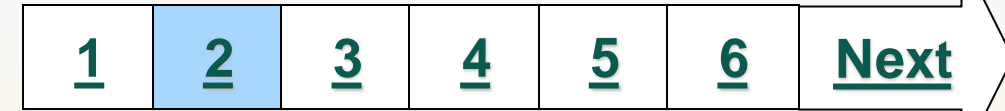
[What are Historical Keyboard Instruments?](#)

[History of the Piano](#)

[Keyboard Instrument](#)

[Keyboards](#)

SLIDE NAVIGATION



Clavichord	Harpsichord	Pianoforte	Modern Piano	Organ	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ClavichordClavichord	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HarpsichordHarpsichordHarpsichordHarpsichord	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Age of EnlightenmentThe Piano: The Pianofortes of Bartolomeo CristoforiFortepiano	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PianoPianosWhy Do Pianos Have 88 KeysHow Do You Play the PianoPianoHow They Work: Grand PianoThe Piano	<ul style="list-style-type: none">OrganHow to Build: A Pipe Organ	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CelestaSpinnetVirginal

3. Student Activity

SLIDE NAVIGATION

1

2

3

4

5

6

Next



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

Use the information sources on Slide 2 to gather information about the history of various keyboard instruments.

Use this [graphic organizer](#) to make notes.

As you research, think about how keyboard instruments have evolved over time as the result of various innovations.

4. Assessment Activity

Create a timeline showing the evolution of keyboard instruments, selecting the most important information from your research notes. Include images to illustrate the information. Remember to cite your image sources, as well as your information sources, in a Works Cited/Bibliography document.

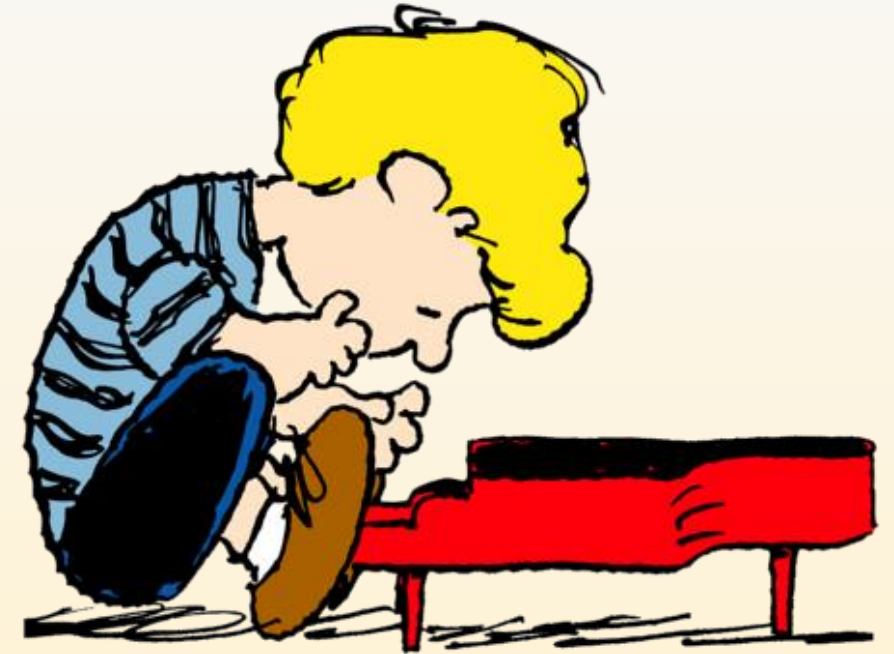
Select one of these tools, or another tool approved by your teacher:

- [Interactive Timeline](#) from ReadWriteThink
- Microsoft PowerPoint – see [How to Create a Timeline](#)
- Google Slides – see [How to Create a Timeline](#)
- Bulletin board/butcher block paper

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

Be ready to answer the essential question during a class discussion:

How have keyboard instruments evolved over time?



The piano has been featured in the popular comic strip Peanuts by Charles Schulz, shown here being played by the character Schroeder. Listen to the jazz piano theme song by Vince Guaraldi for the Peanuts animated cartoons, "[Linus and Lucy](#)."

5. Enrichment Activities

SLIDE NAVIGATION

1

2

3

4

5

6

Next



Select the image to watch a news segment about how piano music makes people happy.

Image Source: youtube.com

NBC reported in 2012 that the “grand piano has been falling out of style... becoming a piece of nostalgia.” Because of cramped houses and electronic devices, many Americans no longer have time, space, or money for a real piano. Your job is to create a PSA promoting good reasons for owning a piano. Other activities:

- Take a tour of the [Virtual Piano Museum](#) or Yale’s collection of [Keyboard Instruments](#)
- Check out the [History of Steinway & Sons](#), one of the best-selling piano manufacturers
- Use the [Keyboard Trainer](#) to practice reading to identify notes on the keyboard
- Create a new innovation to the keyboard

6. Teacher Resources

Learning Standards Alignment

[MD State Music Standards](#)

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

[MCCR ELA Standards for Grades 9-12](#)

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:

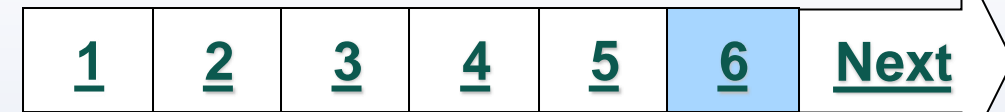
I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

[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.

SLIDE NAVIGATION



High School Piano: Grade 10-12

Objective: Students will be conduct brief, focused research in order to describe how the innovation of keyboard instruments has changed over time.

Time Frame: 2-3 class periods

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. Some resources (ie. Scholastic Go) open from the PDF after authenticating.
- Consider [using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature](#) to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology Teacher should preview all links for content.
- If you will be providing paper copies of the graphic organizer on Slide 3 for note-taking, delete the words “Type Notes Here” and expand the rows to provide room for hand-written notes.