



Trivia / Study Guide Questions:

- 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?

Identify four individuals who helped the evolution of the guitar either through their own designs or through their companies.

Identify four different types of materials used in the construction of guitars.

What are the three primary types of guitar strings?

How many different colors of guitars can you find?

Many guitars have artistic finishes that are referred to as “bursts” (such as sunburst, tobacco burst, cherry burst). Several guitars on display here have a burst finish. Why do you think the finish is called “burst?”

Single Guess Trivia. **(Answers can be found inside the exhibition and study guide)**

1. What year was the electric guitar invented?

1931 by George Beauchamp

3. Why did Paul McCartney choose to play the Hofner bass that came to be known as The Beatle Bass?

Because the left-handed McCartney wanted a bass that didn't look strange when he flipped it over to play it. The Hofner was perfectly symmetrical and looked the same played left or right-handed.

4. Before guitars had steel or nylon strings in the 1900s, what material was used for the strings?

Catgut, which is made from sheep intestines.

6. Les Paul designed the famous Gibson Les Paul guitar. True or False?

False. The guitar was designed by Gibson and then presented to Les in the hope he would endorse it. Les had created his own, very different, electric guitar a decade earlier.

7. Leo Fender's name is on more guitars than any other person in history. Although he created the Telecaster and the Stratocaster, two of the world's most popular guitars, there was one significant thing that Leo could not do with his guitars. What was it?

Leo could not play the guitar. He also never learned how to tune it.

8. For the last two hundred years, most acoustic guitars featured a type of wood that is no longer available in the U.S. for guitar making. In fact, it is now illegal to import this wood, so guitar makers are trying new woods. What is this wood?

Brazilian rosewood.

9. Ovation guitars, and their signature round backs, were created by Charlie Kaman. The round backs use a composite material instead of wood. Kaman became wealthy using this same material to create a different product—which helped to fund Ovation. What was that product?

Helicopter rotor blades.

10. The world's largest playable guitar is on display in the GUITAR Exhibit. How long is it?

43.5 feet.

11. Guitar pickups work by wrapping copper wire around something. What is it?

Magnets.

12. Who is the longest-running maker of guitars in the United States?
C.F. Martin and Company, maker of Martin guitars.

13. What is a guitar maker called?
A luthier. This comes from the word for "a makers of lutes," the instrument that predated guitars in Europe.

14. Who sold the most guitars of any brand in the 1960s?
Sears.

15. Up until the early 1900s, more females than males played the guitar. Why did this change?
In an effort to make guitars louder so they could be heard over other instruments in jazz and country bands, guitar bodies got increasingly larger to the point that many were too large for women and girls to hold.

Multiple Choice Trivia

(some answers require pop culture knowledge not found on display in the exhibition):

1. What year was the electric guitar invented?
1941 by Les Paul
1931 by George Beauchamp
1949 by Leo Fender
1920 by Lloyd Loar

2. Who plays lead guitar on the Beatles' song "While My Guitar Gently Weeps?"
George Harrison
John Lennon
Jeff Beck
Eric Clapton
Billy Preston

3. Why did Paul McCartney choose to play the Hofner bass that came to be known as The Beatle Bass?
It was the only one in the shop.
The Fender bass was too expensive.
It looked the best played left-handed.
(Because the left-handed McCartney wanted a bass that didn't look strange when he flipped it over to play it. The Hofner was perfectly symmetrical and looked the same played left or right-handed.)
It was a gift from John Lennon.
He inherited it from his father.

4. Before guitars had steel or nylon strings in the 1900s, what material was used for the strings?

Cotton thread.

Twine.

Hemp.

Corn silk.

Catgut, which is made from sheep intestines.

5. The most expensive guitar ever sold in America?

Keith Richards' first Telecaster

John Lennon's Epiphone.

A one-of-a-kind Gibson Moderne.

Eric Clapton's "Blackie" Stratocaster, which he played through most of his career, and which was bought by Guitar Center for just under a million dollars.

Jimmy Page's Gibson doubleneck used on the Led Zeppelin 1977 tour.

6. Les Paul, who would have been 100 years old this year, designed the famous Gibson Les Paul guitar. True or False?

False. The guitar was designed by Gibson and then presented to Les in the hope he would endorse it. Les had created his own, very different, electric guitar a decade earlier.

7. Leo Fender's name is on more guitars than any other person in history. Although he created the Telecaster and the Stratocaster, two of the world's most popular guitars, there was one significant thing that Leo could not do with his guitars. What was it?

He could not string them.

He could not paint them.

He could not carry them due to weakness in his arm.

He could not play the guitar. He also never learned how to tune it.

8. For the last two hundred years, most acoustic guitars featured a type of wood that is no longer available in the U.S. for guitar making. In fact, it is now illegal to import this wood, so guitar makers are trying new woods. What is this wood?

Sitka spruce.

Hawai'ian Koa.

Brazilian rosewood.

California redwood.

Spanish cedar.

9. Ovation guitars, and their signature round backs, were created by Charlie Kaman. The round backs use a composite material instead of wood. Kaman became wealthy using this same material to create a different product—which helped to fund Ovation. What was that product?

Microwave ovens.

Helicopter rotor blades.

Lawn furniture.
Bowling balls.
Greenhouse awnings.

10. The world's largest playable guitar is on display in the GUITAR Exhibit. How long is it?

20.5 feet.
26.5 feet.
35.5 feet.
43.5 feet.
64.5 feet.

11. Guitar pickups work by wrapping copper wire around something. What is it?

Plastic spindles.
Anchor screws.
Wooden dowels.
Nylon strings.
Magnets.

12. Who is the longest-running maker of guitars in the United States?

C.F. Martin and Company, maker of Martin guitars.
Gibson Guitars.
Fender Musical Instruments
Epiphone.
Ibanez

13. What is a guitar maker called?

Guitarist.
Fabricatore or fabricator.
Luthier. This comes from the word for "a makers of lutes," the instrument that predated guitars in Europe.
Fretboarder.

14. Who sold the most guitars of any brand in the 1960s?

Walgreens.
Sears.
Walmart.
IKEA.
Woolworth's.

15. Two of the world's most famous guitarists lost the use of two fingers on their fretting hands in serious accidents. Who were they?

Keith Richards and Chet Atkins.
Les Paul and Peter Frampton.
Django Reinhardt and Tony Iommi.
Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan.
Charlie Christian and Glen Campbell.

16. Brian May of Queen built the guitar he uses when he was a teenager. Where did he find the wood to build it?

The mantel from his family fireplace.

The ruins of his neighbor's burned house.

A fallen tree from his backyard.

A card table.

The planks from a rowboat.

17. Brian May of Queen gave up his college career to become a guitarist. Several years ago, he returned to his studies, and earned a doctorate in a very specific field. What is it?

Medicine.

Economics.

Electrical engineering.

Chemistry.

Astrophysics.

18. Up until the early 1900s, more females than males played the guitar. Why did this change?

Women were no longer allowed to sing and play in public after 1904.

Men stopped being embarrassed to perform in public.

Guitars got too big.

(In an effort to make guitars louder so they could be heard over other instruments in jazz and country bands, guitar bodies got increasingly larger to the point that many were too large for women and girls to hold.)

Women gained the right to vote.

Production of guitars dropped off in 1903, and men bought the few that were available.

19. The most famous blues guitarist in history was Robert Johnson, who wrote songs like "Crossroads" and inspired people like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Jeff Beck. What did Johnson allegedly do in order to become so great?

Practiced so much that he wore the fingerprints off his fingers.

Locked himself in a hotel room and played on average of 20 hours a day.

Sold his soul to the devil at the crossroads.

Paid the inventor of the electric guitar to teach him how to play.

Cut the webbing between his fingers to allow them to stretch further up the fretboard.

20. The first pickups designed to turn acoustic guitars into electric guitars were produced in Toledo, Ohio during the 1930s and 1940s. Who was the inventor?

Les Paul.

Thomas Watson, Jr.

Thomas Edison.

Harry DeArmond.

Orville Gibson.

21. Who played the guitar solo on Michael Jackson's "Beat It?"

Steve Lukather.

Rick Derringer.

Michael Jackson.

Eddie Van Halen.

Tito Jackson.

22. Where did Pete Townshend get the idea for swinging his arms like a windmill while playing the guitar?

From the yoga instructions of Meher Baba.

From watching Keith Richards do stretching exercises before a show.

From trying to undo a pulled muscle in his shoulder.

From trying to untangle a ceiling cable that had fallen on him.

From watching the count at the start of a car race.