

Beethoven



Name _____

Date _____



Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven was a musician who lived in the late 1700s to the early 1800s. A musician is a person who performs music on instruments such as the piano, trumpet or violin. Many times a musician also writes music, and this is called composing.

Ludwig van Beethoven is considered one of the greatest and best known musicians who ever lived. He was born in 1770, in Bonn, Germany which is located on the continent of Europe. Ludwig's grandfather and father were musicians and singers. His father taught Ludwig about music and expected him to study music and to practice musical instruments when Ludwig was just a small boy.



Ludwig was the oldest child in his family. He had two brothers. When he was only six Ludwig was already playing musical instruments such as the violin and piano in public. People were amazed at his abilities. They enjoyed Ludwig's concerts. He played the piano so well that he could perform a concert in front of many, many adults?

Can you imagine a child in the first grade playing the piano so well that he can perform a concert in front of many, many adults?

Read each sentence below. Fill in the missing words.

1. A _____ performs music on instruments.
2. _____ is one of the greatest musicians who ever lived.
3. Ludwig was born in the year _____.
4. A _____ is an event where a musician performs playing musical instruments. .



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Ludwig's mother even took him to another country in Europe, The Netherlands, to give piano and violin concerts for wealthy people. Soon Ludwig outgrew his father's ability to teach him so other teachers were asked to give Ludwig more advanced music lessons.

One of the teachers who taught Ludwig introduced him to the musical works of other great music composers of the time, such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johann Sebastian Bach.



Mozart and Bach's musical works made a great impression on Ludwig. At age ten Ludwig wrote the music for a piano concert which was published. This meant that people could buy and perform his music and he now was a composer.

When he was 17 years old Ludwig van Beethoven went to Vienna, Austria to study. Here he was introduced to other musicians and he even met the great Mozart at this time. Being able to work with and talk with other inspired, brilliant musicians had a big influence on Beethoven's work and life. At this time Vienna was the center for music and musicians in Europe so it was a perfect situation for Beethoven, with his excellent musical abilities, to live there.

Read the words below. Look up their definitions and write them on the lines.

1. advanced _____

2. music composer _____



Beethoven

Vienna was a cultural focal point of Europe in the late 1700s and early 1800s. There were beautiful buildings and artwork all over the city. Music was appreciated and valued by Vienna's wealthy citizens. People looked for beauty and inspiration in art works, buildings and music. These things certainly inspired and influenced Beethoven while he lived in Vienna. He stayed there most of his life doing piano recitals, composing musical symphonies, giving concerts and teaching.

The way piano concerts were given in Vienna during Beethoven's lifetime was interesting. Two pianos were placed on a stage in front of the audience. The two pianists played their pianos loudly, competing with each other. Each pianist was expected to outperform the other while the audience applauded and cheered loudly for the person who played the best. One of the players would become embarrassed and would leave the stage.



Beethoven won most of these piano duels, audiences loved the way he played. However, many of the other musicians did not like Beethoven because he usually won the contests.

Draw some musical notes in the box. You can make colorful designs on the notes.



Beethoven

Beethoven's physical appearance had an effect on his friends and even on people who saw him on the streets of Vienna. He had hair that always looked as if it needed combing and he had a way of frowning that caused people to think he was always angry.

Many of the paintings and drawings of Beethoven show him with bushy hair and a frown on his face. He had a reputation as being impatient and even unfriendly at times. But, perhaps he was just thinking about his music all of the time.



Beethoven had a difficult time in his relationships with his family and friends. Sometimes they described him as unreasonable and impossible. These relationships had an influence on his passion when writing music compositions. He most likely used music as an outlet for his emotions and to make up for his inability to express himself to people. He expressed himself through his excellent music.

Is it important how a person looks on the outside, or is it more important what the person is on the inside? Write how you feel about this statement.



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During his lifetime Beethoven wrote one opera, one violin concerto, several piano concertos, nine symphonies and sixteen string quartets. Here is some information about the types of music he wrote and how it was performed.

Concerto - A concerto is a musical piece of work written for one instrument accompanied by an orchestra. For example, a person playing the piano (called a pianist) with an orchestra behind him/her playing along with the pianist.

Orchestra - An orchestra is a large group of about 100 musicians who play woodwind, string, and bass instruments. Examples of woodwind instruments are the flute and the clarinet. Sometimes the orchestra has large and small drums and also metal instruments that are hit with pieces of wood or metal. Some of these instruments are called cymbals and metal triangles.

Symphony - A symphony is a musical composition written for an orchestra to perform. This means that musical notes must be written for every instrument in the orchestra. This way all the instruments play together to make the music of the symphony.

String Quartet - This is a group of four musicians who play 2 violins, a cello and a viola. These are all string instruments that use a bow drawn across the strings to make music.

Opera - This is an event where music is performed by singers and an orchestra. Often the songs of the opera are sung in a language other than English and the songs tell a story.





Beethoven

Have you ever been to one of the events described on page 5, or seen one on television? Write your answer on the lines below describing what you saw. Or, describe an instrument you have seen and how the musician played that instrument.

Beethoven's Deafness

A very sad thing happened to Beethoven when he was about 30 years old, he began to go deaf. At first he heard whistling and buzzing in his ears once in a while.

Then the noises became constant, although he could still hear people speaking and could hear most music. Soon he could no longer hear speech and loud noises were even louder in his ears.

Hearing the loud noises was very difficult for Beethoven because he was always composing music in his head. The loud noises drowned out the musical notes he imagined and heard in his head.

When he could no longer hear anything at all and he wanted to compose music he had to remember how the notes sounded when they were played on a piano or violin and write down the musical notes.



He became totally deaf at about age 47 and never was able to hear again. He was not able to hear the music that he wrote while he was deaf.



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When Beethoven began to have problems with his hearing he went to a small village near Vienna. They did not have the good medical help in the 1800s that we have today but a doctor told Beethoven to try to rest in the countryside to see if that would improve his hearing.

Even though this did not help his hearing problems Beethoven was inspired by the beautiful nature and animals in the countryside. This inspiration was reflected in the music of several of his symphonies.

As you listen to the symphonies he wrote you can imagine birds chirping, water running in a stream and a storm in the meadow. You can even hear the thunder and lightning in the music if you listen carefully.

All of these sounds are made by the instruments in the orchestra, not by real birds or a real storm.

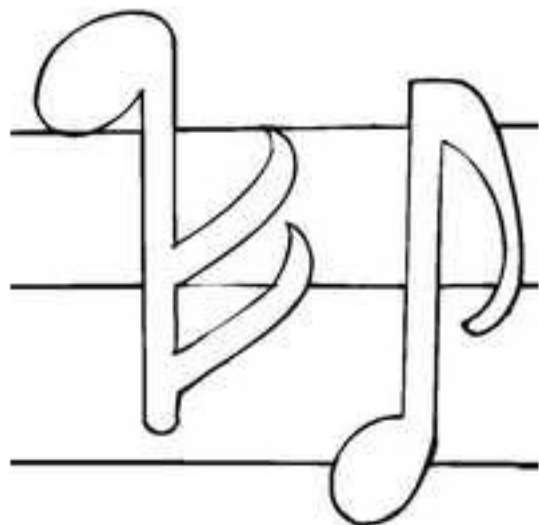


Think of the music you like. Are there any sounds in the music that sound like animals or birds?

Circle the correct word in each sentence.

1. When he was about thirty years old Beethoven became (blind, deaf)
2. Music (can, cannot) sound like nature.

Color the musical notes.





Beethoven

Try to imagine that you are deaf. Close your eyes, sit quietly and pretend that you don't hear the sounds around you. Can you imagine musical notes and how they sound?

Or do you imagine that you can actually hear a song? Is this easy for you to do, or is it hard to do?

Do you see how difficult it would be for Ludwig van Beethoven to imagine musical notes and write symphonies when he was deaf?



Beethoven continued to write music long after he was totally deaf although, he could no longer give his own concerts. He died in 1827 at age 57.

Pretend you are Beethoven when he was deaf. Write musical notes on the lines, pretending it is the music you heard when you pretended to be deaf.

Was this difficult or easy to do? _____





Beethoven

Beethoven's Musical Works

The Symphonies - Beethoven wrote nine symphonies, and he named them Symphony Number One, Symphony Number Two and so on. Many people talk about Symphony Number Nine. It contains music and voices. Some people think it is the greatest symphony ever written by any composer.

The Piano Concertos - There are five of these concertos. Beethoven did not write these all at once, he wrote these over a period of 18 years. The music is written for the piano and the orchestra to perform together, but the piano is the center point of the concert.



The Opera - When he first wrote the opera the name was *Lenore*. This name was changed to *Fidelio* many years after it was first written. It is the only opera Beethoven wrote. It is a story told by songs that are sung by actors.

The String Quartets - Beethoven wrote sixteen of these. He wrote them over a period of 30 years of his life. The string instruments make a beautiful sound together. The instruments in a string quartet are two violins, a cello and a viola.

Write two sentences about any of the musical works or instruments listed above.

Criss Cross - Beethoven

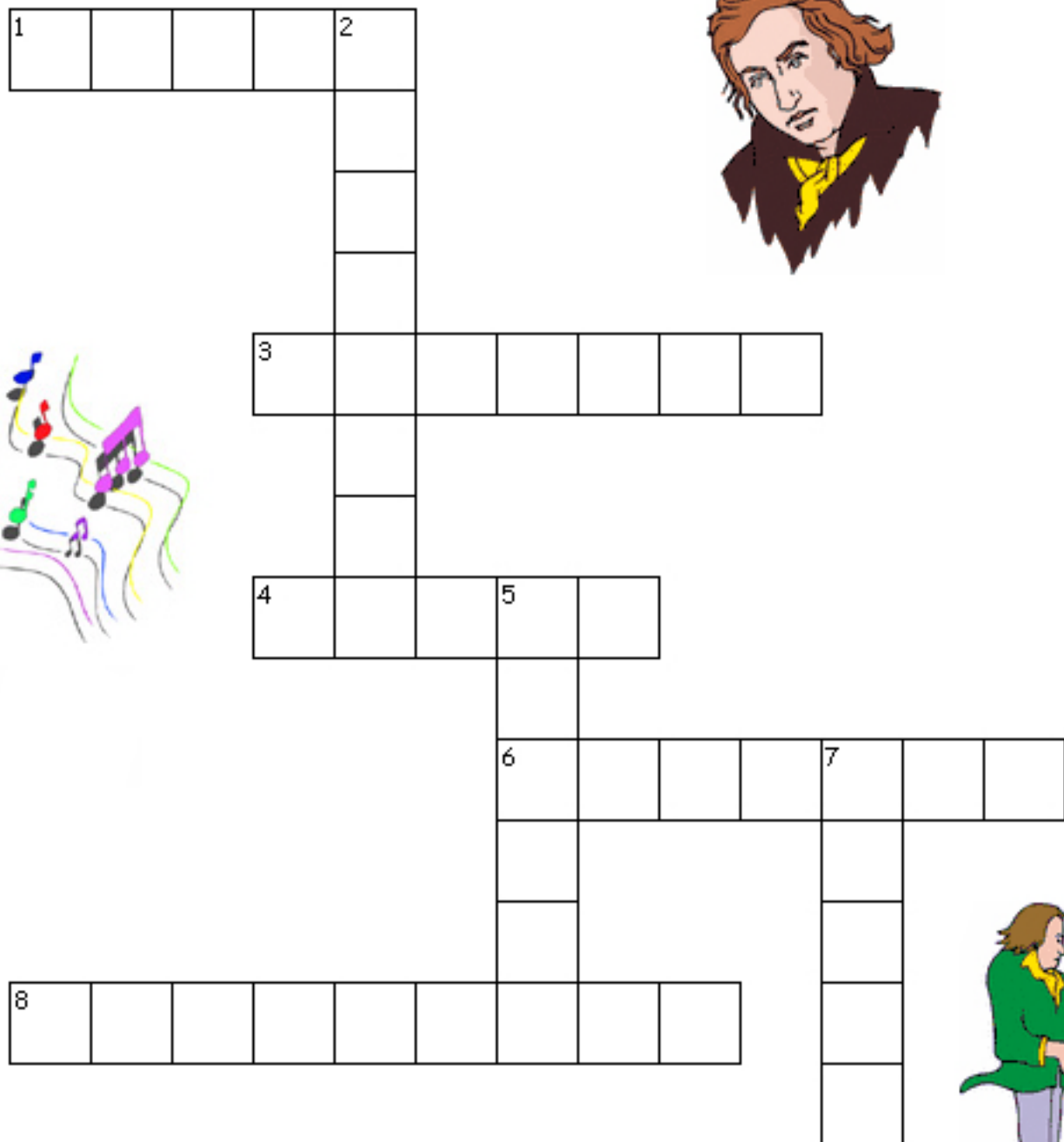
Fit the words into the squares.

composer
opera

music
talent

lessons
orchestra

sonatas
wrote



B Beethoven

Spelling

1.

music
musec
mucic

2.

pieano
piano
pianno

3.

compuse
cumpuse
compose

4.

snoata
sonata
sonita

5.

voilin
vilolin
violin

B Beethoven

WORD FIND

Find and circle these words. They run down, across, and diagonally.

classical
practice
opera

sing
talented
concert

young
lessons
music

piano
composed
composer

l	w	c	u	t	x	t	u	o	c	w	k	y	a	n
a	a	z	o	d	k	j	k	i	n	x	e	u	r	v
n	u	c	o	m	p	o	s	e	d	a	c	b	e	h
v	c	r	i	c	p	u	r	g	o	o	i	d	p	t
g	c	j	e	s	m	o	z	y	n	t	e	p	o	l
p	j	l	c	f	s	k	s	c	e	t	n	n	n	v
o	n	e	i	m	m	a	e	e	n	j	w	g	v	m
g	y	s	t	o	j	r	l	e	r	g	n	u	o	y
t	i	s	c	y	t	s	l	c	s	i	n	g	l	e
p	h	o	a	k	m	a	l	v	t	y	b	g	z	z
b	d	n	r	u	t	q	c	i	u	b	o	z	v	z
b	w	s	p	d	n	z	n	g	l	b	f	p	f	n
v	y	u	i	b	n	j	s	v	x	m	v	a	r	j
a	m	s	j	t	c	o	a	l	j	a	y	z	c	c
g	x	h	b	b	o	i	y	j	s	p	d	f	h	y

Word Unscramble - Beethoven

Unscramble each word. Write the correct word on the line.



meoprsco _____

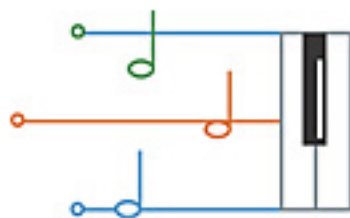
msiuc _____

lsenoss _____

atoasns _____

paoer _____

laettn _____



orharesct _____

twoer _____

Answers

Criss Cross

Across: 1. music 3. sonatas 4. wrote 6. lessons 8. orchestra

Down: 2. composer 5. talent 7. opus

Spelling

music, piano, compose, sonata, violin

Word Unscramble

composer, music, lessons, sonatas, opera, talent, orchestra, wrote

Word Search

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L + C + + + + + O C + + + A +
+ A + O + + + + I N + + + R +
+ + C O M P O S E D A C + E +
+ + + I + P U + + + O I D P +
+ + + E S M O + + N + E P O +
+ + L C + S + S C + T + + + +
+ + E I + + A E E N + + + + +
+ + S T + + R L E R G N U O Y
+ + S C + T + L C S I N G + +
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