



Music Virtual Learning

8th Grade Choir

April 15, 2020



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Lesson: April 15, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will be able to discuss the evolution of portable music devices from the boombox to today.

Before you start...

How do you listen to music today?

How did your parents listen to music when they were your age?

How did your grandparents listen to music when they were your age?

Portable Music Devices

Since the beginning of music the most popular way people listened to music was live performances. However, this was difficult for most because you had to have the time and money to go to these performances. Eventually things like the phonograph and radio allowed people to listen to music at home. Today though, we are used to being able to listen to music just about anywhere we want thanks to portable technologies like phones.

Today we're going to learn about how portable music technology evolved into what we have today.

The Boombox

In the 1970's and 1980's the boombox was what people would carry around with them to listen to music when they wanted to.

- Boomboxes played the radio and cassette tapes
- They were large and not very easy to carry around but they allowed for music outside of the house without needing to plug in.
- They ran on batteries.



The Walkman



Boomboxes were a great step but they were hard to carry around because of their size. In 1979 Sony invented a smaller, more compact music player called the Walkman. It played cassette tapes like the boom box but could fit in a bag or on your belt.

- Walkmans also used batteries and played cassette tapes like the boombox
- The first Walkmans were 6in x 3in x 1.5 in (MUCH smaller than a boombox)
- You listened to them through headphones as there was not speaker on them.

Portable CD Players

Eventually Compact Discs were developed and overtook cassette tapes as the medium for portable music. CDs were smaller, lighter, created a better sound and could hold more music on them than cassettes.

- CDs were introduced in 1982 and in 1984 Sony created a new Walkman called the Discman that would play CDs instead of cassettes.



Early MP3 Players

Eventually technology was developed which allowed people to download music directly to their devices and this eliminated the need to carry around a bunch of tapes or CDs.

- The first MP3 player was developed in South Korea but could only hold 6 songs
- In 2001 Apple introduced the first iPod. It could hold 5GB of music or about 1000 songs.



Portable Music Today

Since Apple revolutionized portable music in 2001, anyone can listen to music just about anywhere and has access to 1000s of songs. Today we don't even have to download music onto our devices as they are connected to services like Spotify, Pandora, etc that we can stream music through.



Reflection: What's Next?

After hearing about the evolution of portable music, where do you think we are headed next?

How do you listen to music now?

How do you think you'll be listening to music in 10 years?

How do you think your grandchildren will be listening to music?

Design a device that people will be listening to music on in 30 years. You can write about it or maybe draw an illustration of it with an explanation.