LEO FENDER, HIS GUITARS, AND HIS WORKSPACE

Est. Time: 45-60 minutes
Subjects: Art, History, Music, Social Studies
Age Range: Elementary & Middle School
See the full lesson here!
Who is Leo Fender, what instruments did he invent, and how did his workspace represent his experimentation and creativity?

In this lesson you will:

• Identify the inventor Leo Fender

• Compare and contrast guitars that Leo Fender invented

• Explore Leo Fender’s workspace

• Illustrate your own workspace
Compare and contrast these three musical instruments.
Consider or ask a friend:

- Do you recognize these instruments? If so, which ones?
- Do you know the model names of these guitars?
- What similarities and differences do you notice between them?
- Do you know who invented them?
• Leo Fender was born in Anaheim, CA in 1909.

• He founded Fender Electric Instrument Manufacturing Company in 1946 in Fullerton, CA.

• He invented the Fender Telecaster guitar in 1950, the Precision bass guitar in 1951, and the Stratocaster guitar in 1954.
Watch this video of Leo Fender’s workspace in Fullerton, CA.
Consider or ask a friend:

- What to you stood out to you about Leo’s lab?
- How might Leo’s lab represent how he was a “person driven by this need to create something”?
- Might his lab reflect his personal habits for how he needed to do his best work?
- How do you organize yourself to get the best results when you start an assignment or a new project?
After selling Fender in 1965, Leo Fender founded G&L Guitars in 1980 and worked there until he died in 1991.
SUMMARY

- Leo Fender founded the Fender Electric Instrument Manufacturing Company in 1946
- He invented the Fender Telecaster, Precision bass, and Stratocaster guitars
- His workspace represented how he was always creating and experimenting
BE CREATIVE

- Read the instructions on this handout. Print out the second page or use grid paper to design your ideal workspace.

- Read more about Leo Fender’s life in this handout. Then, follow the instructions on this handout to create an infographic about Leo Fender.
Leo Fender invented these instruments, but who makes them? Read about Abigail Ybarra here, and watch this video about Josefina Campos to learn about the people who help create the sound of Fender Guitars.
Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your ideal workspace or with TeachRock on Instagram or Facebook, email to info@teachrock.org, or Tweet it to @TeachRock
Visit us at teachrock.org for hundreds of other free arts-rich resources for every age range and classroom.

Please check back to teachrock.org/distancelearning frequently as we will update the material daily!