

WHO IS LIZZO?


Est. Time: 90 minutes
Subjects: General Music
Age Range: High School
See the Trace It Back entry [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



Who is Lizzo?

In this lesson you will:

- Learn about the life of Lizzo
 - Listen to the music of Lizzo
 - Explore Lizzo's musical influences
 - Lizzo's relationship with Sasha Flute, her primary musical instrument
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Born Melissa Viviane Jefferson, Lizzo is a rapper, vocalist and flutist. Watch [this video](#) of Lizzo opening the 2020 Grammy Awards. All of the instrumentalists in Lizzo's orchestra and the dancers that performed with her were Black women, who are rarely visible in orchestras and ballet companies.



Lizzo was born in Detroit, moved to Texas at age nine and began playing flute in sixth grade band.

A self-described “band nerd,” she received a scholarship to study music at the University of Texas.



Lizzo grew up mostly listening to and singing Gospel music in her home, but she heard a few popular artists who were her parents' favorites: Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Queen, and Hall and Oates amongst them.



Lizzo is very vocal about the artists that have inspired her, including James Galway, Big Freedia, Destiny's Child, The Mars Volta, SZA, Marvin Winans and the Perfected Praise Choir.



Lizzo describes Aretha Franklin as an inspiration and spiritual guide. When asked what Sister Rosetta Tharpe means to her, Lizzo replied “Everything. She invented rock and roll.”





Lizzo named her instrument Sasha Flute after Beyoncé's album titled I am...Sasha Fierce.


Many American musicians have played a particular iconic instrument which became their visual trademark. B.B. King named his guitars "Lucille." Dizzy Gillespie bent a trumpet by accident and then played bent trumpets for the rest of his career. Prince played a custom-made "cloud" guitar in Purple Rain and throughout the 1980s.

Sasha Flute has her own instagram.



Watch **these videos** of Lizzo performing on the flute.





Lizzo has also been singing all her life, and got her start singing Gospel as a member of her church choir. Watch her sing, A Change Is Gonna Come, while sheltering in place in **this video**.

The song was written and recorded by Soul legend Sam Cooke, who, like Lizzo, began singing in church and went on to find success in popular music.



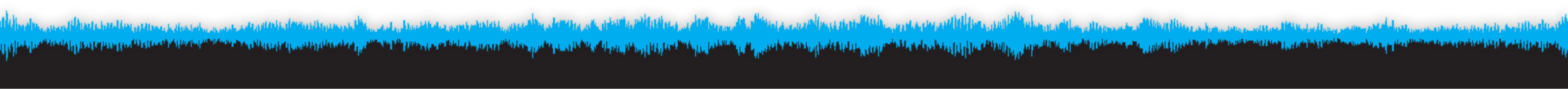
SUMMARY

- Lizzo is a flutist and singer
- Lizzo began playing flute in her middle school marching band and first sang Gospel music in her church choir
- Lizzo has won 3 Grammy Awards



BE CREATIVE

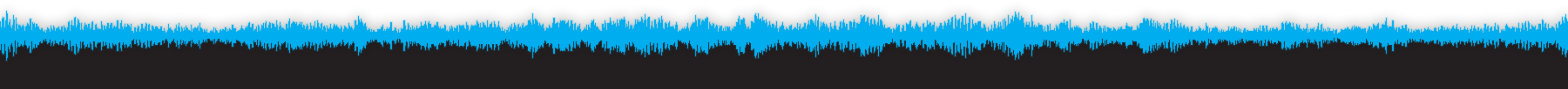
The flute has been part of Lizzo's life since Middle School, long before she began her career in music. Sasha Flute has been with her most of her life.



BE CREATIVE

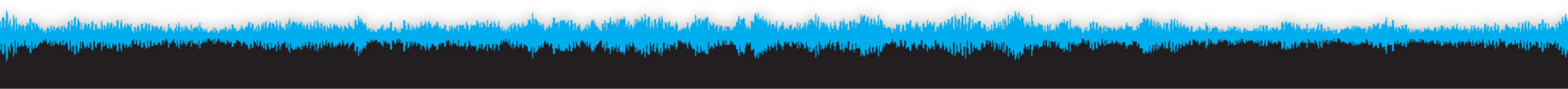
Do you have a possession that you treasure? Something that keeps you company and reminds you of who you are and where you've been? It could be a photograph, an album, some sand or a stone. Perhaps it is something that you received as a gift from a friend or other loved one.

Together with a friend or a group of classmates, make and exchange video or audio recordings, telling the story of your treasured objects.



BE CURIOUS

The flute is an orchestral instrument but it shows in popular music worldwide. Check out this **creative cover** of Michael Jackson's "Rock With You" by Melanie Charles, who like Lizzo is a vocalist/flautist. Then go a little further with the TeachRock: Lizzo DLP - Flutes! playlist available on **Spotify** and **YouTube**.



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