



Short Frederic Chopin's biography

Frederic Chopin (1810-1849) is the most outstanding Polish composer. Already at the age of several years he showed great musical talent. As an adult artist, he aroused admiration with his works not only in Poland, but also in many other European countries.

Chopin was born in Żelazowa Wola on the 1th March 1810. His father, Mikołaj, came from France. Mother, Tekla Justyna Krzyżanowska, sang beautifully and was an excellent pianist. She was the first piano teacher of three-year-old Fryderyk. Fryderyk had got three sisters - the older Ludwika and two younger ones, Izabela and Emilia. Chopin spent his childhood in Warsaw. When he was 6 years old, he started learning to play the piano. Little Fryderyk's teacher, Wojciech Żywny, was surprised by the student's rapid progress. He admitted soon that the boy was better in his skills than the teacher. At the age of seven, Chopin composed military marches and two polonaises. One of these pieces, Polonaise in G- minor was published, thanks to which the little artist quickly became famous. As a child prodigy, Fryderyk delighted the Warsaw public. Listeners called him "the second Mozart".

In the years 1823-26, the teenage Frederic studied at the Warsaw Lyceum. From 1826 to 1829, Frederic Chopin was educated at the faculty of the Warsaw Main School of Music, which was part of the Conservatory and at the same time was associated with the University of Warsaw.

At the age of 20, Frederic Chopin left Poland, to which he never returned, although he never parted with the thought of his beloved homeland. He settled in Paris, where he gained fame as a virtuoso and improviser. He also played often outside of France.

With time, due to his worse health, he gave concerts less and less, composing and teaching more often.

In 1849 he died in Paris of tuberculosis. He was buried in the Père-Lachaise Cemetery. Frederic Chopin's heart returned to Warsaw and was buried in the Church of St. Cross. The Frederic Chopin monument in the Royal Łazienki Park is one of the most famous and most frequently visited places in the capital city by tourists and Varsovians. The Chopin Concerts held there (every Sunday at 12.00 and 16.00 from mid-May to the end of September) attract thousands of listeners.

Worksheet – Childhood of Frederic Chopin

Name:.....

Grade:.....

1. Complete the text.

Frederic Chopin was born in _____. He spent his childhood in _____.

His first music teacher was _____, Tekla Justyna Chopin. When Frederic was _____ years old, he started learning to play _____. His teacher - _____ - was surprised at the rapid progress of the student. At the age of _____, Chopin composed the Polonaise in G - minor. This work was published in print, and its little creator gained fame.

2. Put the letter "T" in the boxes next to the true sentences, and the letter "F" in the boxes next to the false sentences.

- Frederic was the only son of the Chopins.
- The composer's father was German.
- Frederic Chopin began learning to play the piano at the age of three.
- Frederic had three sisters and two brothers.
- Chopin's first printed work is entitled Polonaise in G minor.

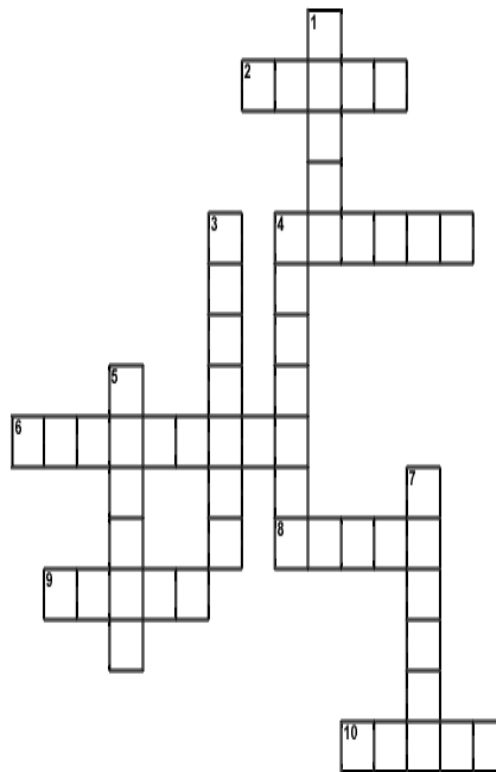
3. Listen to Fryderyk Chopin's Polonaise in G minor and describe the mood of this piece. You can use the given words.



dignified, lively, cheerful, solemn, playful,
sad, majestic, serious, joyful



4. Do the crossword!



1. The month of the Chopin's birth.
2. Frederic Chopin's returned to Warsaw and was buried in the Church of St. Cross.
3. The first name of the Frederic's older sister.
4. (across) Frederic Chopin's heart returned to Warsaw and was buried in the of St. Cross.
(down) In Royal Łazienki Park there are held every Sunday the Chopin
5. The little Chopin was compared to this composer.
6. The first published music piece of Chopin was in G-minor.
7. The city where the composer spent his childhood.
8. The first name of Chopin's mother.
9. The capitol of France. There is a museum where you can see music sheet handwritten by Fryderyk Chopin.
10. Wojciech – the first music teacher of Chopin.