
The Evolution of Guitar

8th Grade Guitar Lesson 3

Learning Target: Students will learn the difference between acoustic and electric guitars as well as how guitars evolved from the Renaissance to today.

Acoustic Guitars



Acoustic guitars are guitars that create sound through the air by its vibrating strings. The sound hole in the middle of the body helps to amplify the sound of the strings so other amplifiers are not needed.

Acoustic guitars can use nylon or steel strings

Today some acoustic guitars are also able to be used as electric guitars.

Electric Guitars

Electric guitars use “pickups” to convert the vibrations in the strings to electrical signals that are then sent to speaker or amplifiers.

Electric guitars typically use steel strings.



Evolution of Guitars

Watch the video linked below and be prepared to answer the questions on the next slide:

[A History of Guitars in Four and a Half Minutes](#)

Questions:

- 1.) The first guitar shown (4 course guitar) used how many strings?
 - 2.) What is a “gut string”? Do some research on your own
 - 3.) When were steel strings first introduced?
 - 4.) What types of music were steel strings popular for?
 - 5.) When did the electric guitar come into existence?
 - 6.) What types of music still use acoustic guitars today even though we have the electric?
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For those with a guitar....

If you happen to have a guitar you can use, this is a great series of videos on playing the guitar as a beginner.

[Learn to Play Guitar Lesson 1](#)

There are also TONS of other resources online and on YouTube for whatever level you might be at.

Answers:

- 1.) 7 strings
 - 2.) A gut string is a string made from the walls of animal intestines
 - 3.) 1880s
 - 4.) Blues, Jazz, and pop music
 - 5.) It developed starting in 1928
 - 6.) Folk, country, rock
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