

ACTIVITY: AN OPERA TIMELINE

OBJECTIVE

In this short lesson, students will order dates on a timeline about opera history and *Madame Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini.

MATERIALS

Chart Paper
Marker
Opera History Worksheet

PROCEDURES

1. With a partner, students read through the dates and events listed on the Opera History page.
2. On your chart paper, draw a line long enough to include the dates on the worksheet.
3. Over the line, draw in sections to mark each musical time period listed as shown on the worksheet.
4. Carefully place the dates on the timeline within the correct musical period, from the farthest back in history to the most recent. Have students mark stars on their worksheet's timeline.
5. Ask students during which music period most operas were written.
6. As you place dates on the timeline, discuss each and the significance.

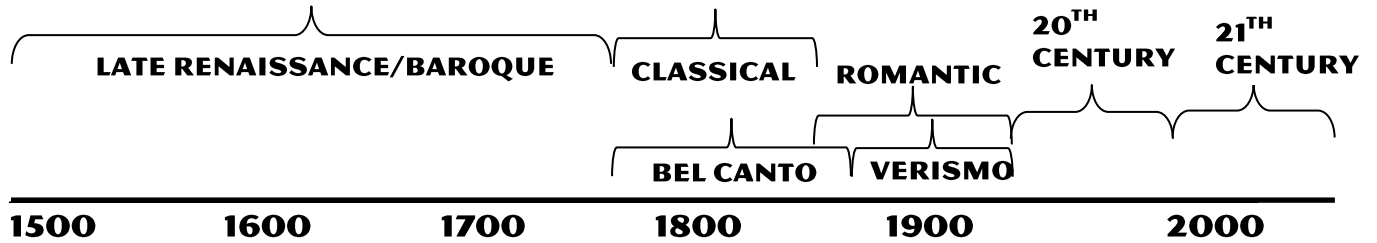
EXTENSION

1. Add dates to the timeline from your regular classroom studies.
2. Talk with students about the historical context of the opera timeline dates, especially for those periods of history you are currently studying.
3. Keep the timeline posted in your classroom throughout the year and add dates as you learn about them in your regular classroom time.
4. As you listen to opera in your class, point out when on the timeline the piece was performed.

OPERA HISTORY

MUSICAL PERIODS:

Late Renaissance/Baroque	late 1500s-1750
Classical	1750-1830
Bel Canto	1750-1850
Verismo	1850-WWI
Romantic	1830-WWI
20th Century	WWI-2000
21 st Century	2000-present



MARK THE DATES LISTED BELOW ON THE TIMELINE ABOVE WITH A STAR:

- 1567 Claudio Monteverdi, one of the first opera composers, is born.
- 1591 The first opera is composed by Jacopo Peri, "Daphne."
- 1689 One of the first English operas, *Dido and Aeneas*, is composed by Henry Purcell.
- 1756 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is born in Salzburg, Austria.
- 1791 Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is performed for the first time.
- 1805 Ludwig van Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*, is performed for the first time.
- 1817 Gioacchino Rossini's *La Cenerentola* is performed for the first time.
- 1840 *The Daughter of the Regiment* is first performed in Paris.
- 1858 Giacomo Puccini is born on December 22, 1858 in Lucca, Italy.
- 1864 Puccini's father dies.
- 1871 Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida* is performed for the first time in Cairo, Egypt.
- 1876 Richard Wagner's first complete *Ring Cycle* is performed at Bayreuth
- 1896 Puccini's famous work, *La bohème* premieres.
- 1904 *Madame Butterfly* by Puccini premieres at La Scala in Milan, Italy.
- 1924 Puccini dies of heart failure following a treatment for throat cancer on November 29, 1924 in Brussels, Belgium.
- 1926 *Turandot* (incomplete at the time of Puccini's death_ was completed and premiered at La Scala.
- 1935 George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* is first performed in Boston.
- 2012 Kevin Puts' opera, *Silent Night*, wins the Pulitzer Prize