

Name: _____

The Electric Guitar

Few musical instruments have had as profound an impact on modern music as the electric guitar. This versatile instrument has evolved through a series of pivotal moments: its invention in the 1930s, the introduction of solid-body designs, and the rise of guitar heroes in the 1960s. Originally invented to amplify sound for big bands, the electric guitar gained a new lease on life with the development of the solid-body design, which reduced feedback and allowed for more complex playing techniques. By the 1960s, the electric guitar had become the focal point of rock and roll, with artists like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Jimmy Page pushing the instrument's capabilities to new heights.

When the electric guitar was first invented, it was primarily used to amplify the guitar sound in big band orchestras. The early models were essentially hollow-body guitars fitted with electromagnetic pickups.

The development of the solid-body electric guitar changed the instrument's role in music. The design virtually eliminated feedback, which was common in hollow-body designs, allowing musicians to experiment with higher volumes and a broader range of tones.

In the 1960s, the electric guitar took center stage in the emerging genre of rock and roll. Virtuoso players like Hendrix and Clapton elevated the instrument from a background role to the star of the show, showcasing the electric guitar's versatility and range.

Directions: Write the main idea in your own words.

Write two supporting details for the main idea.

1. _____

2. _____

Name: _____

The Electric Guitar **Answer Key**

Few musical instruments have had as profound an impact on modern music as the electric guitar. This versatile instrument has evolved through a series of pivotal moments: its invention in the 1930s, the introduction of solid-body designs, and the rise of guitar heroes in the 1960s. Originally invented to amplify sound for big bands, the electric guitar gained a new lease on life with the development of the solid-body design, which reduced feedback and allowed for more complex playing techniques. By the 1960s, the electric guitar had become the focal point of rock and roll, with artists like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, and Jimmy Page pushing the instrument's capabilities to new heights.

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Directions: Write the main idea in your own words.

The main idea is that the electric guitar's influence on modern music can be traced back to

three pivotal moments that shaped its evolution and use.

Write two supporting details for the main idea. **Answers may vary.**

1. The invention of the electric guitar was initially aimed at amplifying sound for big band settings.

2. The introduction of the solid-body design reduced feedback issues and expanded the guitar's tonal capabilities.
