Mozart Study Guide

When and where was Mozart born?

Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria in 1756.

What kind of occasions would you hear classical music?

You could hear classical music at an emperor’s court dance, a princess’ wedding, a special church occasion or an opera.

Who were patrons?

Patrons were royal families and other wealthy people who hired composers and musicians.

How did most patrons treat musicians?

Patrons treated musicians as servants and paid them very little money.

Describe classical music in the 1700s.

Classical music had to follow certain rules. The music was light and happy, clear and simple, and not too loud.

What was Mozart able to do differently with classical music?

Mozart was able to follow the rules of classical music and create musical masterpieces.
Describe Mozart's childhood.

Mozart's childhood was remarkable. He and his sister traveled all over playing music for royal families.

What two things did Mozart do when he was six years old?

Mozart wrote a concerto when he was six years old. He traveled around showing off his talent.

Why did Leopold Mozart want Wolfgang and Nannerl to become famous at an early age?

Leopold wanted his children to have a better chance of making a living as musicians when they grew up.

How were the Mozarts often paid for their performances?

The Mozarts were often paid with gifts rather than money.

What is counterpoint?

Counterpoint is mixing different tunes into the same piece of music.

What happened to Mozart when he composed and conducted an opera for Emperor Joseph?

The emperor's musicians started giving Mozart a hard time. They may have been jealous, or afraid they would look bad, being directed by a twelve-year-old boy.

How did Archbishop Colloredo treat Mozart?

Archbishop Colloredo never appreciated Mozart's talent. He was often rude to Mozart and ordered him to write all kinds of boring music.
What was one of the problems Mozart had in his life?

Mozart didn't handle money very well.

Who was Constanze Weber?

Constanze Weber was a singer and Mozart's wife.

What is the difference between opera seria and opera buffa?

Opera seria deals with serious stories about kings, gods, and heroes. Opera buffa deals with funny stories about everyday people.

What was one of the greatest things Mozart was able to do in his operas?

Mozart was able to create music that gives you such a clear understanding of each character in an opera that you feel you almost know them.

How many pieces of music did Mozart compose?

Mozart composed over 800 pieces of music.