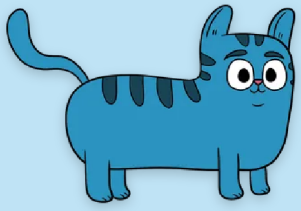
MUSIC THEORY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 2–5

Meet Scott Joplin

Read about the composer known as the King of Ragtime, then answer the questions.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Scott Joplin was born around 1868 and grew up in Texarkana, a town on the border of Texas and Arkansas. His family loved music, and he learned to play the piano as a boy. Joplin became famous for ragtime, a bouncy style of piano music with a steady beat in the left hand and a jumpy tune in the right hand. In 1899 he published the Maple Leaf Rag, which became a huge hit. He also wrote The Entertainer and an opera called Treemonisha. People called him the King of Ragtime. Joplin died in 1917. In 1976 he was honored with a special Pulitzer Prize for his music.

True or false?

Scott Joplin was called the King of Ragtime. True False

Ragtime is a slow and sleepy kind of music. True False

Joplin grew up in New York City. True False

Joplin wrote an opera called Treemonisha. True False

Answer the questions.

Name one piece of music that Scott Joplin wrote.

_____

What honor was he given in 1976?

_____

Ragtime is bouncy. What kind of music makes you want to move?

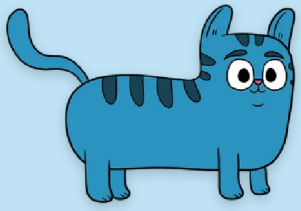
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ANSWER KEY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Meet Scott Joplin

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



Scott Joplin was born around 1868 and grew up in Texarkana, a town on the border of Texas and Arkansas. His family loved music, and he learned to play the piano as a boy. Joplin became famous for ragtime, a bouncy style of piano music with a steady beat in the left hand and a jumpy tune in the right hand. In 1899 he published the Maple Leaf Rag, which became a huge hit. He also wrote The Entertainer and an opera called Treemonisha. People called him the King of Ragtime. Joplin died in 1917. In 1976 he was honored with a special Pulitzer Prize for his music.

True or false?

Scott Joplin was called the King of Ragtime.	**True**	False
Ragtime is a slow and sleepy kind of music.	True	**False**
Joplin grew up in New York City.	True	**False**
Joplin wrote an opera called Treemonisha.	**True**	False

Answer the questions.

Name one piece of music that Scott Joplin wrote.

Maple Leaf Rag, The Entertainer or Treemonisha

What honor was he given in 1976?

a special Pulitzer Prize

Ragtime is bouncy. What kind of music makes you want to move?

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