



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

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Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



MOZART

Mozart's Family and Early Years

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is one of the most productive and well known composers of all time.

Though his life was short, only 35 years, Mozart composed over 600 works! His music is still studied, performed and enjoyed today. Mozart lived and composed during a musical era called the Classical Era. The Classical Era took place in Western Europe from 1750-1830.

Mozart was born in 1756, in Salzburg, Austria, which was called the Holy Roman Empire at the time. His birth name, written in Latin, was Johannes Chryostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart. He called himself Wolfgang Amade for short. Wolfgang had a sister named Maria Anna, nicknamed "Nannerl". He and his sister were the only two children to survive infancy in his family.

Mozart's father Leopold was a successful composer, teacher, and musician. He became Mozart's first teacher, giving him instruction in music and academic subjects. When Nannerl was 7, she was given instruction on the clavier, a keyboard musical instrument similar to a piano. Wolfgang, aged three, observed these lessons and seemed to learn alongside his sister.



By age five, Wolfgang Amadeus was able to play the piano and violin quite well and had composed his first pieces of music. It became clear to his father that he was a musical prodigy. Leopold gave up his career as a teacher. He began touring Western Europe with the young performers, Nannerl and Wolfgang.

A musical prodigy is a young person musically gifted with extraordinary talent and ability.

MOZART

Mozart and Musical Composition

Mozart was a very gifted composer.

Mozart is most famous for his musical composition.

A musical composition is a written piece of music, which can be read and played.



A composition can be thought up by the composer and then written down. Then the written piece of music can be performed. Also, a person can play an original piece of music, and then the musician or someone else can write the music down. So the process of composing can start with pencil or quill pen in Mozart's time and paper. Or it can start with playing music. Either way, the end result is a piece of music, called a musical composition, that can be played again by reading the sheet music.



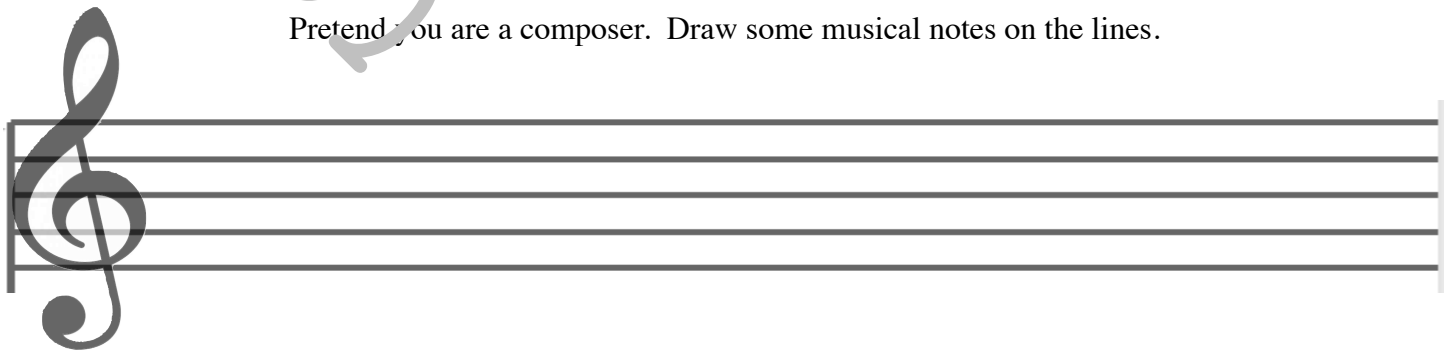
It is useful for a composer to have skills of writing music in musical notation. Musical notation refers to the system of notes written on five lines called a staff, which shows their pitch and timing. Pitch is how high or low the sounds are, and timing is how fast or slowly they are played.

It is also helpful for a composer to understand instrumentation, which is how to arrange music for different instruments. How each instrument of the orchestra sounds and how these sounds best go together, is important to instrumentation.

Also, understanding musical ensembles help a composer. A musical ensemble is a group of musicians who play a variety of instruments. An orchestra is an example of a large ensemble. This way the composer can make music for large groups of musicians so they sound good together.



Pretend you are a composer. Draw some musical notes on the lines.



MOZART

Percussion Criss Cross

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

chamber
string

symphony
woodwind

choral
brass

opera
percussion

