

Beethoven



Ludwig van Beethoven



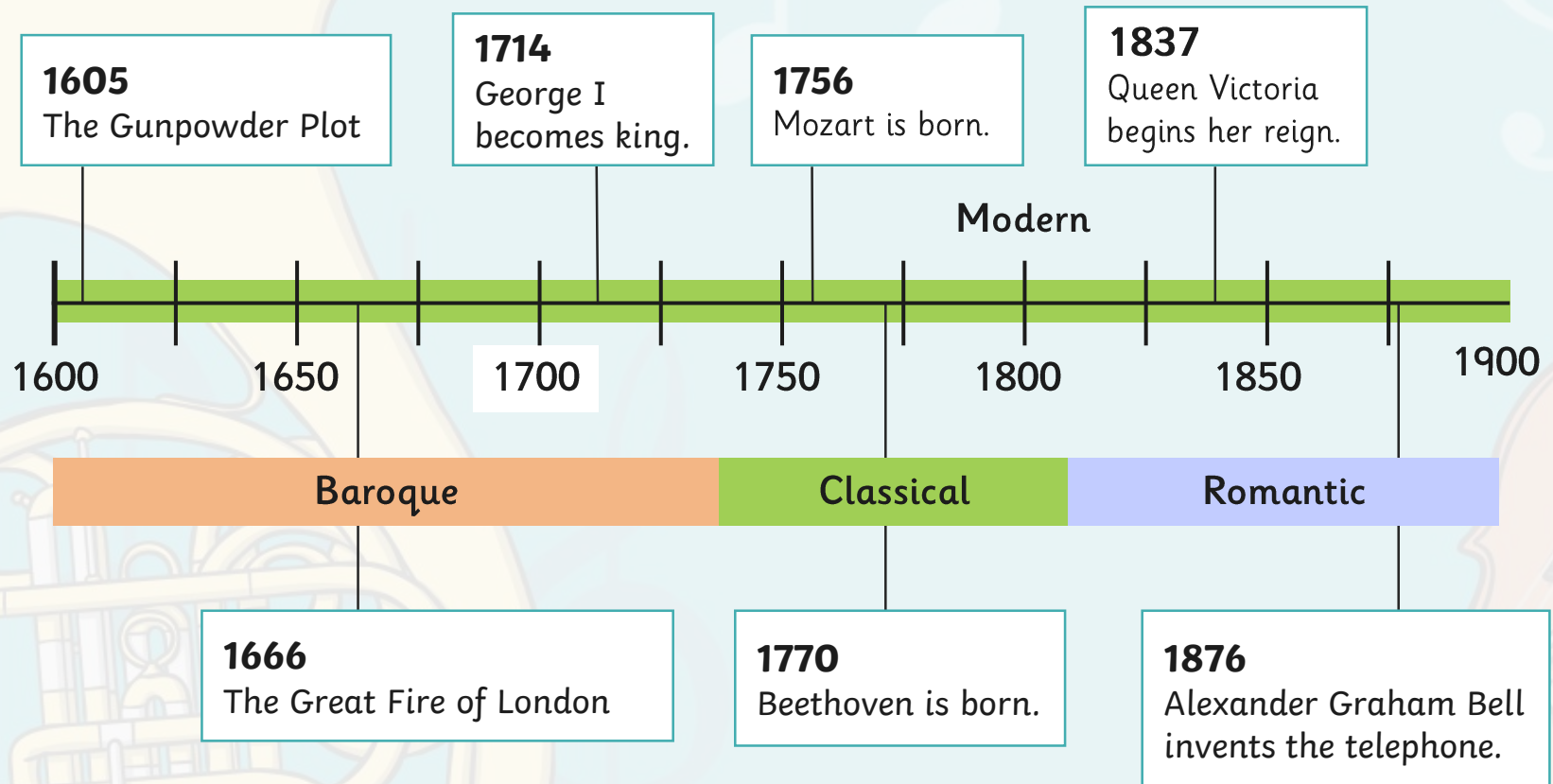
Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany in December 1770; however, no one is sure of the exact date.

He is famous for being one of the main composers of the Classical music era.



The Classical Music Era

Look at this time line showing when the Classical music era occurred.



What Is Classical Music?

Classical music is music composed between 1750 and 1820.

Some features of classical music include:

- short, memorable melodies (tunes);
- two or more contrasting sections;
- different instruments being used from the orchestra.

As well as Beethoven, other famous composers from this era include Mozart and Haydn.



Beethoven's Early Life

Think about what you could do when you were seven years old.

Beethoven's father, Johann, made Beethoven learn to play the piano when he was extremely young. It was a harsh regime with Beethoven having to practise for many hours into the night.

However, it became clear that Beethoven was a gifted musician. At the age of seven, Beethoven gave his first public concert.



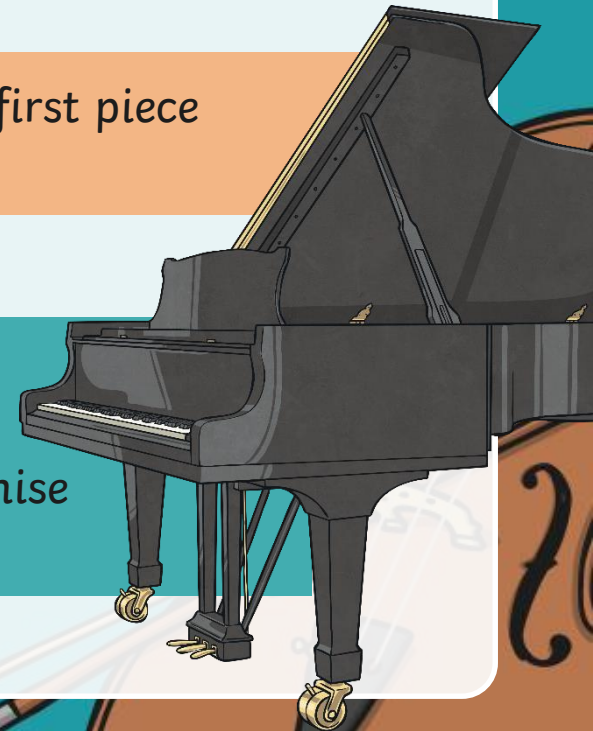
Beethoven's Works




Beethoven's talent was clear for all to see. He began receiving music tuition from Joseph Haydn, a famous composer.

When Beethoven was 12 years old, he published his first piece of music, '9 Variations in C Minor for Piano'.

Beethoven is considered one of the most influential composers in history. Even if you think you don't know anything about Classical music, you'll recognise some of his most famous pieces.



Beethoven's Hearing



When he was in his twenties, Beethoven began to lose his hearing.

Although he could no longer hear music, Beethoven was still able to compose music. Because he had been playing and writing music for his entire life, Beethoven was able to 'hear' the music he was writing in his head.

As he was playing music, he would feel the vibrations that the instruments made when they were played. This helped him compose new music.

At the premier of his ninth symphony, he had to be turned to face the audience because he couldn't hear their applause at the end.

What's the Missing Word?

Complete the following sentences about Beethoven.

Beethoven was born in Germany.

He performed his first concert when he was seven years old.

Beethoven was 12 years old when he published his first piece of music.

After he lost his hearing, Beethoven was still able to compose music because he could feel the vibrations that the instruments made when they were played.



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