Social Studies I: Life and Times of Jacques Offenbach

Students Will
- Discuss vocabulary listed in a glossary;
- Read Offenbach’s biography
- Review facts of Offenbach’s life listed on timetables;
- Gain insight to Offenbach’s life by calculating his age at time of a specific event;
- Review world events during Offenbach’s life as listed on timetables;
- Gain historical perspective through reading and recording events from timetables.

Copies for Each Student
- “Glossary”
- “The Composer”
- “Life and Times of Jacques Offenbach Activity Worksheet”
- “Time Table for 1819 – 1881”

Copies for the Teacher
- “Glossary”
- “The Composer”
- ANSWER KEY “Life and Times of Jacques Offenbach Activity Worksheet”
- “Time Table for 1819 – 1881”

Getting Ready
Prepare internet access for possible research, guided practice, or group work if needed. Gather pens, pencils, and additional writing paper as needed for your group.

Introduction
Begin by asking the students to define the term historical events. Read the following definitions:

*Historical - relating to the past*
*Event - an occurrence that is important or exciting, significant, or unusual*

Then, have students read “The Composer”.

Guided Practice
Provide each student with the following: “Glossary”, “Time Table for 1819 – 1881”, “Life and Times of Jacques Offenbach Activity Worksheet”. Read over these materials with the students and answer any questions they may have. The first question of the Activity Worksheet can be answered as a class.

Independent Practice
Students will work with partners or small groups to complete “Life and Times of Jacques Offenbach Activity Worksheet”.

2018-2019 Educational Program
Evaluation

- Did students complete “Life and Times of Jacques Offenbach Activity Worksheet”?
- Were students able to explain why they chose particular events?
- Do students have any new observations regarding historical events?

For Further Study

Students may conduct independent research in the library or online, choosing any one topic within the Timetable. Have students share findings with the class.

TEKS

Grade 3

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

Grade 4

(21) 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)

Grade 5

(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), (E)

Grade 6

(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), (E), (F)

Correlates

Literature, History, Math, Music, Visual Arts, Science

Gardner’s Intelligences

Verbal-Linguistic, Logical/Mathematical, Visual-Spatial, Intrapersonal

Bloom’s Taxonomy

Knowledge, Comprehension, Analysis, Evaluation

Bibliography


Pépito

The Composer

In the early 1800's, Jacques Offenbach’s father, Isaac Juda Eberst, moved from his native Offenbach am Main, Germany to the ghetto in Cologne, Germany. Here he worked as a bookbinder, music teacher, and composer and a cantor at a synagogue. He became known as “Der Offenbacher” and then later was simply called Offenbach.

On June 20, 1819, Jacob Eberst was born. Jacob was one of seven children. His father taught him to play the violin. In 1899, Jacob learned to play the cello. With his cello, Jacob formed a successful trio with his older brother, Julius (1815-1880) who played the violin, and his younger sister, Isabella (1817-1891) who played the piano.

In 1833, Jacob published his first composition. In November of the same year, Jacob’s father took both Jacob and Julius to live and study in Paris. At the Conservatory, open only to French nationals, Jacob’s father pleaded with the director to let Jacob play. Finally, the director consented and gave Jacob an almost unknown Italian cantata to sight-read and play on the cello. Halfway through the cantata the director cried out, “The ruling is wrong. You are a pupil of the Conservatory!” This is how Jacob began studying at the Conservatory.

While in Paris, Jacob came to be known as Jacques Offenbach. His father had made certain that both he and his brother sang in the choir at the synagogue in Paris. In the years following 1834, Jacques played in orchestras, gave music lessons, and copied music manuscripts. He became a familiar figure in the best salons in Paris.

In January of 1839, Jacques gave his first public concert with his brother who was now called Jules. In March of 1839, Jacques received his first commission for a musical score. He continued as a cello virtuoso and toured both Germany and England in the early 1840’s.

Jacques Offenbach became a Catholic and married a young Spanish woman, Herminie d’Alcain in August 1844. He met Herminie at the salon of her mother, who was married to an English concert agent. Through this connection, Offenbach traveled to London to perform. One of his concerts was at Windsor Castle.

By 1848, Offenbach had conducted an orchestra in a Parisian theater and had established himself as a composer of dance music. Later that same year, the revolution broke out in Paris and Offenbach returned to Germany. Offenbach returned to Paris in 1849 to be the conductor at the Theatre Francaise, but was anxious to gain more recognition as a composer. He spent the summer of 1853 in Cologne with family to build his strength in order to win commissions and performances. Originally intended to be entitled Vertigo, Pépito received its premiere at the Théâtre des Variétés in Paris on October 28, 1853.

In June of 1855, Offenbach leased a small theater in the Champs-Elysees called the Theatre Marigny and procured a license from the government to present musical plays. The theater was near the site of the International Exposition that the Emperor of France, Napoleon III, had opened in May. Offenbach renamed the theater Bouffes-Parisiens and opened with a program of one-act operettas. One of these operettas ran for 400 performances and was a command performance before Emperor Napoleon III.

In 1857, Offenbach’s entire theater company traveled to London, England to perform for eight weeks at the St. James Theatre. His brother, Jules, conducted the orchestra and traveled with the company to London.

In 1860, Jacques Offenbach became a naturalized Frenchman. He was appointed a Chevalier of the Legion d’honneur in 1861. By 1861, Jacques and Herminie’s family had grown to include four daughters and a son. His work in theaters was so successful that Offenbach purchased and maintained two homes, one in the city and a second one at a resort city.

During the 1860’s, Offenbach’s more than 100 musical operettas brought him acclaim and prosperity. “The Toast of the New Empire,” critics described his operettas as exhilarating, always tuneful, and original. Composers copied his style. Rossini called him “the Mozart of the Champs-Elysees.”
In 1871, the Second Empire in France collapsed. Offenbach’s music temporarily went out of fashion resulting in financial losses, which forced him into bankruptcy in 1875. Offenbach traveled to New York City and Philadelphia in 1876 and gave 40 concerts. Even though the critics were not complimentary, Offenbach considered his tour a financial success.

Beginning in 1877, Jacques Offenbach started to compose The Tales of Hoffmann. His main preoccupation was to complete a serious opera. From 1877-1880, Offenbach experienced success in London and Paris with his new and revived works. Yet Offenbach was in poor health and was concerned that he would die before he could complete his opera. In September 1880, during a rehearsal for The Tales of Hoffmann, he collapsed. On October 4, 1880, Jacques Offenbach died. Offenbach’s family requested the composer, Guiraud, to complete the score of The Tales of Hoffmann. It premiered in Paris at the Opera-Comique in February 1881.

Jacques Offenbach’s contributions to the musical world can be measured with his outstanding development of the operetta, which was the precursor of today’s popular Broadway musicals. Yet, it is The Tales of Hoffmann, the opera, for which he is best remembered. It remains one of the most popular operas in France. It has been produced on hundreds of stages in many other countries. In the United States alone, at the Met, there have been 210 performances over 27 seasons, from 1913 to 1993. Jacques Offenbach (born Jacob Eberst) did indeed accomplish his goal to compose a successful serious opera.
Pépito

Glossary

native: Born in a particular place
ghettos: Areas in European towns (at this time) in which the Jewish population was required to live
bookbinder: Someone who binds or puts books together
cantor: Jewish official who is lead singer of the songs for the worship service
synagogue: House of worship for Jewish congregation
composition: A piece of written music
Conservatory: An advanced school of music
French Nationals: People who are born in France
cantata: Musical composition for voices and instruments, usually with a religious theme
salons: Grand sitting room where guests are received and entertained
commission: Fee paid
musical score: A written piece of music for performance
virtuoso: Exceptional performer
Catholic: Belonging to the Roman Catholic Church
concert agent: Businessperson who books concerts for the performing group and the concert hall
Windsor Castle: A home of the Queen or King of England
conducted: Led
procured: Got
operettas: Theatrical productions, usually with comic theme, similar to opera but with spoken dialogue and some dancing
theater company: A group of actors and musicians
naturalized - Not born in France, but became a French citizen according to the rules of government
Chevalier of the Legion d’honneur: (pronounced sheh-val-yea of the lay-jee-on d’on-nair) French title of honor used by members of the French Legion of Honor
maintained: To keep up with
acclaim: Much praise
prosperity: Money
bankruptcy: Legal inability to pay debts
preoccupation: Constant thought about something
The Met: The Metropolitan Opera House in New York City
precursor: Something that comes earlier
### Time Table for 1819 - 1881

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>J. Offenbach</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Literature</th>
<th>Music</th>
<th>Visual Arts</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1819</td>
<td>Records show Jacob Eberst born</td>
<td>Florida Purchased by U.S. from Spain</td>
<td>Walt Whitman, Amer. poet b. (d.1892)</td>
<td>Beethoven becomes deaf</td>
<td>Gustave Corbet, Fr. painter, b. (d. 1877)</td>
<td>Danish physicist H.C. Oersted discovers electromagnetism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833</td>
<td>Publishes 1st composition; Moves to Paris w/brother to study and work</td>
<td>Gen Santa Anna becomes Pres. Of Mexico</td>
<td>Bestseller: Davy Crockett’s auto-biography</td>
<td>J. Brahms, Ger. composer, b. (d.1897)</td>
<td>Turner’s 1st Venetian pictures, Royal Acad., London</td>
<td>Gauss and Weber devise telegraph to function over 9,000 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Plays in orchestras, gives music lessons, copies music manuscripts</td>
<td>Texas declares its right to secede from Mexico</td>
<td>Mark Twain, Amer. Novelist b. (d.1910)</td>
<td>Camille Saint-Saens, Fr. composer, b. (d.1921)</td>
<td>V. Cousin, “L’Art pour l’Art” - Art for Art’s sake.</td>
<td>Halley’s Comet reappears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Pépito premiere in Paris</td>
<td>Washington Territory is created from Oregon Territory.</td>
<td>Solomon Northup: <em>Twelve Years a Slave</em></td>
<td>Heinrich Steiniway begins Steinway &amp; Sons, Co. in New York</td>
<td>Vincent van Gogh, Dutch painter, b. (d. 1890)</td>
<td>Elisha Otis invents the elevator safety brake making skyscrapers possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>At peak of success called “Toast of the New Empire”</td>
<td>A. Lincoln d. C. War ends June, 19th TX slaves freed</td>
<td>Lewis Carroll: <em>Alice’s Adventures - Wonderland</em></td>
<td>Wagner: <em>Tristan and Isolde</em>, Munich, Germany</td>
<td>Yale University opens 1st Dept of Fine Arts in U.S.</td>
<td>Pasteur cures silkworm disease thus saving French silk industry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Time Table for 1819 – 1881 cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>J. Offenbach</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Literature</th>
<th>Music</th>
<th>Visual Arts</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Continues to experience acclaim and prosperity with his work</td>
<td>Ulysses S. Grant elected U.S. Pres</td>
<td>Louisa M. Alcott: Little Women; Dostoevsky: The Idiot</td>
<td>Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 1; Brahms: Requiem</td>
<td>1867 Paris World Fair</td>
<td>L. Lartet finds skeleton of Cro-Magnon man in France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Offenbach’s music is not popular at this time</td>
<td>France’s 2nd Empire falls; 1872 RR comes to Dallas, TX</td>
<td>Lewis Carroll: Through the Looking Glass</td>
<td>Verdi: Aida premieres in Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>Rossetti: The Dream of Dante, painting</td>
<td>G.A. Hansen discovers leprosy bacillus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Suffers financial losses and declares bankruptcy</td>
<td>1873 Slave markets &amp; exports in Zanzibar abolished</td>
<td>Robert Frost Am. poet b. (d.1946)</td>
<td>Wagner completes his Ring des Nibelungen</td>
<td>1st Exhibit of Impressionist Paintings in Paris</td>
<td>Begun in 1851 Les Halles in Paris by Baltard is completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>Begins Tales of Hoffman; Wants to write a serious opera</td>
<td>Rutherford B. Hayes inaugurated 19th U.S. Pres</td>
<td>Henry James: The American</td>
<td>Saint-Saen’s Samson and Delila debuts in Weimer, Ger</td>
<td>Rodin: The Age of Bronze, sculpture</td>
<td>Thomas Edison invents sound recording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Sick, worries he can’t finish Tales; Does have success with new and revived works</td>
<td>Treitschke: anti-Semitic movement; Zulu War in Africa in ‘79</td>
<td>Thomas Hardy: The Return of the Native</td>
<td>Gilbert and Sullivan: H.M.S. Pinafore</td>
<td>William Morris: The Decorative Arts</td>
<td>A.A. Pope manufactures 1st bicycles in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Rehearsing Tales of Hoffman when he dies on October 4th.</td>
<td>J.A. Garfield elected 20th U.S. Pres</td>
<td>J.C. Harris writes: Uncle Remus</td>
<td>Gilbert and Sullivan: The Pirates of Penzance</td>
<td>Rodin: The Thinker; Cezanne: Chateau de Medan</td>
<td>Edison and Swan each devise the 1st practical electric lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Tales of Hoffman premieres in Paris</td>
<td>Persecution of Jews in Russia</td>
<td>Henry James: Portrait of a Lady</td>
<td>Wagner, Ger. opera composer, d. (b. 1813)</td>
<td>E. Manet, Fr. artist, d. (b.1833); Renoir: Umbrellas</td>
<td>1st Telephone Exchange for Dallas, TX opens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Life and Times of Jacques Offenbach Activity Worksheet

Directions: Using the information in “The Composer”. Calculate Offenbach’s age for each of the following events in his life:

1) Jacob was _____ years old when he published his first composition. At this time his father took both Jacob and his brother to live in Paris.

2) Offenbach became a Catholic and married Herminie d’Alcain when he was _____ years old.

3) At the age of _____ Offenbach became the conductor at the Theatre Francaise in Paris.

4) When Pépito premiered at the Théâtre des Variétés in Paris, Offenbach was _____ years old.

Choose three other important events in Offenbach’s life. Complete each of the following sentences with an event and calculate Offenbach’s age at that time.

5) At the age of _______ Offenbach __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

6) Offenbach was _______ years old when he __________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

7) In _______ Offenbach was _______ years old when he _________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Using the Time Table, identify three World Events. Complete each of the following sentences with a world event and calculate Offenbach’s age at that time.

8) In _______ Offenbach was _______ years old when ___________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

9) In _______ Offenbach was _______ years old when ___________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

10) In _______ Offenbach was _______ years old when _________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
**ANSWER KEY**

**Life and Times of Jacques Offenbach**

**Activity Worksheet**

**Directions:** Using the information in “The Composer”. Calculate Offenbach’s age for each of the following events in his life:

1) Jacob was **14** years old when he published his first composition. At this time his father took both Jacob and his brother to live in Paris. *(Moved to Paris 1833 - born 1819 = 14 years old)*

2) Offenbach became a Catholic and married Herminie d’Alcain when he was **25** years old. *(Married 1844 - born 1819 = 25 years old)*

3) At the age of **31**, Offenbach became the conductor at the Theatre Francaise in Paris. *(Conductor 1850 - born 1819 = 31 years old)*

4) When *Pépito* premiered at the Théâtre des Variétés in Paris, Offenbach was _____ years old. *(Pépito premiere 1853 - born 1819 = 34 years old)*

Choose three other important events in Offenbach’s life. Complete each of the following sentences with an event and calculate Offenbach’s age at that time. *(Answers will vary depending on events chosen.)*

5) At the age of **41**, Offenbach became a naturalized Frenchman and was appointed a Chevalier of the Legion d’Honneur. *(1860 - 1819 = 41 years old)*

6) Offenbach was _______ years old when he _______________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

7) In _______ Offenbach was _______ years old when he ___________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Using the Time Table, identify three events. Complete each of the following sentences with an event and calculate Offenbach’s age at that time. *(Answers will vary depending on events chosen.)*

8) In **1835**, Offenbach was **16** years old when *Halley’s Comet appeared*. *(1835 - 1819 = 16 years old)*

9) In _______ Offenbach was _______ years old when _____________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

10) In _______ Offenbach was _______ years old when ___________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________