

8 Journeys of the Mind

1 Synopsis

Marjie McGraw is a travel writer. She is researching an article for her newspaper about the music and history of Nashville, Tennessee. She wants to find out why Nashville is sometimes known as "Guitar Town." Nashville first became famous for music in the 1930s, when a national music radio show was broadcast from there. Marjie visits the Country Music Hall of Fame to learn more about the history of country music and its most famous stars. She also visits the Gibson guitar factory to find out what makes this type of guitar so special. Finally, she interviews the owner of a vintage guitar business.

Length of video: 4:47min

2 Target Language

Grammar: Past Perfect and Simple Past

Vocabulary: popular music

Language points: *be broadcast, a walking encyclopedia, find a focus, prepare an article*

3 Procedural Notes

A Before you watch

Individuals. Have students read the music genres and match them with the places. Check answers.

As a class. Ask the class if they like these genres of music. Brainstorm other music genres (blues, rock, pop, R&B, soul, classical, etc.). Ask what countries these other genres are from. Have students name their favorite types of music, singers, and bands.

Answer key:

1 c 2 a 3 e 4 b 5 d

B While you watch

1 Individuals. Have students read the questions and check that they understand them. Play the video and encourage students to circle True or False while watching. Check answers.

Answer key:

1 False 2 True 3 True 4 False (Orville Gibson was a guitar manufacturer, and Les Paul was a guitarist. They made a famous type of guitar together.)

2 As a class. Have students read aloud the names. Help with pronunciation, if necessary. Ask the class if they had heard of any of these people before they watched the video. Elicit from the students what they knew about these people.

Individuals. Play the video again, and encourage students to watch for the correct order. Check answers and have students tell you which person isn't a famous guitar player.

Answer key:

1 Mother Maybelle Carter 2 Les Paul
3 George Gruhn 4 Eric Clapton 5 Johnny Cash
6 George Harrison 7 Paul McCartney
George Gruhn is not a famous guitarist. He owns a famous vintage guitar store in Nashville.

3 Individuals. Have students read the questions, then check that they understand them. Have students circle the correct answers before they watch the video again to check their answers. Check answers as a class.

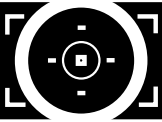
Answer key: 1 c 2 b 3 c 4 a

C After you watch

Individuals. Have students write a 50–100 word summary about the things Marjie found out in the video. (You could set this for homework if you prefer.) If students need assistance, elicit some key phrases from the video and write them on the board. While students are working, circulate to help with grammar and vocabulary. When students have finished, if time, call on some students to read aloud their newspaper articles.

Suggested answer:

Nashville, Tennessee, has been a music center since the 1930s, when a famous radio show was broadcast from there. Mother Maybelle Carter was one of the famous guitarists who performed on the show from the 1950s. Before Mother Maybelle, people had played the guitar mostly as a rhythm instrument. But she showed people that you could play the guitar as a lead instrument, too. Nashville is also the home of the Gibson guitar factory, where Les Paul guitars are made. You can also buy vintage guitars in Nashville, from a store run by the famous guitar enthusiast, George Gruhn.



8 Journeys of the Mind

Language points

Individuals. Read aloud the expressions in the box and check that students understand them. Emphasize that students need to choose the correct expression and change its verb tense to match the sentence. Have students complete the sentences with the correct expressions. Check answers.

Answer key:

- 1 find a focus 2 preparing an article
3 walking encyclopedia 4 were broadcast

E Your viewpoint

In pairs. Read the questions aloud and check that everybody understands them. Have students work in pairs and discuss the questions. While pairs are working, circulate and help with grammar and vocabulary. Finish off with a class discussion. Which types of music, bands, and singers are most popular and the least popular with the whole class?

4 Video Script

Presenter:	Marjie McGraw is a travel writer based in Nashville, Tennessee. She has written books, articles, and radio programs about the music and history of Nashville.	
Marjie:	<p>People ask me to write about Nashville all the time, so, my challenge is to find a new and unusual focus for my stories. Nashville, Tennessee, has been called Music City, USA, and most recently, Guitar Town. Today, I'm going to prepare an article for my paper to find out why.</p> <p>In the 1950s, a disc jockey referred to Nashville as Music City, USA, and the name stuck, but music had been an important part of Nashville's cultural life long before that. Nashville's reputation as a music center started in the 1930s with a radio show called The Grand Ole Opry. It was broadcast from here, in the Ryman Auditorium, to people all over the United States. From the 1950s on, one musician who was often heard on the program was Mother Maybelle Carter. And the way she played her guitar changed country music. One place to learn more about Mother Maybelle is right here at the Country Music Hall Of Fame. Come on, let's go inside.</p> <p>The Hall Of Fame is where the very best country musicians are honored. In the museum, you can learn about the history of country music and see many country musicians, performances,</p>	<p>clothes, and instruments. I interviewed Nick Buck. He works at the museum and is an expert on music history.</p> <p>Nick: Up until the 1920s, the guitar had been used primarily as a rhythm instrument, a secondary instrument. Maybelle found a way to make her guitar sound like two guitars playing at once. She could play the rhythm chords and lead melody lines at the same time, and this was truly a revolutionary thing at that time period.</p> <p>Marjie: Hey, Mother Maybelle Carter used a Gibson guitar, so I thought that's something else I can focus on. Gibson guitars are made right here in Nashville. I wonder if that's why they call it Guitar Town. Orville Gibson, the company's founder, had been a shoe clerk before he started making mandolins and guitars. Musicians loved the sound of his Gibsons, and they still do. I got to talk to a lot of people at the factory. I wanted to find out what it is that makes a Gibson guitar so special.</p> <p>Marjie: What makes a Gibson sound like a Gibson?</p> <p>Guitar Maker: The way the guitar is weighted, the balance of it, there's a lot of things that go into what makes it. A lot of people like the design of its classic design, the body shape.</p> <p>Marjie: What's Gibson's most famous guitar?</p> <p>Walter: Well, today the guitar Gibson is best known for is the Les Paul. In 1952,</p>



8 Journeys of the Mind

Marjie:

when Gibson introduced the Les Paul model, Gibson had been making only hollow-body electric guitars. We decided to make one with a solid body. So they found Les Paul, who was at that time the most famous guitar player in the world, and he also had been playing a home-made solid-body guitar. So, Gibson and Les got together and introduced the Les Paul model. It had a gold top finish. We still make them today, and it's by far the most successful arrangement between a guitar company and a guitar player in the history of the guitar. Obviously, many people in Nashville are extremely passionate about guitars, but George Gruhn is completely obsessed. George Gruhn runs the most famous vintage guitar business in the world. It's located in the heart of Nashville. George Gruhn is famous

George:

because he invented a way to classify guitars.

Marjie:

Style 45 has this abalone pearl trim all around the edge of the top.

George:

No one had ever done this before. It's a rare enough one that they only made a couple of dozen.

Marjie:

He's a walking encyclopedia of guitar knowledge and he can tell you the value of any guitar in minutes.

George:

Rosewood fingerboard. About \$300.

Marjie:

He also has had some pretty famous customers, like Eric Clapton, Johnny Cash ...

George:

But this was Johnny Cash's main guitar.

Marjie:

... George Harrison and Paul McCartney.

Marjie:

Those guitars were incredible! I have enough to write my article, and I think I know why they call Nashville "Guitar Town."