## **Beethoven's Life**

*Directions:* Read the Classics for Kids biography about Beethoven and answer the following questions.

1. If Ludwig had been a VON, what could we assume about him?

2. The roots of his VAN can be traced to what country and what "type" of people?

3. After reading the following two paragraphs, write an imaginary direct quote that the person OR place mentioned might have "said," regarding Beethoven in his early years. (yes, we know that places can't talk; use your imagination!) If you do this correctly, you could read the quote and someone else should be able to guess who or what it describes. **Warning:** you must PARAPHRASE the one person who is quoted directly!

*Ex*. **Beethoven:** "I am supporting my family as a court musician and would really like to study in Vienna."

Bonn, Germany: "Beethoven was born within r	my borders."
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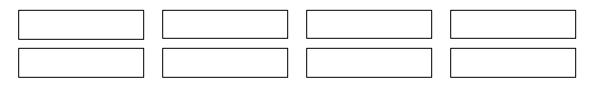
Beethoven's dad:	"	
Vienna, Austria:	۰۰	
W.A. Mozart:	۰۰ <u>ـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ</u>	
Haydn:	<u></u>	
		"
*Brahms:	در	
		,,

\*you have to read on in order to get this one!

4 Beethoven	became most famous because of	of his ability to do what?	(answer)
A. sing	B. compose symphonies	C. play piano	D. conduct

5 Why was Beethoven not completely overcome by the hardship of going deaf?

6 List eight genres ("kinds") of music in which Beethoven wrote:



7 Not all composers received notoriety in their own lifetimes. The text tells us what about Beethoven's reputation as a musician?

## Beethoven the Pianist

The text tells us that Beethoven lived when the piano we know today was "growing up."

8 If Beethoven's piano had more *power*, how might this manifest (show) itself in his

piano music?

If it allowed more *range*, again, what can we expect to hear?

9 The floor *pedal* was another innovation during Beethoven's time. This word comes from the Latin root "pes, **ped**is" which means FOOT. Next to each *derivative* below, explain how the root gives meaning to the word.

explain now the root gives meaning to the word.

*Ex.* **PED**AL: something that is operated with the foot

- a. **PED**ICURE: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. **PED**ESTAL: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. **PED**ESTRAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

The pedal on the piano changes the sound in what way?

You bet that you are going to hear a lot of this in Beethoven's piano music!

## **Beethoven's Symphonies**

10 Which short-term teacher of Beethoven's is still titled the "father" of the symphony?

<sup>11</sup> Symphony nos. 2-9 all share what in common, in terms of Beethoven's hearing?

12 Beethoven became extremely depressed about his deafness. The letter in which Beethoven shared his painful secret is called the *Heiligenstadt Testament*. Here is an excerpt from that letter:

O ye men who accuse me of being malevolent, stubborn and misanthropical, how ye wrong me! Ye know not the secret cause. Ever since childhood my heart and mind were disposed toward feelings of gentleness and goodwill, and I was eager to accomplish great deeds; but consider this: for six years I have been hopelessly ill, aggravated and cheated by quacks in the hope of improvement but finally compelled to face a lasting malady ... I was forced to isolate myself. I was misunderstood and rudely repulsed because I was as yet unable to say to people, "Speak louder, shout, for I am deaf" ... With joy I hasten to meet death. Despite my hard fate ... I shall wish that it had come later; but I am content, for he shall free me of constant suffering. Come then, Death, and I shall face thee with courage. Heiglnstadt (sic) 6 October, 1802.

Based on Beethoven's words, *what feelings* might we hear expressed in his later works, when he was nearly totally deaf:

What colors?

As you read in the biography text, he eventually decided that not even deafness would stop him! Therefore, we might also hear these emotions expressed:

13 Beethoven's Third Symphony broke a record. What was it?

\_\_\_\_\_est Symphony!

14. Explain in your own words why Napoleon's name is *not* on the score to the

Symphony No. 3: \_\_\_\_\_

15 What are two suggestions about the meaning of the famous motif from the  $5^{\text{th}}$  Symphony?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_

16 What was one *ground-breaking* aspect of Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> and final Symphony?

I.	Influences on	music
	A. He Lived in a Period of	
	1. 1789,was was was was weight of their Revolution which w	would bring
	2. 1792,	was olonies who
	B. He Lived after the been established in Europe	had
	1 had deve conventions (formal rules or expe and	ctations) of
	2 was furthe	er developing
	the	genre

## C. He lived amidst a wave of

\_\_\_\_\_ forces

- 1. people were \_\_\_\_\_\_ established traditions in government and society
- 2. people were encouraged to think \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. there were popular ideas about

\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_