

# 5 E's Lesson Plan: Understanding Beethoven through Louis's Journey

**Grade Level: 6-8**

**Topic: Louis, a Parisian boy, discovers Ludwig van Beethoven's journey with deafness and finds inspiration in his music.**

## 1. ENGAGE

### Objectives:

- Capture students' interest in Beethoven and the challenges of deafness.
- Encourage students to express their thoughts and feelings about hearing loss.

### Activities:

- **Discussion:** Begin with a thought-provoking question: "What do you think it would be like to lose your hearing? How might it change your life?"
- **Visual Art:** Show students a portrait of Beethoven and a scene from a music shop. Ask them to share their initial thoughts about the painting and how it relates to music.
- **Anticipation Guide:** Present statements regarding deafness and music (e.g., "A musician cannot be great if they are deaf"). Have students agree/disagree and explain their reasoning.

### Teacher Strategies:

- Facilitate a conversation that encourages students to share experiences or knowledge about hearing loss or notable musicians who faced challenges.
- Post learning outcomes on the board, focusing on understanding Beethoven's life, his struggles with deafness, and the emotional connection to his music.

## 2. EXPLORE

### Objectives:

- Allow students to investigate Beethoven's life and work, particularly focusing on his deafness and notable compositions.

### Activities:

- **Research Activity:** In pairs, students use provided tablets or computers to research Beethoven's life, especially the Heiligenstadt Testament, his deafness, and his major works like the 5th and 7th Symphonies.
- **Listening Session:** Play excerpts of Beethoven's 5th Symphony and Moonlight Sonata. Students jot down their emotional responses to the music.
- **Class Discussion:** After listening, discuss how the music made them feel and how it connects to their understanding of Beethoven's struggles.

### Teacher Strategies:

- Walk around the classroom to guide students' research and clarify any misconceptions.
- Encourage students to ask questions about Beethoven's experiences and music.

## 3. EXPLAIN

### Objectives:

- Encourage students to articulate their understanding of Beethoven's life and the emotional impact of his music.

### Activities:

- **Group Presentations:** Each pair presents their findings on different aspects of Beethoven's life and how they relate to his music.
- **Class Discussion:** Lead a discussion where students can share how they connected with Beethoven's struggles and successes. Discuss the significance of the Heiligenstadt Testament.
- **Vocabulary Building:** Introduce key terms such as "deafness," "sympathy," "resilience," and "inspiration." Have students use these terms in sentences related to their research.

### Teacher Strategies:

- Provide additional resources, such as short videos about Beethoven's life and music.
- Introduce formal language and encourage students to use it in their explanations.

## 4. ELABORATE

### Objectives:

- Extend students' understanding of Beethoven's impact on music and society.

### Activities:

- **Creative Writing:** Students write a letter from Louis to Beethoven, expressing what he learned from him and how he relates to his struggles.
- **Music Composition:** In small groups, students create a short piece of music that conveys an emotion they believe Beethoven experienced during his life. They can use classroom instruments or digital music creation tools.
- **Art Connection:** Create a visual representation (poster or digital artwork) that symbolizes their understanding of Beethoven's journey and its relevance to their own lives.

### Teacher Strategies:

- Encourage peer feedback on creative projects, allowing students to share their thoughts on each other's work.
- Facilitate a gallery walk where students can view and discuss each other's artistic representations.

## 5. EVALUATE

### Objectives:

- Assess students' understanding of Beethoven's life, challenges, and music.

### Activities:

- **Reflection Journals:** Have students write a reflective entry about what they learned from Beethoven's story and how it relates to their own experiences or challenges.
- **Peer Review:** Students exchange their letters to Beethoven and provide feedback on each other's insights and emotional expression.
- **Rubric-Based Assessment:** Use a rubric to evaluate the projects created in the Elaborate phase, focusing on creativity, understanding of concepts, and collaboration.

### Teacher Strategies:

- Ask open-ended questions to encourage deeper thinking, such as "What do you believe is the most significant aspect of Beethoven's life?"
- Provide feedback on students' reflections and projects, highlighting their growth and areas for improvement.

### Conclusion:

This lesson plan provides a comprehensive approach to understanding Beethoven's journey and inspires students through music and personal connection. The structure encourages exploration, creativity, and critical thinking, leading to a deeper appreciation of Beethoven's legacy.