

Name _____

Class _____



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria, on January 27, 1756. Mozart's father, Leopold, was a musician and a music teacher. Wolfgang was a child prodigy; at the age of five he composed a minuet, and played both the harpsichord and the violin. He performed for the Viennese Imperial court with his father and later when he was six years old. Between the ages of 7 and 18, Wolfgang and his sister sister toured Europe, playing for kings, emperors, and other royalty. Mozart wrote his first symphony at nine years old.

During his short but very productive life, Mozart wrote over 600 pieces, including symphonies, sonatas, concertos, operas, dance music, and masses. Some of his most famous pieces are *Don Giovanni* (K.520), the opera *Le Nozze di Figaro*, K.492 and *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute), K.620, the "Jupiter" Symphony, No. 41 in C Major, K.551, and his Requiem Mass, K.626.

Mozart married Constanze Weber in Vienna in 1781; they had six children but only two survived to become adults. Mozart's popularity with the public went up and down, and he had continuous financial problems, often because of his own bad habits. He was known to be rude and lack manners, and had a loud, often obstinate, laugh; some neighbors said that his laugh was his ruin.

Mozart was only 35 years old when he died on December 6, 1791 in Vienna, Austria. He had been ill for some time, often with rheumatic fever. Most historians believe he died of pneumonia from eating raw pork. Because he was penniless when he died, Mozart was buried in a pauper's (poor) grave in Vienna, Austria.

Questions:

1. Where was Mozart born?

2. What did his father do for a living?
