

### Ludwig van Beethoven

This week's lesson focuses on Ludwig van Beethoven, an eccentric musical genius regarded as one of the greatest composers in history. He was baptized on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1770 (his exact date of birth is unknown).

### Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

### 1. How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Beethoven, and ask their opinion of classical music in general.
2. Give your students at least ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, and encourage them to look up any new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer questions about it, but they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. When the time is up, give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together. In Part A they have to answer true/false questions, while in Part B they have to formulate the questions that would produce the eight answers given. (Note that it is possible for there to be slight variations on each question.)
4. Check answers in open class.

### Answers

Part A (true/false)

1. T 2. F 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. T 7. T 8. F 9. F 10. T 11. F 12. F

Part B (provide questions to produce the answers given)

1. When did Beethoven die?
2. Where did he spend most of his life?
3. When did he start losing his hearing?
4. Did he have to stop composing when he became deaf?
5. Who gave him financial support?
6. How often did he get washed?
7. Why wasn't he able to marry the woman he loved?
8. Why did he cross out Napoleon Bonaparte's name from the all the papers containing the music for the *Eroica* symphony?

## 2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

[http://www.lvbeethoven.com/index\\_En.html](http://www.lvbeethoven.com/index_En.html)

Lots of material, including excerpts from Beethoven's music and a section ('School') aimed especially at students. Please note that this website appears to be a translation and so the English in some parts of the site is not perfect. Intermediate and above.

<http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beethoven>

Beethoven entry from *Simple English Wikipedia*. Parts of the text could be used with pre-intermediates.

<http://www.edepot.com/beethoven.html>

An extensive site containing everything from 'Beethoven Jokes' to 'Beethoven Chat'. Intermediate and above.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/beethoven/>

An interesting webpage from the BBC about Beethoven. There are several links to video and audio material too. Intermediate and above.