



# Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

## Teacher Guide



### Exploring the Electric Guitar

*with exhibition program manager Monica Smith*

**Podcast Link:** <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/ElectricGuitar.mp3>

**Video Podcast Link:** <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/ElectricGuitar.m4a>

**Images Related to Podcast:** <http://amhistory.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—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research

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](http://invention.smithsonian.org/downloads/guitar_educators_guide.pdf)

Thinkfinity:

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#### National Standards—from the 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.

*Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to [thinkfinity@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinity@si.edu)*

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Listen to the podcast, 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?

**Email your questions, comments, and discoveries to [thinkfinity@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinity@si.edu)**

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