



# Discovering the History of Slack Key Guitar

*with musician Dennis Kamakahi*

**Podcast Link:** [http://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/podcasts/kamakahi\\_podcast.mp3](http://americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/podcasts/kamakahi_podcast.mp3)

**Questions—to help students build questioning skills, have them generate both *basic understanding* and *thought* questions before and after the show. Here are some example questions.**

*Basic Understanding Questions—questions that have a simple answer*

- *Who introduced guitar playing to Hawaii?*
- *What are the characteristics of Slack Key guitar?*
- *What are three international influences on Hawaiian culture that Kamakahi names?*

*Thought Questions—questions that require research on multiple perspectives and a great deal of thought*

- *How do you think Slack Key reflects the culture and history of Hawaii?*
- *What are some other traditional musical styles that you might be interested in researching? What can you find out about their origins and what does that say about the history of the place where they originated?*

**Related Resources—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research**

National Museum of American History:

- Smithsonian Magazine  
<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/aroundthemall/2013/05/hawaiian-musician-dennis-kamakahi-donates-his-guitar/>

History Explorer:

- Exploring Perception and Reality in the Story of the Hawaiian Islands  
<http://historyexplorer.si.edu/resource/?key=3190>
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Theme  
<http://historyexplorer.si.edu/themes/theme/?key=67>

Thinkfinity:

- Celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month  
<http://www.thinkfinity.org/docs/DOC-11614>

**National Standards—from the National Center for History in the Schools**

- U.S. History—Era 6: [The Development of the Industrial United States \(1870-1900\)](#)  
**Standard 4B**  
The student understands the roots and development of American expansionism and the causes and outcomes of the Spanish-American War.
- U.S. History—Era 10: [Contemporary United States \(1968 to the present\)](#)

***Have your students email their question, research steps, and answer to [thinkfinity@si.edu](mailto:thinkfinity@si.edu)  
We'll choose exemplars to display on our podcast webpage!***

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



# Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

*Pre-Listening vocabulary—define these words:*

word: Falsetto

word: Vaquero

*Pre-Listening (leave space after your questions to answer them as you listen):*

What basic understanding questions do you have about this topic?

What thought questions do you have about this topic?

*Post-Listening:*

What new thought questions do you have?

Of all your thought questions, which few are especially important to the topic? Why?

Which is the most important thought question? Why?

What steps would you take to find the answer to the most important thought question?

***Give it a try and email your question, research steps, and answer to [historyteachers@si.edu](mailto:historyteachers@si.edu)***

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