

The Great Composer Quest with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify key periods of music history and understand the role of a composer in interpreting emotions and stories through sound.

Join Max the monkey and Zara the zebra on a musical journey! Read the questions carefully and select the best answer to show your knowledge of classical composers and their craft.

Answer Key: 1. A (Composer); 2. True; 3. C (Notation); 4. False (He was a child prodigy); 5. False (It is a large group of musicians); 6. B (Baroque); 7. True; 8. Melody; 9. D (To write music); 10. True. Greater Depth Analysis: Composers use tempo, dynamics, and pitch to manipulate the listener's emotions, creating a narrative without the need for spoken language.

Word bank: Composer · Orchestra · Symphony · Melody · Notation · Baroque · Classical · Romantic

1. 1. What do we call a person who writes original pieces of music? A) Composer* B) Performer C) Conductor D) Lyricist (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A symphony is a long piece of music written to be played by an orchestra. (1 mark)

3. 3. What system of symbols do composers use to write down their music so others can play it? A) Scripts B) Hieroglyphs C) Notation* D) Diagrams (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart started composing music when he was a grown adult. (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: An orchestra is a single person playing a piano. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which musical period is known for its ornate and complex style, featuring composers like J.S. Bach? A) Modern B) Baroque* C) Ancient D) Digital (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: Composers often use 'dynamics' to change how loud or quiet a piece of music is. (1 mark)

8. 8. What is the word for the main tune or sequence of notes that you might hum along to? (1-word answer) (1 mark)

9. 9. Why does a composer use a 'score'? A) To track the time B) To count the audience C) To decorate the stage D) To provide instructions for the musicians* (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Ludwig van Beethoven continued to compose music even after he lost his hearing. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey conducting an orchestra of woodland animals. Show Zara the zebra playing an instrument in the front row.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a composer might choose a fast tempo for a piece of music about a storm. 2. Compare and contrast how music might sound in a 'Romantic' period piece versus a 'Classical' period piece. 3. Justify why it is important for composers to use specific notation. 4. What might happen if a composer decided not to write down their music? 5. If you were a composer, what theme or story would you choose for your first symphony? 6. Imagine you are teaching a friend about music; describe the difference between a melody and a rhythm in your own words.