

Primary Resources

“The Beatles.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/topic/the-Beatles/images-videos. I got my picture of the Beatles from here. I also received my information of the Beatles and their contribution to rock. I learned about the British takeover of rock in America and the music of The Beatles.

“Bob Dylan.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/biography/Bob-Dylan-American-musician/images-videos. I learned about the importance of Bob Dylan to rock and folk music and received my picture from here. I learned about how his music took the amplified tones of rock and its beat and combined it with the meaningful lyrics of folk. He was one of the first artists to come into a recording studio with their own ideas.

Duchossoir, A. R. *Gibson Electrics: the Classic Years*. Hal Leonard Corp., 1994. In this book, I learned about the experiences of Les Paul and how he developed his earliest guitars. I found Les Paul's quote about Gibson executive's comments on The Log and how the Les Paul Standard came to be.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Johnny Cash.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 15 Jan. 2020, www.britannica.com/biography/Johnny-Cash. I got my picture of a performing Johnny Cash and what his contributions to early rock and roll were.

“Elvis Presley.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/biography/Elvis-Presley/images-videos. I found out just how important Elvis Presley was to the origins of rock and roll. He became a celebrity for teenagers across America and heavily influenced the culture of the nation post-WWII. I also received my image of him performing live.

“The Invention of the Electric Guitar.” *Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation*, 22 Apr. 2016, invention.si.edu/invention-electric-guitar. I used many pictures of guitars, people, and places from this exhibit in my website. I learned about the history of the electric guitar, from where it began, what guitars were made during its development, and how it affected rock. This website gave me a general understanding of the invention of the electric guitar, the people involved, and its impacts on society.

“Jimi Hendrix.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/biography/Jimi-Hendrix/images-videos. Here, I learned more about Jimi Hendrix's abilities with the guitar. I learned that Jimi contributed to the beginning of the classic era of rock and was a founder of performing in arenas.

“Led Zeppelin.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/topic/Led-Zeppelin/images-videos. I received both an image of Led Zeppelin and their contributions to the birth of arena rock. I learned about their style of music and how innovative they were to the development of rock.

“Hendrix-National-Anthem : Jimi Hendrix : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming.” *Internet Archive*, 18 Aug. 1969, archive.org/details/hendrix-national-anthem. This is where I found the audio for Jimi Hendrix's rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. It shows the real distortion

that Jimi Hendrix used in one of his most famous musical creations.

“US2089171A - Electrical Stringed Musical Instrument.” *Google Patents*, Google, patents.google.com/patent/US2089171. This patent gave me a visual for the first electric guitar, the Rickenbacker Frying Pan. The patents display the inner-workings of the Frying Pan and the first electric pickup, the key to an electric guitar.

“US2741146A - Tremolo Device for Stringed Instruments.” *Google Patents*, Google, patents.google.com/patent/US2741146A/en?q=stringed%2Binstruments&oq=tremolo%2Bdevice%2Bfor%2Bstringed%2Binstruments. Here I was given another visual for the revolutionary guitar, the Stratocaster. The tremolo system was a breakthrough for the electric guitar, allowing the player to change the pitch of their strings with ease for extra effect.

Secondary Resources

“Early History of Rickenbacker.” *Rickenbacker*, www.rickenbacker.com/history_early.asp. This article on the Rickenbacker website on the history of Rickenbacker explained the early life and business of Adolph Rickenbacker, the creator of the first electric guitar. It explained the context behind it and how he created it.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Leo Fender.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 6 Aug. 2019, www.britannica.com/biography/Leo-Fender. This article gave some information on the history of Leo Fender's greatest accomplishments. I learned about the importance of his inventions like the Fender Stratocaster and why they revolutionized the electric guitar.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Les Paul.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 8 Aug. 2019, www.britannica.com/biography/Les-Paul. I learned more about Les Paul's life as a musician and the his greatest creations. I learned more about his Les Paul Standard and how he had hoped to be the first to create the first mass produced guitar.

“The Electric Guitar - Les Paul.” *LesPaul.com*, Les Paul Foundation, www.les-paul.com/timeline/red-hot-red/. In this website, I learned everything there is to know about Les Paul's career as a young and old musician, inventor, and brilliant innovator. I learned how he actually created makeshift electric equipment when he was young and had the idea to amplify his music. I learned the first failure of his Log guitar, then the success of it, leading to Gibson's first electric solid body, the Les Paul Standard.

Frith, Simon. “Crucial Rock Musicians.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 24 Oct. 2019, www.britannica.com/art/rock-music/Crucial-rock-musicians. This article gave me a general rundown of the most influential rock artists through history and their contributions to the genre. I learned how the artists developed rock to where it is today, moving from rock and roll to the classic era and beyond.

“History of the Guitar’ at the National Museum of American History.” *Vimeo*, Aug. 2010, vimeo.com/14639704. From this presentation, I used quotes from a guitar expert and curator, Gary Sturm, for more evidence and proof to back up the timeline and facts that I present in my website.

“Innovation Icon – Leo Fender.” *The Music Experience*, 3 Jan. 2016, themusicexperience.com/fender/. This exhibit describes Leo Fender's greatest inventions: the Fender Broadcaster/Telecaster and Stratocaster. I gained a deeper understanding of what made these electric guitars amazing and revolutionary, from their clean, bright sounds to the Stratocaster's tremolo system.

Kot, Greg. “Rock and Roll.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 4 Apr. 2019, www.britannica.com/art/rock-and-roll-early-style-of-rock-music. This article explained early rock and roll and the biggest contributors to it. The article explained the development of the genre and its effect on society. I learned about people like Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash who became big celebrities because of their talents.

Owens, Jeff. “The History of the Fender Stratocaster: The 1950s.” *Fender Guitars*, 7 June 2019, www.fender.com/articles/gear/the-history-of-the-fender-stratocaster-the-1950s. I used the detailed information that I found in this website for the Stratocaster, one of the most advancing breakthroughs in electric guitar history. This website gave me more information and backed up the information I had already found about the instrument.

“Rise of the Electric Guitar.” *Liverpoolmuseums.org.uk*, www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/exhibitions/thebeatgoeson/thebeatgoesonline/technology/instruments/electricguitar.aspx. This exhibit gave a brief history of the electric guitar and its development through the ages. It explains how the electric guitar was its own sound that allowed guitarists to be more creative and change their sound. I learned about the electric guitar's effect on the music industry and its importance in this exhibit.

“Rock Music Timeline.” *Rock Music Timeline*, www.rockmusictimeline.com/. This website gave me an organized description of rock through the decades, noting important events and popular genres of the time. It organized bands into their corresponding genres and what the mainstream music of the time was. It also gave top albums of the decades, giving me a good idea of who was important and influential.

Smith, Richard R., et al. *Fender: the Sound Heard 'Round the World*. Hal Leonard, 2009. From this book by Richard Smith, who has clearly done his research with the amount of sources he has used and has become an expert in the history of the electric guitar, I gained specific details about Fender's instruments that backed up my findings from other sources.

Townshend, David. *History of Rock*, www.history-of-rock.com/non_frames.htm. This website gave me good descriptions of the early beginnings of rock, how the electric guitar fit in, and how rock and roll affected society. It explained the reasons why so many teenagers were craving music like rock and why the genre was so popular. It also gave extra information on the history of the electric guitar.

Process Paper

I chose my topic, the electric guitar, by thinking about the theme this year and how it could apply to something I love. I brainstormed topics in places like physics and sports, but none of them spoke to me. I play the guitar, and I love my electric guitar. One night when I was playing it I thought about the technology behind it and how revolutionary it must have been after the acoustic. I thought about rock music, my favorite genre, a genre that is rooted in American history and how it

would never have existed without the electric guitar. Once I had the idea of doing the electric guitar, I knew it was the right topic for me.

I started my research by looking into the invention of the electric guitar. I first found the Smithsonian exhibit on the topic and started there. From there, I began to question things more in depth. Who was Adolph Rickenbacker? Why was the new sound such a hit? I began to look up specific names and guitars which led me down a rabbit hole of information. It led me to researching individual bands and artists and their contributions to rock and different models of the guitar. In this, I found reliable websites, documents, and exhibits that gave me my information for my website.

I selected the website category because I thought a digital visualization of the electric guitar would allow me to include more pictures of specific guitars and people, and give me the ability to make an appealing visual history of a visual instrument. I first started with my web pages and added my information a way that flowed well with the history of the electric guitar. I found as many pictures as I could for captivating visuals that would pair well with the story I was telling. I then explained the story in short, brief paragraphs that would keep the reader looking for more because of the interesting facts and pictures.

The electric guitar relates to the theme in every way; the electric guitar was a breakthrough in technology, allowing guitarists to be heard in music, not sitting on the sidelines. The instrument made guitarists' creative expressions heard because of their ability to amplify louder than ensembles. This new relevance of the electric guitar and its unique sound led to a whole new genre being built around it: rock and roll. Teenagers of the time were becoming rebellious after WWII, and rock and roll fueled the feelings teens were embracing. The electric guitar completely changed the culture of America forever, from a strict society to a casual, laidback and fun-loving nation of people.

