Ludwig Van BEETHOVEN: The Universal Composer

WebQuest Description: This WebQuest has been designed for intermediate and upper grades to teach about Ludwig Van BEETHOVEN. The WebQuest also enables the student to develop research and comprehension skills.

Grade Level: 3-5
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
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Introduction

Is there anyone who has not heard of Ludwig Van Beethoven or any symphonies of his? The answer is, most probably, "no"! Actually, one thing that makes Beethoven world-wide famous is the fact that he lived the latter part of his life hearing nothing, except the sounds of silence ringing through his ears. The question is: How did Beethoven manage to remain one of the greatest composers even with his hearing impairment? How can anyone compose the most successful compositions of his after becoming completely deaf?

Tasks

Students are expected to talk about Beethoven's music career especially comparing before and after he began losing his hearing. Then, in groups of three or fours, students will research detailed information and prepare a presentation in one of the following subjects:

- Beethoven's life and music (providing visual and aural samples)
- The characteristics of Beethoven's historical time period in terms of "art" aspect
- Famous musicians of today with hearing impairments and/or other special needs

Following the presentations, students are expected to write about their personal thoughts of music.

Process

Step 1: After reading an article provided by the teacher (see resources) on Beethoven's hearing impairment, discuss as a class the immediate effects that come to mind regarding the success of Beethoven's musical career.

Step 2: Research detailed information and prepare a presentation in one of the following subjects:

- Beethoven's life and music (providing visual and aural samples)
- The characteristics of Beethoven's historical time period in terms of "art" aspect
- Famous musicians of today with hearing impairments and/or other special needs

Following the presentations, students are expected to write about their personal thoughts of music.

Step 3: Using visual and auditory materials, present the information you have found to the class.

Step 4: Following the presentations, also taking the presentations done into consideration, write about a 5-6 paragraph composition about your personal thoughts of music. What is the role of music in your life? Does music have an effect on you? If so, how? Your work will be assessed according to your way of thinking and thoughtfulness toward this subject and others, your imagination/creativity, appropriate vocabulary choice and correct grammar usage.

Resources:
http://www.lucare.com/immortal/index.html
(Basic biographical information on Beethoven's life)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_van_Beethoven
www.lvbeethoven.com/Bio/BiographyChronology.html
wiki.answers.com/.../What_period_of_music_did_Beethoven_play
library.thinkquest.org/15413/history/history-cla-comp.htm
Beginning 1
Developing 2
Very Good 3
Exemplary 4
Score

Class Participation/Discussion
Student did little to contribute in class discussion
Student was able to share basic ideas with classmates
Student worked well with each other and shared insightful ideas with the class
Student contributed greatly to class discussion
%25

Group Project/Presentation
Group project showed little detail and research; no visual aid
Group project showed some basic ideas but lacked adequate amount of sources
Well-researched and detailed work
Very well-researched and excellent source usage
%50

Personal Reflection Paper
Poor grammar usage and lack of reflective insight
Good ideas; some grammar errors
Well done, reflective and proper grammar usage
Well-written with insightful and well-articulated contributions towards the project

%25
Now, you are done with your presentation. You know a lot about:
· Beethoven's life and music
· The characteristics of Beethoven's historical time period in which he lived in terms of "art" aspect
· Famous musicians of today with hearing impairments and/or other special needs.
You've come very far in your musical knowledge.

Conclusion

This Webquest teaches students a little history about the life of Beethoven as well as his struggles and success with a hearing impairment. Through the students’ research, students will have a broader knowledge of Beethoven's life, the time period Beethoven lived in and famous musicians of today with hearing impairments and/or other special needs.

Teacher Page

Credits

Other