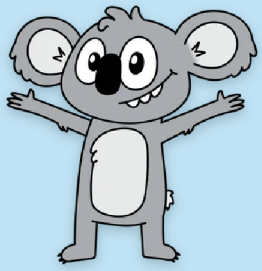
MUSIC THEORY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 3–5

Meet Johann Sebastian Bach

Read about a composer who played the organ and wrote music every week, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685 in Eisenach, Germany, into a big family of musicians. As a boy he learned the violin and the harpsichord, and he grew up to be one of the best organ players of his time. For many years he led the music at St. Thomas Church in the city of Leipzig, where he often wrote new music for the choir every week. Bach had twenty children, and several of them became composers too. He wrote more than a thousand pieces of music, including the Brandenburg Concertos. Bach died in 1750. His music is still played all over the world.

True or false?

Bach was born in Germany.	True	False
Bach was best known for playing the trumpet.	True	False
Bach had twenty children.	True	False
Bach wrote fewer than one hundred pieces of music.	True	False

Answer the questions.

In which city did Bach lead the church music for many years?

_____

Name one instrument Bach played.

_____

What would you ask Bach if you could meet him?

_____

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MUSIC THEORY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 2–5

Meet Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Read about a composer who started writing music when he was five, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 in Salzburg, a city that is now part of Austria. His father, Leopold, was a musician and taught him to play. Wolfgang began writing music when he was only five years old. As a boy he traveled across Europe with his father and his sister, Nannerl, playing the keyboard and the violin for kings and queens. When he grew up he lived in Vienna and wrote operas, symphonies and concertos. One of his best-known operas is The Magic Flute. Mozart died in 1791 at the age of 35, but by then he had written more than 600 pieces of music.

True or false?

Mozart began writing music when he was five. True False

Mozart was born in Italy. True False

Mozart's sister was called Nannerl. True False

Mozart lived to be 90 years old. True False

Answer the questions.

Name an opera that Mozart wrote.

_____

About how many pieces of music did Mozart write?

_____

What were you learning to do when you were five?

_____

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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?

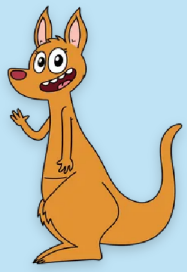
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MUSIC THEORY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 3–5

Meet Florence Price

Read about a composer who made history with her first symphony, then answer the questions.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Florence Price was born in 1887 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her mother was a music teacher and gave Florence her first piano lessons. Florence played in her first recital when she was four years old. After high school she studied piano and organ at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Later she moved to Chicago. In 1933 the Chicago Symphony Orchestra played her Symphony No. 1 in E minor. It was the first time a major American orchestra performed a symphony written by a Black woman. Florence Price wrote more than 300 pieces, including symphonies, songs and piano music. She died in 1953.

True or false?

Florence Price was born in Arkansas.	True	False
Her father gave her her first piano lessons.	True	False
She studied music in Boston.	True	False
She wrote only three pieces of music.	True	False

Answer the questions.

Which orchestra played her Symphony No. 1 in 1933?

_____

Why was that concert an important first?

_____

What is something you would like to be the first to do?

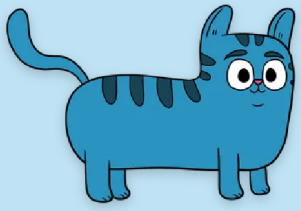
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MUSIC THEORY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 2–5

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?

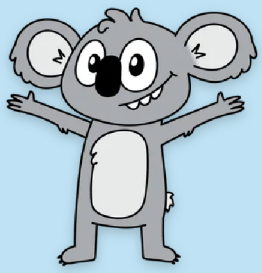
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ANSWER KEY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Meet Johann Sebastian Bach

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



Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685 in Eisenach, Germany, into a big family of musicians. As a boy he learned the violin and the harpsichord, and he grew up to be one of the best organ players of his time. For many years he led the music at St. Thomas Church in the city of Leipzig, where he often wrote new music for the choir every week. Bach had twenty children, and several of them became composers too. He wrote more than a thousand pieces of music, including the Brandenburg Concertos. Bach died in 1750. His music is still played all over the world.

True or false?

Bach was born in Germany.	**True**	False
Bach was best known for playing the trumpet.	True	**False**
Bach had twenty children.	**True**	False
Bach wrote fewer than one hundred pieces of music.	True	**False**

Answer the questions.

In which city did Bach lead the church music for many years?

Leipzig

Name one instrument Bach played.

the organ, the violin or the harpsichord

What would you ask Bach if you could meet him?

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ANSWER KEY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Meet Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 in Salzburg, a city that is now part of Austria. His father, Leopold, was a musician and taught him to play. Wolfgang began writing music when he was only five years old. As a boy he traveled across Europe with his father and his sister, Nannerl, playing the keyboard and the violin for kings and queens. When he grew up he lived in Vienna and wrote operas, symphonies and concertos. One of his best-known operas is The Magic Flute. Mozart died in 1791 at the age of 35, but by then he had written more than 600 pieces of music.

True or false?

Mozart began writing music when he was five.	**True**	False
Mozart was born in Italy.	True	**False**
Mozart's sister was called Nannerl.	**True**	False
Mozart lived to be 90 years old.	True	**False**

Answer the questions.

Name an opera that Mozart wrote.

The Magic Flute

About how many pieces of music did Mozart write?

more than 600

What were you learning to do when you were five?

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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.



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?

with four notes: short, short, short, long

Which city did Beethoven move to as a young man?

Vienna

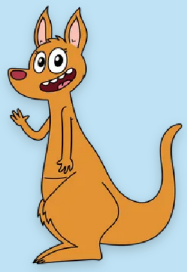
What does Beethoven's story teach you about not giving up?

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ANSWER KEY · COMPOSERS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Meet Florence Price

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



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True or false?

Florence Price was born in Arkansas.	**True**	False
Her father gave her her first piano lessons.	True	**False**
She studied music in Boston.	**True**	False
She wrote only three pieces of music.	True	**False**

Answer the questions.

Which orchestra played her Symphony No. 1 in 1933?

the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Why was that concert an important first?

A major American orchestra played a symphony by a Black woman.

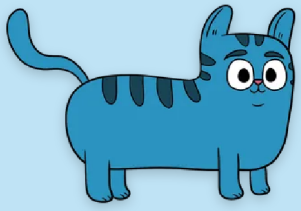
What is something you would like to be the first to do?

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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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