

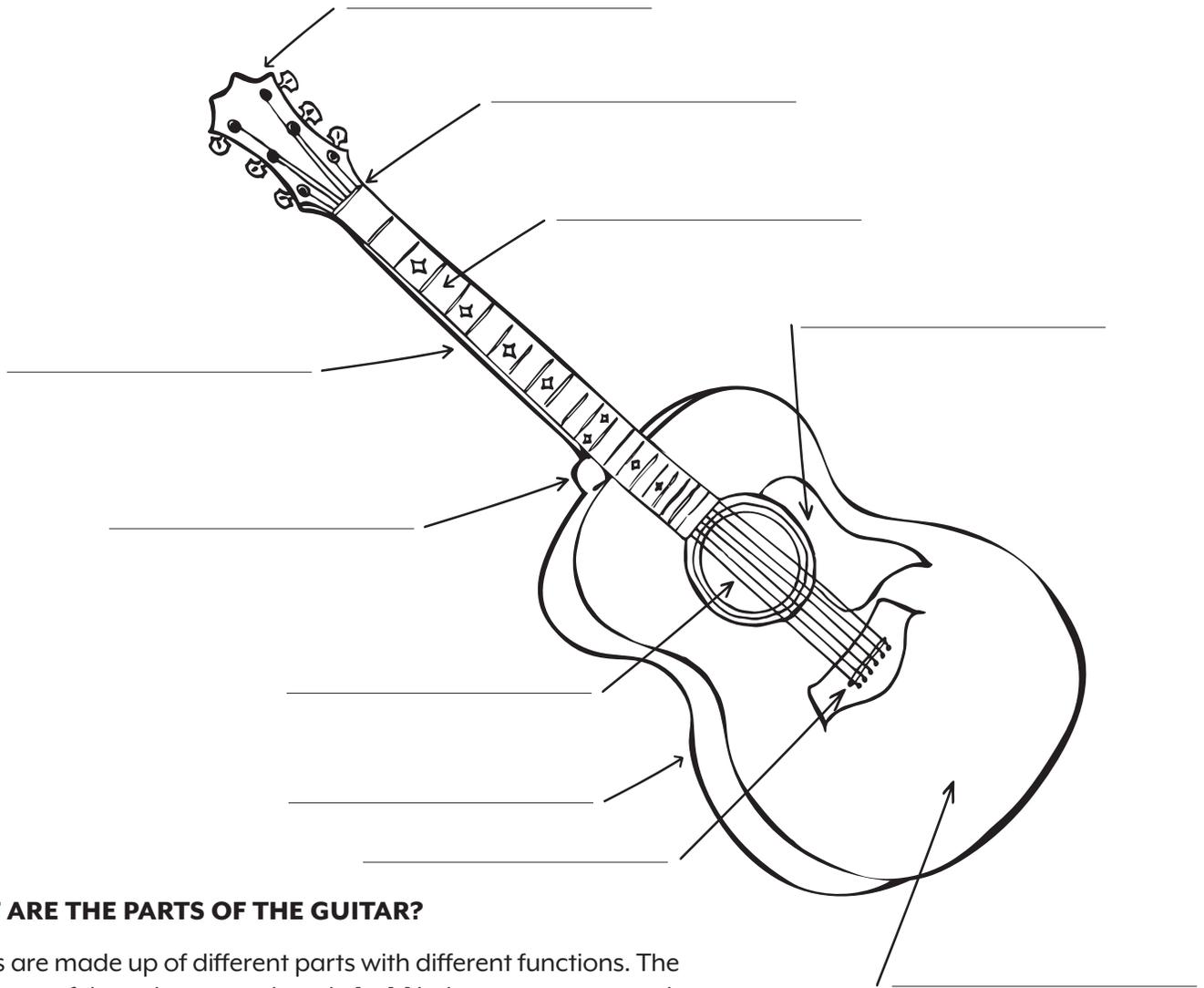
# THE GUITAR

The guitar came to America with the Spanish in the 1700s, though the six-stringed version most familiar to us didn't arrive until the 1800s. However, the guitar wasn't commonly used until the early 1900s when it soon became a familiar instrument in old-time and stringband music in Appalachia. Companies like Martin and Gibson began making steel-stringed guitars around this time, and players could also buy inexpensive guitars – along with other instruments – from mail-order catalogs like Sears-Roebuck.

Acoustic steel-stringed guitars were used on many Bristol Sessions recordings, including those by Jimmie Rodgers, Alfred Karnes, and The Carter Family. Maybelle Carter, one of the most influential and imitated guitarists in American music, played guitar in a distinctive way, combining rhythm on the instrument's higher strings and melody on the lower bass strings – a technique now known as “the Carter scratch.”

**COLOR THE GUITAR!**





**WHAT ARE THE PARTS OF THE GUITAR?**

Guitars are made up of different parts with different functions. The main parts of the guitar are written in **bold** below – can you match them by their description to the areas marked on the guitar?

The **sound hole** allows sound to project from the guitar and helps the sound board to vibrate.

Located between the headstock and the neck of the guitar, the **nut** raises the strings off the fretboard and keeps them in their correct spacing.

The **bridge**, found at the bottom end of the strings, attaches them to the body of the guitar. Its function is to take the sound from the vibrating strings and transfer that sound to the soundboard.

The **fretboard** is a separate piece of wood attached to the guitar’s neck; it holds the metal frets, which change the notes and chords played on the guitar.

The **headstock** is where you will find the tuning pegs.

The guitar’s **body** is made up of the top, back, and sides. Guitars can have differently shaped and sized bodies, which affect their sound; these include parlor, dreadnaught, classical, and grand auditorium guitars.

The **neck** runs from the top of the guitar body to the headstock.

Many acoustic guitars have a **pick guard**, which protects the soundboard from scratches and other damage from the guitar pick or a player’s fingers.

The top of the guitar is also known as the **soundboard**, which is a thin layer of wood glued to the sides of the guitar body. The soundboard reinforces the sound and affects the tone produced by the strings.