

# THE MAGIC FLUTE

*Mozart*

## Social Studies: The Life of Mozart

### Students Will

- Read for information
- Complete timelines
- Research and communicate new information

### Copies for Each Student

- “Our Composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart”
- **Social Studies Activity Worksheet**

### Copies for the Teacher

- Article, “Our Composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart”
- **Social Studies Activity Worksheet**

### Getting Ready

Gather pens, pencils, or other writing utensils for the lesson

### Guided/ Independent Lesson

Depending on your time, grade level, and the ability of your students, you may choose to conduct this lesson as a whole class, small group, or partner activity. Remind students to ask for clarification of any unknown words or concepts.

Depending on your time constraints, have the students read the article, “Our Composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart” or review the timeline provide in **Activity Worksheet Part I**. Lead a discussion with your students about other things that took place during Mozart’s lifetime and have the students brainstorm events within his life learned during previous lessons. Determine which portion(s) of the **Activity Worksheet** you wish your students to complete. Remind students that by studying events that happened during the composer’s lifetime, one can gain a broader picture and more understanding of the times in which the composer lived. Read the directions and allow students time to complete the worksheet. Give students an opportunity to research events online and share the new information with classmates.

### Evaluation

1. Did students read the article, “Our Composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart”?
2. Did students complete the **Activity Worksheet**?

**TEKS: Social Studies**

6th grades

(19) Social studies skills. (C)

(21) Social studies skills. (B) (C)

7th grades

(20) Social studies skills. (C)

(21) Social studies skills. (B) (C)

8th grade

(29) Social studies skills. (C)

(30) Social studies skills. (B) (C)

9th – 12th grades

§113.47. Special Topics in Social Studies

(2) Social studies skills. (B) (G)

**GARDNER’S INTELLIGENCES**

Verbal-Linguistic

Logical/Mathematical

**BLOOM’S TAXONOMY**

Knowledge

Comprehension

Application

Analysis

Synthesis

Evaluation

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Greenberg, Robert. Great Masters: Mozart, His Life and Music\_Course No. 752 [video recording]. Chantilly, VA: The Teaching Company, 2000.

Levine, Robert, and David Foil. MOZART’S OPERAS, The Marriage of Figaro & The Magic Flute. New York, NY: Tess Press, An imprint of Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers Inc., 2007.

Riding, Alan and Leslie Dunton-Downer. DK Eyewitness Companions Opera. New York, NY: DK Publishing, 2006.

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/inventors/>

[http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang\\_Mozart](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang_Mozart)

<http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1700s>

## **Our Composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a musical prodigy\*. He was born January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria. When his father, Leopold, a court musician, began to teach his seven year-old daughter, Maria Anna (Nannerl) to play the harpsichord, three year-old Mozart climbed upon the bench and began to play what he heard. By the time he was four, Mozart had taught himself to play the violin and by five, he had composed his first piece, Minuet and Trio.

Mozart's father quickly took advantage of the amazing talents of his son. When Mozart was only six, the family went on their first music tour. They traveled all over Europe during Mozart's childhood. Mozart, his sister Nannerl, and his father, Leopold, played concerts for kings, queens, and emperors, and for the rich and most powerful people in each country. Mozart was so young and played so well that many people at first thought they were being tricked. The Royal Society, a scientific group in London, England, published a study that called Mozart's talents "almost supernatural".

The family earned money from these tours; mostly, they were given gifts. Mozart's life was hard. They traveled in uncomfortable horse drawn carriages. Worse, there were epidemics of infectious disease to avoid. Mozart caught smallpox once and managed to live through it.

As Mozart grew older, he wrote all kinds of music. He wrote operas, symphonies, concertos, dance music, church music quartets, quintets, and minuets. He wrote music for violins, pianos, horns, and full orchestras. Mozart could memorize very difficult tunes after hearing them only once and made up songs on the spot at parties. He would also compose an entire symphony in his mind and then write it out note by note, without any mistakes. Joseph Hayden, a great composer at this time, thought Mozart was the best he had ever heard.

Mozart was a genius, but he had a hard time supporting himself as he grew older. Mozart's father had a job with the Archbishop-Prince of Salzburg. When Mozart was eighteen, he worked there as the Concert Master for three years. During his travels, he met and fell in love with a young opera singer in Vienna. He wanted to marry the young woman, but his father refused to give him permission. At his father's insistence, In 1778, Mozart and his mother took a trip to Paris, where Mozart played in many fashionable venues. Unfortunately, his mother became ill and died in Paris. His father blamed Mozart for her death.

The conflict with his father and the death of his mother seems to have changed Mozart. He began to write more serious music and moved to Vienna in 1781. There, he learned his first love had married someone else. He met her sister, Constanze, and married her even though his father did not like her either. Despite his

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father's pleadings to move back to Salzburg, Mozart and Constanze stayed in Vienna. There he composed music, gave music lessons, performed and directed his music.

During the next ten years in Vienna, Mozart wrote his famous operas: *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, and *The Magic Flute*. The first three were written with an Italian poet, Lorenzo Da Ponte. *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* were composed in the years just before the French Revolution. Both operas portrayed the struggle between the aristocracy and the peasants, the rich and the poor. *Così fan tutte* appeared at first like a light comedy, but Mozart's music gave it deeper meaning about the ways men and women in love treat each other.

Mozart's last opera, *The Magic Flute*, was written with an actor and theater owner named Emanuel Schikaneder. This was a change for Mozart. He wrote *The Magic Flute* for the common people and not for the emperor or any of the royalty. It is a tale full of monsters, witches, and strange special effects. It premiered September 1, 1791 in Vienna with Mozart conducting the orchestra and Schikaneder performing as Papageno. The audiences loved *The Magic Flute*.

Sadly, Mozart became ill and died in less than three months following the premiere on December 5, 1791. He was survived by his wife, Constanze, and their two sons. In spite of his fame, Mozart died a poor man with many debts. He was buried in a mass pauper's grave without even a headstone. He was only thirty-five years old. Today Mozart is remembered as a musical genius. His work lives on in his music, the symphonies and operas that are performed around the world.

Glossary:

*musical prodigy* (mu-zee-kul praw-duh-jee) – a child who shows great talent for playing, reading, and composing music

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Social Studies Activity Worksheet Part 1

**Directions:** Read the events in the chart. Choose one event to research online and write your additional information on the lines below. Prepare and share your new information with the class.

- 1755** - April 15, Samuel Johnson publishes the great *A Dictionary of the English Language*.
- 1756 - 1763** - The Seven Years War (French and Indian War in North America) is won by Great Britain.
- 1768** - The first of three volumes of the first edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* is published.
- 1769** - James Watt patents the steam engine that will change everything, including communication.
- 1774** - September 26, John Chapman is born in Massachusetts. Later known as Johnny Appleseed, John becomes a pioneer agriculturalist of early America and begins his trek in 1797 to plant orchards.
- 1775** - April 14, Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush organized the first American society in Philadelphia for the abolition of slavery.
- 1776** - July 4, United States Declaration of Independence is signed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 1779** - Nacagdoches receives designation from Mexico as a pueblo, or town, thereby
- 1779** - Nacogdoches receives designation from Mexico as a pueblo, or town, thereby making it the first town in Texas.
- 1780** - May 19, a mysterious darkness enveloped much of New England and part of Canada in the early afternoon; the cause has never been determined.
- 1781** - March 13, the astronomer, William Herschel, discovers the planet Uranus. He initially thought it was a comet. It is the 7th planet from the sun and revolves around the sun every 84.02 years.
- 1789** - George Washington becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the United States.
- 1791** - Congress passes the First Amendment.

Can you think of any additional events in Texas, US, or World History during Mozart’s life? Research the event or events and add them to the timeline. Be sure to list the year and the effects of the event(s).

Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Social Studies Activity Worksheet Part 1I

**Directions:** Review the information in the chart and the additional event(s) you researched. Using the information, fill in the following time line of Mozart's life.

17 \_\_\_\_\_

1756 - January 27, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is born in Salzburg, Austria.

1761 - Mozart composes his first piece, *Minuet and Trio*.

1761-64 - The Mozart family goes on tour. Wolfgang, his sister, Nannerl, his father, Leopold, play for King Louis XV of France, and King George III of England.

17 \_\_\_\_\_

1770 -71 - The Mozart family tours Italy twice. Wolfgang composes his *String Quartet in G*.

17 \_\_\_\_\_

1774 -77 - Wolfgang is the Concert Master for the Archbishop-Prince of Salzburg.

1778 - When Mozart's mother accompanies him on tour in Paris, France, she dies.

17 \_\_\_\_\_

1781 - Wolfgang leaves Salzburg to live in Vienna, Austria.

1782 - Wolfgang marries Constanze Weber, and they continue to live in Vienna.

17 \_\_\_\_\_

1787 - Mozart creates his opera, *Don Giovanni*, and writes *A Little Night Music*.

1787 - Mozart's opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, opens successfully in Vienna. His father dies.

17 \_\_\_\_\_

1791 - September 30, Wolfgang conducts the premier of *The Magic Flute* in Vienna.

1791 - December 5, Mozart dies. He is buried in a mass paupers' grave in a cemetery in Vienna.