Guitars: The Kings of Rock

The guitarist stands in the spotlight, hands moving across the strings so fast they look like a blur. The crowd screams for more. In rock music, the guitar is king.

Guitar heroes like this performer usually play electric guitars. As the name suggests, electric guitars make their sounds with electricity. They use parts called pick-ups, which are placed under the strings. Pick-ups pick up the vibrations from the strings and turn them into electrical signals. Then they send the signals to speakers.

Acoustic guitars work differently. In acoustic guitars, the sound gets louder when it bounces around inside the instrument. The wood deepens the sound. Like other string instruments, guitars make music when their strings vibrate.

Both acoustic and electric guitars have a long neck that usually holds between six and 12 strings. Small metal bars called frets are laid across the neck. The guitarist changes notes by pressing down on the strings near the frets. The thickest and longest strings make the lowest sounds. That’s because they vibrate more slowly. The thinnest and shortest strings make the highest sounds. That’s because they vibrate more quickly.

Guitarists often use a pick. Picks are small pieces of material that are used to strum or pick the strings. Strumming makes many strings sound together, while picking makes individual strings sound. Some guitar players use their fingernails to strum or pick the strings, while others use wood, metal, or even coins!

Guitars are featured in music played around the world. It is one of the oldest instruments, with instruments somewhat like today’s guitar appearing about 5,000 years ago. Guitars were probably created in Spain in the 1500s.

Electric guitars became popular in the 1950s when rock music became popular. Since then, many rock musicians have used electric guitars to play long guitar solos. Their sounds fill an arena as the crowd screams for more.
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Write all these words in the right places to complete this puzzle, which tells some things you learned about guitars. You can reread the article before you begin, but don’t look back at it while you are working. After you’ve completed the puzzle, read it to someone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>electric</th>
<th>electricity</th>
<th>highest</th>
<th>longest</th>
<th>neck</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acoustic</td>
<td>pressing</td>
<td>sounds</td>
<td>speakers</td>
<td>string</td>
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Did you know that there are two kinds of guitars? __________________________ guitars don’t need to be plugged in. They make __________________________ when their __________________________ vibrate. The strings in __________________________ guitars also vibrate, but pick-ups under the strings send signals from these vibrations to __________________________. The speakers make the sounds of the strings louder. As their name says, electric guitars need __________________________ to make sounds.

There are many similarities between acoustic and electric guitars. Both have a long __________________________ that holds the strings. Guitarists change notes by __________________________ down on the strings. The thickest and __________________________ strings make the lowest sounds. The thinnest and shortest strings make the __________________________ sounds. Guitars are popular in many types of music today.
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Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.