



Social Studies: Timeline

Students Will

- Read *Our Composer: Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan*.
- Read the information sheets containing historical facts included with the lesson.
- Select and combine information to create a timeline containing events from the composer's life, the life of Queen Victoria, and events from U.S. History from the same century.

Before the Lesson

Print/provide copies for each student of the article *Our Composer: Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan* and the information sheets included with the lesson.

Decide what materials students will use to create their timeline. It is possible to use regular paper, sentence strips, butcher paper, or electronic media.

Prepare internet access for additional research as needed.

Gather pens, pencils, scissors, glue, tape, and timeline paper as needed for your group.

Introduction

Have your students read *Our Composer: Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan* and the information sheets included with the lesson.

Discuss how you would like students to build their timeline. They can be written onto selected paper or students may cut the information statements apart and glue or tape them to their project. Electronic timelines may also be an option for your classroom.

Guided/Independent Practice

Depending on your grade level, the ability of your students, and time constraints, you may choose to have students work as a whole class, in small groups, with a partner, or individually. Discuss your expectations for student products. Direct the students on how many items from each information list you expect them to include in their timeline. If students are working with a partner or in small groups, give them time to discuss their choices.

Evaluation

Have students present their timelines and share why they selected the items they included in their timeline.

Have students discuss and evaluate the timelines of others. The teacher may want to guide the discussion and refer to the criteria given before starting. After individual or small group responses have been shared and/or turned in, the class can then formulate comprehensive answers for the class with the teacher asking leading questions to guide the discussion.

For Further Study

The teacher may want to have students do additional research on Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan, W.S. Gilbert, Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, Prince Albert, Abraham Lincoln, or the American Civil War. Research can be done online or in the library. Information gathered can be shared and added to individual or class timelines during a later lesson.

TEKS

Social Studies:

5th Grade

(24) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. C

6th Grade

(21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. C

Correlates

Language Arts (Biography)

Drama

Gardner's Intelligences

Verbal-Linguistic

Interpersonal

Bloom's Taxonomy

Knowledge

Comprehension

Application

Analysis

Evaluation

Synthesis

Bibliography

Warrack, John and West, Ewan, The Oxford Dictionary of Opera, Oxford University Press, 1992.

Online Resources

www.operatales.com

www.oxfordmusiconline.com

www.wikipedia.com

Our Composer: Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan

Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan was born May 13, 1842 to Thomas and Mary Clementina Sullivan. Thomas Sullivan was a military bandmaster, clarinetist, and music teacher. From 1845 to 1857 Thomas was bandmaster at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

Arthur showed early talent in music, learning how to play many different instruments, and writing his first anthem at age eight. His father, knowing how difficult it could be to make a living in music, did not encourage Arthur's interest. Even so, Arthur was admitted to the Chapel Royal at the age of 11, very late for a boy soprano at the time. The choirmaster encouraged Arthur in his studies and even arranged for the publication of some of Arthur's earliest works.

In 1856 Arthur was awarded the first Mendelssohn Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music. The scholarship was renewed twice, allowing Arthur to study for two years at the Academy, and a third year in Germany at the Leipzig Conservatoire. His graduation piece was a suite of incidental music to Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. It created a sensation when it was first performed in London in 1862.

Sullivan launched his composing career with a series of serious works as well as hymns, ballads and other light pieces. During the period from 1861 to 1872 Arthur also worked as a church organist and a music teacher to help support himself. In 1866, Sullivan composed his first surviving opera, *Cox and Box*, which is still widely performed. His most successful orchestral work, the *Overture di Ballo*, premiered in 1870.

In 1871 Sullivan began his first collaboration with W. S. Gilbert in *Thespis*. After, each returned to their usual projects. In 1875, producer Richard D'Oyly Carte reunited Gilbert and Sullivan to create *Trial by Jury*, which became a hit. Their continued collaborations of *H.M.S. Pinafore* in 1878, *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1879, and *Patience* in 1881 forever linked the composer and the librettist as a team whose popular operas would be their lasting legacy. After collaborating for the next 15 years, the pair discontinued their partnership in 1890. They reunited in later years, but did not achieve the level of success that they had once enjoyed.

Sullivan's works from this period are the source of music used for *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the setting of the story by John Davies. Davies borrowed several of Sullivan's most known arias and wrote new words to fit the story. Sullivan gained many friends in musical and social circles, including Queen Victoria's son Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh.

Sullivan composed several pieces for royalty, especially for the wedding of the Prince of Wales in 1863. Sullivan was knighted for his contributions to music in 1883. This honor was for his serious orchestral works. His operas were always the source of his financial success, but not critical success. His ballet, *Victoria and Merrie England*, opened at the Alhambra Theatre in 1897 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Sullivan died of heart failure in London on November 22, 1900. By order of Queen Victoria he was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan

May 13, 1842-Arthur Seymour Sullivan is born.

1856-Arthur Sullivan is awarded the first Mendelssohn Scholarship.

1862-Arthur Sullivan's incidental music to Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is first performed in London.

1863-Sullivan composes music for the wedding of Albert, Prince of Wales.

1866-*Cox and Box*, Sullivan's first surviving opera is composed.

1870-*Overture di Ballo*, Sullivan's most successful orchestral work premieres.

1871-*Thespis*, Sullivan's first collaboration with W.S. Gilbert.

1875-*Trial by Jury*, Sullivan's first big hit in collaboration with W.S. Gilbert.

1878-*H.M.S. Pinafore* is written and premieres.

1879-*The Pirates of Penzance* is written and premieres.

1883-Sullivan is knighted by Queen Victoria for his contributions to music in Britain.

1897-*Victoria and Merrie England*, premieres in honor of Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

November 22, 1900-Sullivan dies.

Queen Victoria

May 24, 1819-Victoria is born at Kensington Palace in London..

June 20, 1837-Victoria ascends to the throne of Great Britain after the death of William IV.

February 10, 1840-Victoria and Prince Albert marry at Saint James Palace in London.

November 21, 1840-Victoria's first child, also named Victoria, is born.

November 9, 1841-Victoria's second child and heir Albert Edward is born.

1845-Great Potato Famine of Ireland.

1857-Resolution of The Indian Rebellion brings India into the British Empire.

December 14, 1861-Prince Albert dies. Victoria goes into mourning and remains a widow for the rest of her life.

September 23, 1896-Victoria surpasses her grandfather, George III as the longest reigning British monarch.

June 20, 1897-Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee (60th Anniversary of taking the throne).

January 22, 1901-Victoria dies at the age of 81, leaving the throne to her eldest son, who becomes Edward VIII.

American History

February 12, 1809-Abraham Lincoln is born.

November 4, 1842-Abraham Lincoln marries Mary Todd.

1846-Abraham Lincoln is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

1858-The famous series of debates take place between Lincoln and Stephen A Douglas during Lincoln's failed bid for the U.S. Senate.

November 6, 1860-Abraham Lincoln is elected President of the United States, beating Senator Stephen A. Douglas.

December 20, 1860-South Carolina is the first state to secede from the union.

March 4, 1861-Lincoln is inaugurated as President of the United States.

April 12, 1861-Confederate forces attack Fort Sumter, marking the beginning of the American Civil War.

September 22, 1862-The Emancipation Proclamation is formally issued, ending legal slavery in most of the United States.

November 19, 1863-*The Gettysburg Address*, Lincoln's speech that has become the most famous and most quoted speech in U.S. History.

April 9, 1865-Commanding General for the Confederate Army officially surrenders, ending the American Civil War.

April 15, 1865-Abraham Lincoln is assassinated. Andrew Johnson becomes President.

December 6, 1865-The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, ending all slavery in the United States.

1877-Reconstruction ends with the removal of federal troops from the capitols of Louisiana and South Carolina.