|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bedřich Smetana Exercises | museducation.org/268 | Video and exercises |

**Match terms**

*Task: Match each term with the appropriate explanation!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (A) | Bartered Bride | (1) | Father of Czech music |
| (I) | Romanticism | (2) | Smetana’s birthplace |
| (I) | Bohemia | (3) | Artistic movement in 1800s |
| (L) | Czech national music | (4) | Famous symphonic poem by Smetana |
| (P) | Litomyšl | (5) | Region in the Czech Republic |
| (R) | Vltava | (6) | Themes representing a nation |
| (S) | Bedřich Smetana | (7) | Composition for four string instruments |
| (T) | National motifs | (8) | Standard opera by Smetana |
| (U) | String quartet | (9) | Music genre founded by Smetana |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

**Complete sentences**

*Task: Match the beginning of each sentence with the end!*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (A) | Smetana was born ... | (1) | ... in Litomyšl, Bohemia. |
| (B) | He is considered ... | (2) | ... the father of Czech music. |
| (B) | At the age of 50, ... | (3) | ... piano lessons from his father. |
| (O) | One of his most ... | (4) | ... famous compositions is „The Vltava“. |
| (R) | Smetana’s works are strongly ... | (5) | ... influenced by Czech culture. |
| (S) | Smetana received his first ... | (6) | ... Smetana lost his hearing. |
| (S) | He died in 1884 ... | (7) | ... in a mental hospital. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

**Questions (multiple choice)**

*Task: Answer the questions!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | Where was Bedřich Smetana born? |
| (N) | in Litomyšl, Bohemia |
| (R) | in Vienna |
| (V) | in Prague |
| 2. | What is the Vltava? |
| (A) | a painting |
| (S) | a novel |
| (U) | a symphonic poem by Smetana |
| 3. | What did Smetana lose at the age of 50? |
| (M) | his hearing |
| (N) | his voice |
| (R) | his sight |
| 4. | Where did Smetana die? |
| (B) | in a mental hospital near Prague |
| (R) | in Vienna |
| (V) | in Litomyšl |
| 5. | What is the Bartered Bride? |
| (A) | a painting |
| (E) | an opera by Smetana |
| (S) | a novel |
| 6. | What is Smetana’s place in music history? |
| (A) | founder of German national music |
| (R) | founder of Czech national music |
| (V) | founder of Austrian national music |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword**: | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**Right or wrong?**

*Task: State whether the statements are true or false!*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| right | wrong |  |
| (F) | (V) | 1. Smetana was born in Litomyšl. |
| (F) | (R) | 2. Smetana was born in Prague. |
| (R) | (I) | 3. Smetana composed the Moldau. |
| (E) | (R) | 4. Smetana composed the Vltava. |
| (N) | (T) | 5. Smetana lost his hearing at 50. |
| (A) | (D) | 6. Smetana lost his sight at 50. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keyword:** | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ | \_\_\_ |
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

**7 Questions about the text**

*Task: Answer the questions in one or two complete sentences!*

What is Bedřich Smetana known for?

What is one of Smetana’s most famous compositions?

What influenced Smetana’s works?

What happened to Smetana at the age of 50?

What did Smetana create in his last years?

How was Smetana’s work received during his life and after his death?

What is Smetana’s significance in the history of music?

**Solution sheet 1**

**Bedřich Smetana**

**Match terms**

Bedřich Smetana = Father of Czech music

Litomyšl = Smetana’s birthplace

Romanticism = Artistic movement in 1800s

Vltava = Famous symphonic poem by Smetana

Bohemia = Region in the Czech Republic

National motifs = Themes representing a nation

String quartet = Composition for four string instruments

Bartered Bride = Standard opera by Smetana

Czech national music = Music genre founded by Smetana

Keyword: SPIRITUAL

**Complete sentences**

Smetana was born | in Litomyšl, Bohemia.

He is considered | the father of Czech music.

Smetana received his first | piano lessons from his father.

One of his most | famous compositions is „The Vltava“.

Smetana’s works are strongly | influenced by Czech culture.

At the age of 50, | Smetana lost his hearing.

He died in 1884 | in a mental hospital.

Keyword: ABSORBS

**Questions**

Where was Bedřich Smetana born?

in Litomyšl, Bohemia

What is the Vltava?

a symphonic poem by Smetana

What did Smetana lose at the age of 50?

his hearing

Where did Smetana die?

in a mental hospital near Prague

What is the Bartered Bride?

an opera by Smetana

What is Smetana’s place in music history?

founder of Czech national music

Keyword: NUMBER

**Right or wrong?**

right

1. Smetana was born in Litomyšl.

4. Smetana composed the Vltava.

5. Smetana lost his hearing at 50.

wrong

6. Smetana lost his sight at 50.

2. Smetana was born in Prague.

3. Smetana composed the Moldau.

Keyword: FRIEND

**Solution sheet 2**

**Bedřich Smetana**

**Questions and answers**

What is Bedřich Smetana known for?

Bedřich Smetana is known as the father of Czech music and an important representative of Romanticism.

What is one of Smetana’s most famous compositions?

One of Smetana’s most famous compositions is „The Vltava“, a symphonic poem that describes the course of the river of the same name through Bohemia.

What influenced Smetana’s works?

Smetana’s works are strongly influenced by Czech culture and history, and he often used national motifs and themes in his music.

What happened to Smetana at the age of 50?

At the age of 50, Smetana lost his hearing, but he continued his compositional work and created some of his most important works.

What did Smetana create in his last years?

In his last years, Smetana created the string quartet „From My Life“ and other important works.

How was Smetana’s work received during his life and after his death?

During his life, Smetana was often controversial, but posthumously he received wide recognition. His opera „The Bartered Bride“ remains a standard work to this day.

What is Smetana’s significance in the history of music?

Bedřich Smetana has a firm place in music history, especially as the founder of Czech national music. His works are performed and appreciated worldwide.