

Elementary 2

Guitars: Guitars Go Electric

Dr. Sarah Gulish

Grade Level/Class

Lower Elementary Grades
30 Minute Music Class

Overall Theme

As musical groups changed, and concert spaces grew larger, acoustic guitars could not be heard above the other instruments. Luthiers and engineers experimented with electricity to determine what this then-new technology could do to add volume.

Essential Questions

1. What is the difference between an acoustic guitar and an electric guitar?
2. How does shape affect sound in both acoustic and electric guitars?
3. How does creativity connect to instrument manufacturing?

National Standards

Interpret

MU.RE8.1.K-3: Demonstrate and describe how the expressive qualities (such as dynamics and tempo) are used in performers' interpretations to reflect expressive intent.

Connect

MU.Cn.11.1.K-3: Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Describe the terms loud and soft as they pertain to music.
2. Differentiate between an acoustic guitar and an electric guitar.
3. Analyze sound possibilities through creative thinking and shape recognition.
4. Create an electric guitar drawing with a body, strings, pickup, and tuning pegs using any color or shape of their choice.

Materials Needed

1. E2 Presentation
2. E2 Worksheet
3. Writing Utensil

Procedures

Lesson Introduction (5 Min):

- Teacher (T) tells Students (S) that today they will be exploring the electric guitar to develop their own drawings of an electric guitar.
- T begins the class by asking, "Which is louder?" and shares the slideshow's first few slides, comparing acoustic and electric instruments. *Please Note: The third slide is tricky as it does not include an amplifier, thus the acoustic guitar would be louder in this case.*
- T explains that amplification is the process of making something louder and that the electric guitar is electrically amplified whereas the acoustic guitar is amplified acoustically, i.e., without the need for electricity.
- T explains that the electric guitar does not need its body to amplify the sound, and instrument makers can be creative with the types of guitars they create.

Lesson Activity (20 Min):

- T shows S a picture of an electric guitar and identifies the following parts of the guitar:
 - Pickup
 - Strings
 - Body
 - Tuning Pegs
- T invites S to verbally identify those same parts on other guitars.
- T shows S a clip from two videos (Jackie Venson and Jennifer Batten) and invites S to sketch each of their guitar shapes on their worksheet. (If time), S can share how their guitar shapes and sounds are different.
- T invites students to create their own guitars! Using the second page of their worksheet, S can design a guitar of any shape and color they'd like but must include a pickup, strings, body, and tuning pegs. They must also include a sentence in which they describe the sound of the imaginary guitar: "I think my guitar will sound_____ because_____."

Extensions/Adaptations

- This Lesson Plan works well with visual arts:
 - Visual Arts: Create prototypes! Student can take their drawings and use other materials to create guitar cutouts or sculptures to display
- Consider providing simplified questionnaires with visual aids for ELL students.
- Provide alternative assignment options for students with fine motor skill considerations. For example, they could dictate answers or draw on a tablet.
- Provide a visual image for students to understand the word "amplification."
- Provide a list of written parts of the guitar for "pickup," "strings," "body," and "tuning pegs."
- When students are sketching guitar shapes, give students an example to copy from or a box with quadrants for students to help visualize the space on paper.
- For students with motor limitations, provide a green/red card to show assessment rather than a thumbs up or down.

Spotlight on Careers in Music

This lesson plan can be tied to specific careers in music:

- Luthier
- Guitar Manufacturer
- Designer
- Acoustic Engineer
- Retailer
- Guitar Repair Tech
- Electrical Engineer
- Performer
- Agent and/or Manager

For comprehensive information on careers in the music industry, please visit [Consider a Career in Music](#)