

Ludwig van Beethoven

1. Informational page for teacher/parent

Dates: 1770-1827

Nationality, where born: Germany

Works you recognize and where:

Symphony #5, first movement

- Simpsons cartoon
- Mickey Mouse cartoons
- Dragon's Liar video game
- Beethoven, the dog movie of 1992

Ode to Joy from Beethoven's Symphony #9, 4th movement

- National anthem for Europe

Moonlight Sonata:

- The Pianist, movie
- Crimson Tide, movie

What parents did for a living:

His father was a musician and teacher. He was known as a fine singer.

How became interested in music:

His mother encouraged piano lessons.

How old when started music, i.e. what instrument

Started piano at age 10.

At the age of 12, he earned a living playing organ and composing to support the entire family financially.

Did attend college?, What for?, How were his grades?

Beethoven had a difficult time in school. He suffered with dyslexia, which means he viewed letters backwards.

He left school at age 11.

Early failures, personal struggles

He started going deaf at the age of 30. He couldn't play piano anymore but still composed some of his most famous works. He composed his 9th Symphony, five piano sonatas and his most famous string quartets while completely deaf.

Beethoven was 16 years old when his mother died.

He suffered from headaches and stomachaches his entire life.

What was going on in the United States during the time of his most popular composition? Symphony #5 (composed between 1804-1808)

1804: Steam locomotive train

1805: Refrigerator

1805: Amphibious vehicle, a vehicle to be used on water and land

1806: Webster's Dictionary first published

1808: Cotton Gin patented for easier production of cotton

1819: Soda Fountain-Pop

Interesting info.:

He was very messy. Even as an adult, he frequently looked disheveled with food stains on his shirt and torn pants. The police who thought he was a vagrant once arrested him.

Today, he is considered one of the greatest musical geniuses ever lived.

His 5th Symphony is the most recognized work of music.

Fun Fact:

Macaroni and cheese was his favorite food.

Psychological Topic:

Beethoven had a very unhappy childhood. His father was an alcoholic and was very abusive.

His mother passed away when he was very young.

He later suffered from deep depression.

His most famous writing is the *Heiligenstadt Testament* where he speaks about his desire to commit suicide. He realizes that he has too much to offer the world.

2. Beethoven Listening Examples

Symphony #5

<https://youtu.be/fOk8Tm815IE>

Symphony #9: Ode to Joy

<https://youtu.be/vlSR8Wlmpac>

Symphony #5 Rock/Disco version for Dance-Off

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7SzwugqiXc>

Movie:

“Beethoven Lives Upstairs” (animation movie in segments on YouTube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqwF7GYdjJM&list=PL0GtaO7D6LzEZ92jbV3koca6492TLi5cC>

Also on Amazon Prime as a full movie

Fun Extra links:

Symphony #5

Rock version of the music by Trans Siberian Orchestra:

<https://youtu.be/UWSLYlJ39Qw>

Symphony #9

Flash Mob Video: <https://youtu.be/a23945btjYw>

Play excerpt (3:00 min mark). Explain a “flash mob.”

3. Beethoven Listening Questions

Beethoven's music is very powerful. The Ode to Joy has been used as a symbol of freedom throughout history from the falling of the Berlin Wall in Germany to China and the Tiananmen Square protest.

Almost 200 years old, and his music is still used today in T.V., movies, commercials and as a symbol of peace.

Questions for Beethoven Symphony 5

Play opening of Beethoven 5 (6 seconds): <https://youtu.be/fOk8Tm815IE>

1. Do you recognize the music?

2. Why do you think so many recognize the music?

Is it because it's loud? rhythmical? Encourage as many responses as possible.

3. How many notes do you hear in the opening?

4. Play opening 20 seconds. How many times do you hear the segment?

5. Listen to a Rock version of the music by Trans Siberian Orchestra:

<https://youtu.be/UWSLYlJ39Qw>

How is it different?

Questions for Beethoven Ode to Joy

Focus on the opening: <https://youtu.be/vlSR8Wlmpac>

Do you recognize the melody?

What makes it so easy to recognize?

Is it because the melody is simple? Easy to sing?

What makes the music so powerful?

Large # of musicians performing the music? Large # of instruments?

Is it because it starts soft and gets loud?

His music has been used as a symbol of freedom and peace. What makes it a symbol of peace?

Is it because the melody is simple and everyone sings or performs it together?

4. Quiet Activity

1. **Conducting Symphony #5** opening with and without noise canceling headphones. Getting a sense of leading an orchestra without being able to hear the music.

2. **“Moonlight Sonata”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5OaSju0qNc>

Performed by famous conductor Daniel Barenboim

The work begins at :27 until 6:52

Paint a night sky while listening to the work.

3. Create your own Poem while listening to Beethoven’s music

An Acrostic Poem

Create an acrostic poem about Beethoven. Here’s how it’s done: You’ll see that Beethoven’s name has been written vertically. Next to each letter of his name is a space. In each space, write a word that you think describes Beethoven and starts with that letter of the alphabet. The first one has been done for you. When you are finished, please post the poem at home or email it to us at: music@cmfbh.org
Subject: Beethoven Acrostic Poem.

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5. Games

Beethoven Coloring Sheet

Beethoven was known for his crazy hair! Use your creativity to color a picture of Beethoven!



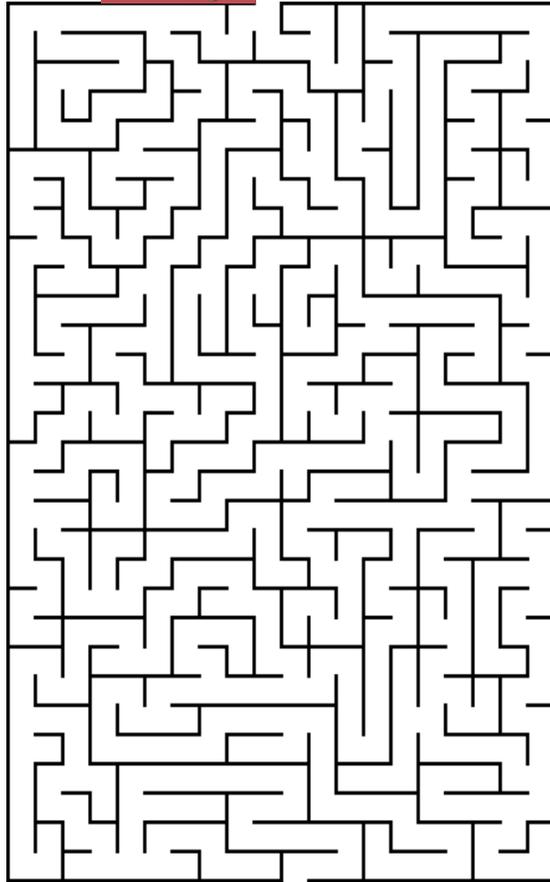
Beethoven was known for his crazy hair. Give him a new style!

Beethoven's Maze



Start

Beethoven must get to the concert on time. Help him find his way to the concert hall.





NAME: _____ DATE: _____



Beethoven's Word Search

Y R Y V L U I H J Q O V I R E
N X D I W R Z J B Y V Y A P N
O J S N K L S E D G N M R J O
H Z Q H T Q G D A U S S K M G
P T G B D T X L J P N T H V L
M E H E C T E N T C V X I B T
Y N A E O H S E O T J O Z B S
S F N B M G Y V U L L S Y P B
I S V H P I M O Z I F B K I Q
J S Z B O L O H N M M Z H A V
V O I G S N B T F B D J P N R
D N J E E O R E Z I J A T O J
O A O F R O Q E A K L K X N O
O T C O O M Q B C D N C G C E
Q A E A N X S M E X Y H K U X

BEETHOVEN
MOONLIGHT
SYMPHONY
SONATA
PIANO
VIOLIN
DEAF
COMPOSER



6. Active Activity

Beethoven's Marco Polo

In learning the auditory difficulty of Beethoven, we have invented a new game. Beethoven started losing his hearing around age 30 and was completely deaf by age 46. Even though he could not hear the music, the applause nor his friends, he had a very recognizable low and gravelly voice.

The individual playing "Marco" will speak but no one else may make a noise.

Requires

A large room (no pool) without furniture or items that may be a tripping hazard

Flashlights for each player, except the player who is *It* (Marco)

At least 3 people, but more people make for more fun

Game play

One player, designated *It*, closes his/her eyes for 10 seconds while opposing players disperse in the room. *It*, with eyes closed (or blind-folded with a thin shirt), then carefully moves around the room, attempting to tag the other players. *It* may detect the presence of others by calling out "Marco." The other players, regardless of their location, must respond only by flashing the flashlight 2x at the head of the person designated as *It*. He/she, sensing the direction of the light or feeling around with his/her limbs must tag the other players. When the *It* player succeeds in tagging another player, the latter becomes *It*.

Objective

Move around the room, and smile. Nothing too complicated here.

Additional rules

"Fish-out-of-water" allow non-*It* players to exit the area to avoid being tagged. If, however, *It* should happen to catch that player out of the designated area by yelling "Fish out of water," that player then becomes *It*.

The Silent Race

1. Create a start and finish line and divide into teams of 3 or more
2. The team will begin on the finish line except for one teammate who will start on the opposite line facing their team, start line
3. The single player on the start line will have on noise cancelling headphones or ear plugs
4. The first player in line on the finish line will be conducting the music
5. The music will be played by the teacher and stopped and started at random intervals
6. When the music is played, the conductor will begin to conduct and the single player with headphones (ear plugs) will begin to walk to the conductor's tempo
7. When the conductor hears the music stop, they must cut off the headphone player and they must freeze
8. Once the player reaches the team they take their place at the back of the line, and the conductor quickly walks (or runs) to the start line with the headphones and puts them on
9. The next player in line will begin conducting and cutting off as the music goes
10. The first team to have every player seated wins!

Charades

1. Divide into groups of 5 or so.
2. Students will take turns silently acting out the word on the card they have selected while Beethoven's music is playing in the background

Cut out the below cards and distribute

Silent Line Up

1. Larger groups of 15-20 work well for this. Smaller groups will make it easier.
2. The groups will be given a certain order they need to line up in. Ex. By birthday, by first letter of name
3. The groups must line up in their order without talking. Only silent communication is allowed.
4. The first group to correctly line up wins!

7. Topic of Discussion-optional under the direction of the parent or teacher.

Sometimes Beethoven was very sad. He turned to his music to help express his feelings. He also wrote a letter to himself that helped him understand his feelings.

What are some things that you can do when you are feeling sad or having a bad day?

What is some of the music that you listen to that puts you in a happy mood?

Do you have a friend that you can talk with?

How can you help someone who is sad?

Make a paper boat, write the things that make you sad/angry on a piece of paper and release the boat into the water. Or, use a biodegradable balloon.