

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 my borders."

Beethoven's dad: " _____
_____ "

Vienna, Austria: " _____
_____ "

W.A. Mozart: " _____
_____ "

Haydn: " _____
_____ "

***Brahms:** " _____
_____ "

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

4 Beethoven became *most* famous because 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, **pedis**” which means FOOT. Next to each *derivative* below, explain how the root gives meaning to the word.

Ex. **PEDAL**: *something that is operated with the foot*

a. **PEDICURE**: _____

b. **PEDESTAL**: _____

c. **PEDESTRAIN**: _____

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?

11 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. Heigl'nstadt (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 5th Symphony?

1. _____ 2. _____

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

I. Influences on _____ music

A. He Lived in a Period of _____

1. 1789, _____ was enduring the height of their Revolution which would bring _____ into power.

2. 1792, _____ was the first president of a group of colonies who had just won independence from _____

B. He Lived after the _____ had been established in Europe

1. _____ had developed the conventions (formal rules or expectations) of _____ and _____ writing

2. _____ was further 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 _____