MUSIC THEORY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 3–5

Meet Ludwig van Beethoven

Read about a composer who kept writing music after he lost his hearing, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Ludwig van Beethoven was born in 1770 in Bonn, Germany. He was a gifted piano player as a boy, and as a young man he moved to Vienna, a city famous for its music. In his late twenties Beethoven began to lose his hearing. It got worse over the years until he was almost completely deaf, but he never stopped composing. He could hear the music in his mind. Beethoven wrote nine symphonies. His Fifth Symphony begins with four of the most famous notes in music: short, short, short, long. He also wrote a well-loved piano piece called Für Elise. Beethoven died in 1827.

True or false?

Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany.	True	False
Beethoven stopped writing music when he lost his hearing.	True	False
Beethoven wrote nine symphonies.	True	False
Für Elise is a piece for the trumpet.	True	False

Answer the questions.

How does the Fifth Symphony begin?

_____

Which city did Beethoven move to as a young man?

_____

What does Beethoven's story teach you about not giving up?

_____

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ANSWER KEY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Meet Ludwig van Beethoven

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write or draw their own ideas, the key shows one example.



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Für Elise is a piece for the trumpet.	True	**False**

Answer the questions.

How does the Fifth Symphony begin?

with four notes: short, short, short, long

Which city did Beethoven move to as a young man?

Vienna

What does Beethoven's story teach you about not giving up?

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