

Name: _____

Ludwig van Beethoven

By Olivia Mendoza

Ludwig van Beethoven (LOOD-vig von BAY-toe-vin) was born in Bonn, Germany in



Haydn. He might also have met



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granddad were both musicians. They sang and played music. They composed, or wrote, music too. Beethoven's dad was his first music teacher. Beethoven was only seven when he gave his first public show in 1778. He wrote his first music in 1782. He published it in 1783.

Beethoven was inspired by great composers like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. He met many great composers too, like Joseph

many more kinds of instruments.

Beethoven composed music we call classical. He wrote operas, ballets, and orchestra pieces. He wrote pieces for piano and pieces for groups of string instruments. He even wrote background music for plays.

Most people split Beethoven's music into three periods: early, middle, and late. In his early period, Beethoven was still learning how to play. He was also

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page from Ludwig van Beethoven's original Ninth Symphony manuscript

choosing how he wanted his music to sound. In his middle period, his music had a sound that no one else's music had. In his late period, he tried new things.

Around 1798, Beethoven began to lose his hearing. He was almost fully deaf by 1812–1815. He had to stop doing shows, but he didn't stop composing. In fact, he was deaf for all of his late period.

“Symphony Number 9 in D minor, Opus 125” is a funny song name. You may not know that name, but you likely know the song. It's also called “Ode to Joy.” Beethoven composed it between 1822 and 1824!

Beethoven passed away on March 26, 1827. He never had a wife or children, but he lives on through his 722 pieces of music.

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1. Beethoven music that sounds a lot like Mozart is most likely from his...
a. early period b. middle period c. late period
2. Reread the following sentences from the article.

He wrote operas, ballets, and orchestra pieces. He wrote pieces for piano and pieces for groups of string instruments.

In context, what does the word pieces most closely mean?

- a. small parts
- b. songs
- c. instruments
- d. poems or stories



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5. Beethoven tried to have a special piano made that he could still hear, but it didn't work. Where would this detail best fit in the article?
a. paragraph 2, "Beethoven's dad..."
b. paragraph 4, "Beethoven played..."
c. paragraph 5, "Most people..."
d. paragraph 6, "Around 1798..."
6. Are you surprised to learn Beethoven wrote music long after he was almost fully deaf? Why or why not?

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Ludwig van Beethoven



The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____ e f a d
clue: not able to hear well or at all

2. _____ u m i s c a n i
clue: someone who plays or works with music



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6. _____ p a r s h c h i d o r
clue: instrument similar to a piano

7. _____ s l a c s i l a c
clue: kind of music that opera and ballet are

8. _____ m o c o p e r s
clue: someone who writes music

9. _____ r o c h s e t a r
clue: large group of string, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments

10. _____ u b l i p d e s h
clue: made writing official and public

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Ludwig van Beethoven



In the article, "Ludwig van Beethoven," you read about one of the most famous classical music composers. "Moonlight Sonata" is a popular Beethoven piece. It is played by one piano.

With an adult's permission, look up and listen to the "Moonlight Sonata." Which of the three parts is your favorite? Why? Tell how the music makes you feel and how you would describe it to a friend.



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ANSWER KEY

Ludwig van Beethoven

By Olivia Mendoza

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2. Reread the following sentences from the article.



6. Are you surprised to learn Beethoven wrote music long after he was almost fully deaf? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

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Ludwig van Beethoven



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