



TEACHER GUIDE

1776

Introduction

"1776" focuses on the connections between music and American history. The following activities will focus on one of our founding fathers as well as pieces that have an interesting connection to the Revolutionary War.

Teacher Guide – Activity #1, Revolutionary War

Instructions:

- For activity #1, students will test their knowledge about the Revolutionary War by answering the questions provided
- If possible, lead a further discussion about the history of the Revolutionary War to prepare students for the remaining activities

Answer Key

1. C - thirteen
2. A - England
3. B – 1775-1783
4. A - Patriots
5. D - Loyalists
6. D – all of the above
7. True





TEACHER GUIDE

Activity #2, Benjamin Franklin

Instructions:

- Have students read through the brief background on Benjamin Franklin and then listen to Franklin's March, Minuet, and Capriccio
- Lead a discussion about the unique qualities of this piece. i.e. written for 3 violins and cello, inventive tuning, performed without the left hand, etc.
- Students will then write a review of this performance incorporating the review points below. They may write this review from an American or British viewpoint.

Review Points for Consideration

- Recall the dynamics and tempi of the piece – try and describe what you heard and how it contributed to the overall impact of the composition
- Consider the different timbres created by performing only on open strings
- Describe the rhythmic pulse. How did that affect the general mood of the piece?
- Why do you think Ben Franklin decided to write a piece of music where the musicians did not have to put their fingers down on the strings? Brainstorm a few ideas as to why this was necessary.
- Does this music seem too easy / too difficult to perform?
- Is this considered “serious” music? Or does it seem more like a musical experiment performing only on open strings?
- What is the general effect of watching a string quartet perform without using their left hand?



TEACHER GUIDE

Teacher Guide – Activity #3, God Save the Queen / My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)

Instructions:

- Have students read through the brief background to God Save the Queen and My Country 'tis of Thee (America).
- Review the melodic line and compare the British vs. American lyrics
- If possible, have students perform this famous melody by singing and/or instrumental performance (1) and then answer questions 2-4. (answers will vary)





TEACHER GUIDE

Activity #4, Yankee Doodle

Instructions:

- If possible, have students perform the Yankee Doodle melody by singing and/or instrumental performance. Lyrics and score are provided!
- Explain to students that Yankee Doodle was originally a tune sung by the British military to mock the American soldiers.
- Have students complete the worksheet provided having them make an educated guess as to what each term/phrase mean in Yankee Doodle. Answer key is listed below.

Answer Key

- Yankee = a derogatory term referring to the American colonists, who the British felt were poor and ill-mannered
- Doodle = a simpleton, an idiot, foolish, gullible
- Pony = small horse; the British mocked the American colonists by singing that they were poor and could only afford to own a pony instead of the large, beautiful, and elegant horses associated with the British military
- Macaroni = a fashionable man who wears cinched waistcoats and tall white wigs. This particular lyric suggests that by sticking a mere feather in a cap is the American colonist attempt at being sophisticated and fashionable
- "keep it up" = this phrase mockingly tells the American colonists to continue acting like a fool and trying to be sophisticated
- Dandy = self absorbed, overly stylish man
- "mind the music and the step" = this phrase refers to dancing. The British intended to make fun of the Yankees by saying that they were not only simple and unfashionable, but that they couldn't even dance as well. This phrase mocked the 'common' dances of the colonists
- "and with the girls be handy" = this phrase also refers to dancing in that the Yankees could not perform the dance steps nor hold the girl in the proper manner.