

Bach's Big Adventure

Book by Sallie Ketcham

Unit study and printables prepared by Molly Boulter

Social Studies

History: Johann Sebastian Bach

There is a brief biography before the story starts. Either read this aloud or summarize it for your student.

Social Studies - Geography: Germany

Germany is located on the continent of Europe. It is bordered by The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Austria, Czech Republic and Poland. Berlin is the capital city of Germany.

The German flag has three horizontal stripes. Black is at the top, followed by red and gold.

Germans you may have heard of:

Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), painter

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827), composer

Richard Wagner (1813–1883), composer

Brothers Grimm, famous collectors of fairy tales

Adolf Hitler (1889–1945), leader of the Nazi regime

Albert Einstein (1879–1955), physicist

Levi Strauss (1829–1902), jeans

Martin Luther (1483–1546), of the Protestant Reformation

Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965), musician, physician, pastor, philosopher and theologian

Johann Gutenberg (c. 1390s – 1468), printer

Locate Germany on a map. Locate the cities in the story using the printable map provided.

Eisenach - place of birth

Ohrdruf - Sebastian lives here with his brother, Christoph.

Luneburg - this is where St. Michael's is located, Sebastian's school.

Hamburg – Sebastian travels to Hamburg to hear Reincken play.
Leipzig – Sebastian lives here as an adult.

Use a green pencil to connect the cities in the order listed above.

German Foods:

A typical breakfast in Germany might have eggs, bread and cheese. Traditionally the main meal of the day would be lunch. Germans typically eat a lot of meat with pork being the most common. Dinner is would have been a lighter meal, similar to breakfast.

For a typical dessert, you can try the following recipe:

Streuselkuchen (crumb cake)

Topping

¼ cup sugar

¼ cup brown sugar

2 teaspoons cinnamon

1 cup flour

½ cup butter

Cake

2 ¼ cup flour

¼ cup sugar

¼ teaspoon salt

1 package dry yeast

¾ cup milk

½ cup butter

1 egg

fruit if desired

To make topping:

Mix sugars, cinnamon and flour. Cut in butter until mixture is crumbly.

To make cake:

Mix 1 cup flour with sugar, salt and yeast in a large bowl. Place milk and butter in a saucepan and heat until very warm (120°F). Gradually add to dry ingredients; beat 2 minutes. Beat in egg and 1 cup flour. Beat on high speed for 2 minutes. Stir in

enough flour to make a soft but stiff batter. Spread batter into a well-greased 9-inch square cake pan. Sprinkle with topping. Let rise in a warm place until double in bulk, about 1 ½ hours. Bake at 350°F about 45 minutes or until done. If you like, add your favorite fruits beneath the topping before baking to make a fruit cake.

Character: Humility

Define humility. (A modest opinion of one's own importance) Was Bach humble? Throughout the story Sebastian yells, "I am Bach!" Does he ever learn humility?

It is true that Bach was very talented. God gives gifts and talents to each of us. It is important, however, to remember that these gifts come from God to be used for His glory, not our own. When we have a spirit of pride, we are trying to take the glory that belongs to God for ourselves.

I have talked to my kids about two different kinds of pride. Moms and dads are going to be proud of their children, and that is okay. Let's just remember to thank God for our special gifts and not to take credit for the gifts we have but to use them for His glory.

Language Arts

Compound Words

Compound words are two words put together to make one word. Can your student think of examples on his own? Take a look at these compound words found in the story—

Choirmaster
Birdsong
Birdcalls
Secondhand
Farmhouse
Hillsides

Punctuation: Hyphens

When two adjectives are put together to make one word they are hyphenated.. Look on the page that begins with, "And walk he did." There are examples of hyphenated words on this two-page spread. Have your younger student point out the hyphens.

salt-traders'
wind-whipped
half-timbered

Fine Art

Music Theory

You can discuss basic notes and rhythm in the 4/4 scale.

A whole note holds for four beats.

A half note holds for two beats.

A quarter note holds for one beat.

An eighth note holds for half a beat.

There are printable note cards for your student to use and rearrange in order to make up different beats. Practice counting and clapping different beat patterns.

Classical Music – Baroque

Different periods of time bring about different styles of music. On the classical music timeline, the Baroque Period (1600-1750) comes after the Renaissance period and before the Classical period. The Baroque era gave birth to the beginning of the orchestra. Composers would place musicians all over the church-- in the balconies, by the altar, etc. The audience was surrounded with the sounds of the music creating an amazing experience!

Baroque music is characterized as tuneful and organized with decorated and elaborate melodies. Movements within the music contain conflict, contrast, and drama (you may hear a fast movement, then a slow movement, then another fast movement). These same elements were also prevalent in the artwork and architecture of the time.

Bach is known for bringing the Baroque period to its height. Other composers in this style were Monteverde, Vivaldi and Handel.

Math

Fractions

Does your student notice anything about these words whole / half / and quarter notes? They sound a lot like fractions. Each bar in a sheet of music is a whole and the notes tell you how many sections in which it is divided.

You may want to take a look at the Rhythm/Fraction page for an illustration.

Practice counting and clapping different beat patterns.

Measurement- Speed

Sebastian walked 30 miles from Lunenburg to Hamburg. If he walked at the rate of 5 miles an hour, how long would it take? 3 miles an hour? 2 miles an hour?

Science

Anatomy- Ears

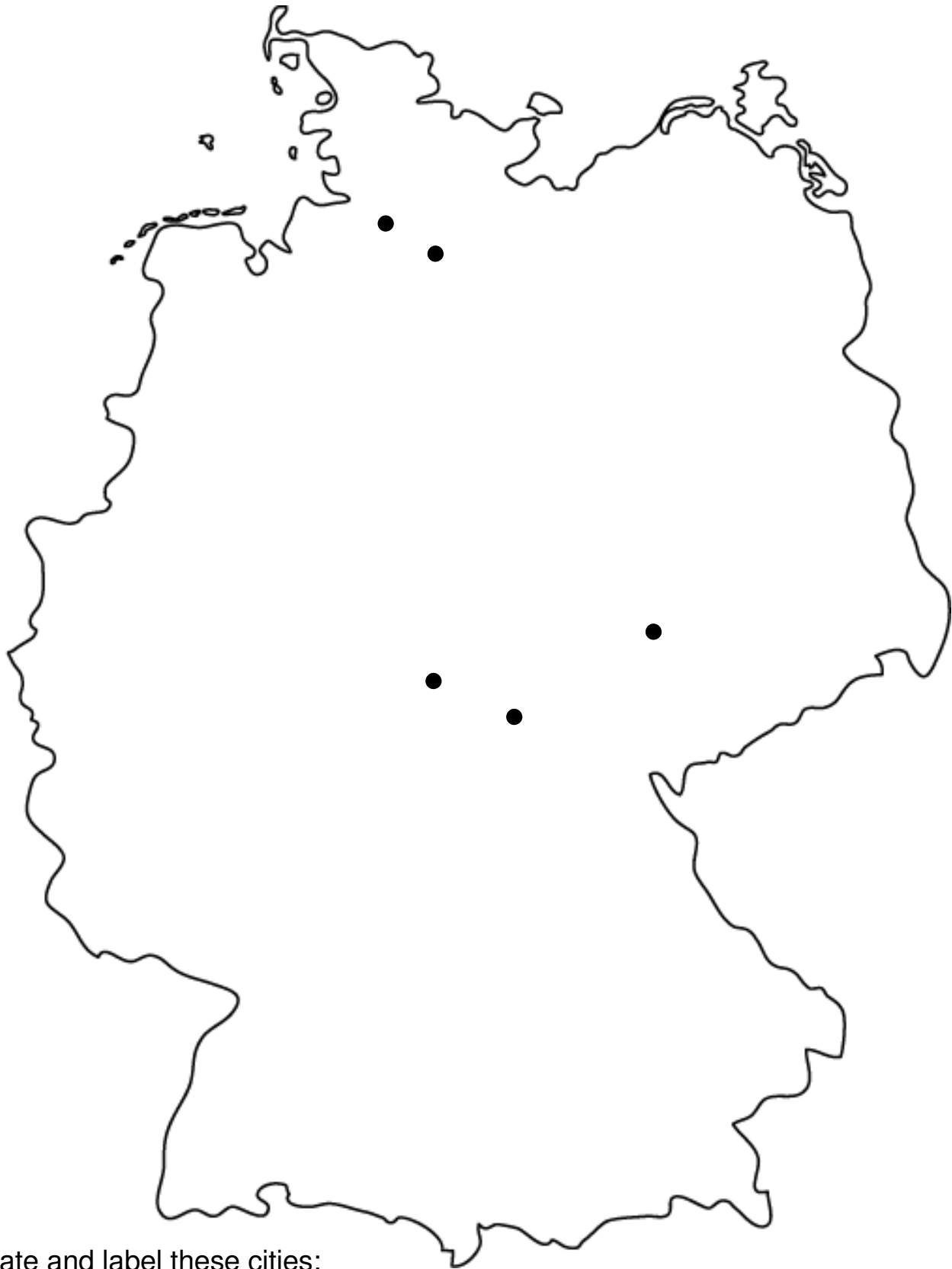
Music is enjoyable because we can hear it! Sound is collected by your outer ear (pinna or auricle). Once the sounds are collected it moves into the ear canal and from there to the ear drum. The ear drum vibrates and cause three tiny bones to also vibrate (hammer, anvil and stirrup). From there, the vibration is transferred to the cochlea. The cochlea has tiny hairs which signal the nerves to send sound messages to the brain.

Try this: cup your hands around your ear to collect even more sound. Does it work?

Try this: wrap plastic wrap tightly over a bowl. Sprinkle some dry rice on top. Now, hit a metal pan with a spoon right next to the bowl. What happens to the rice? This is similar to the way your ear drum works.

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Locate and label these cities:

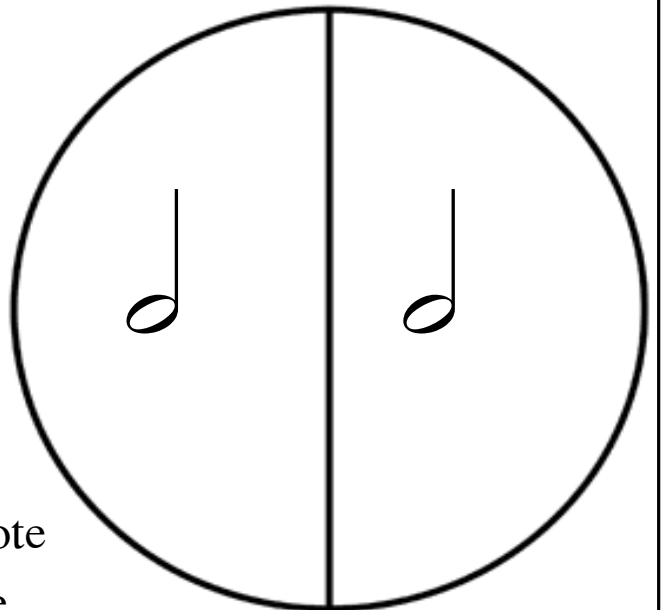
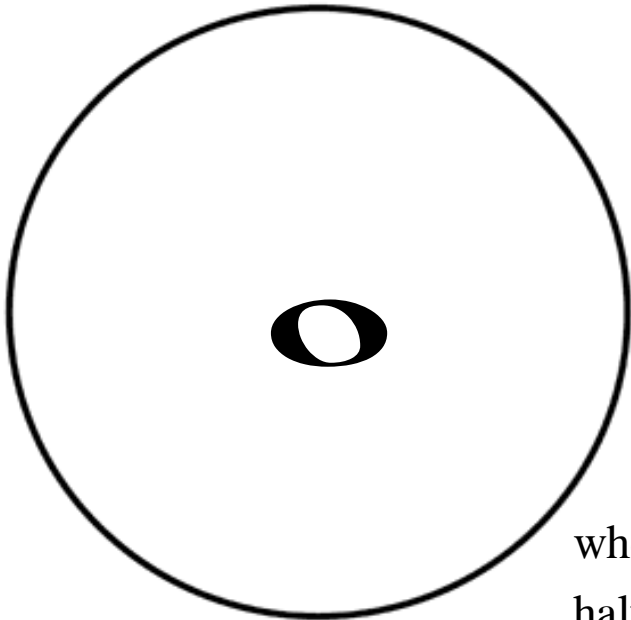
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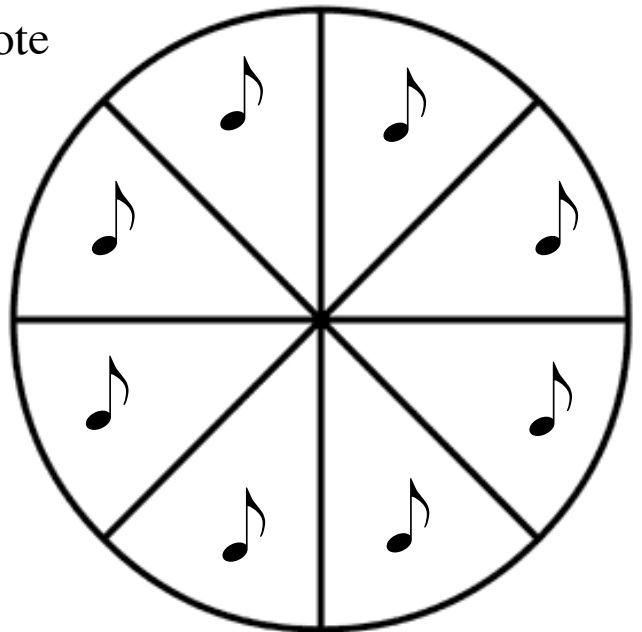
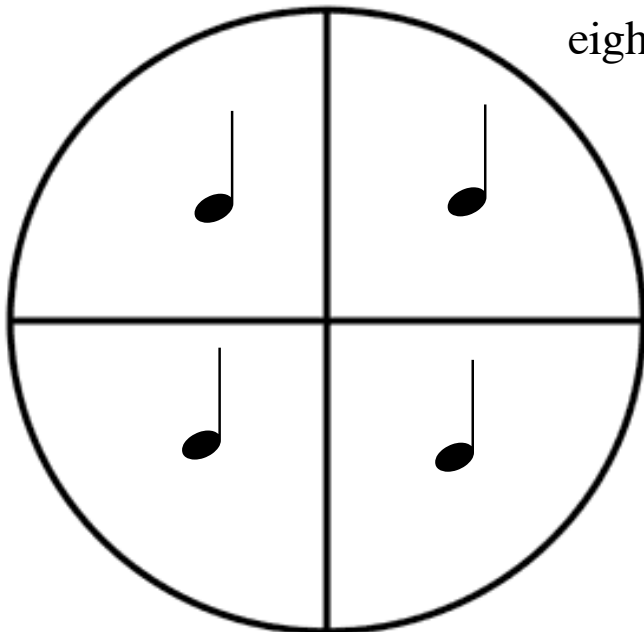
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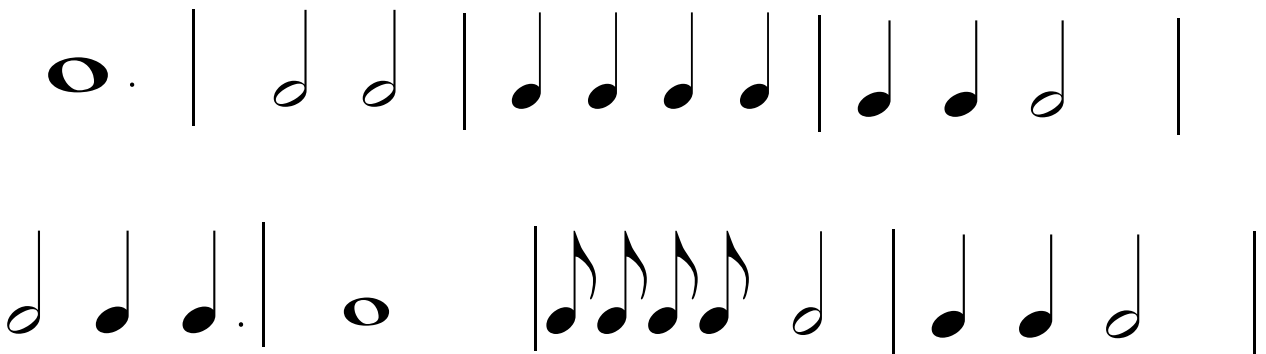
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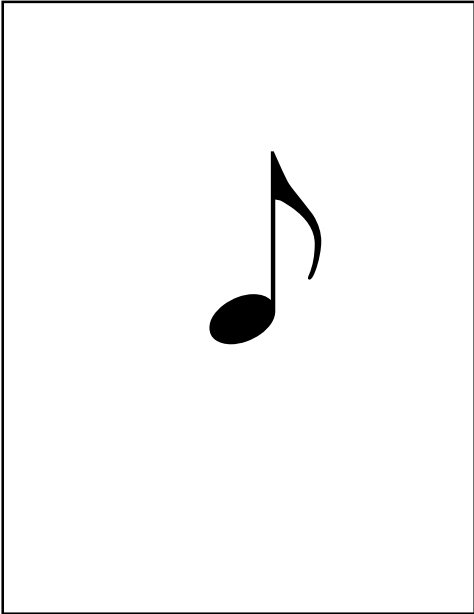
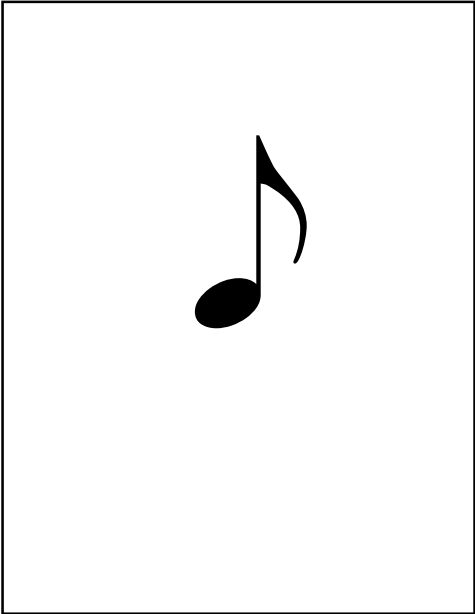
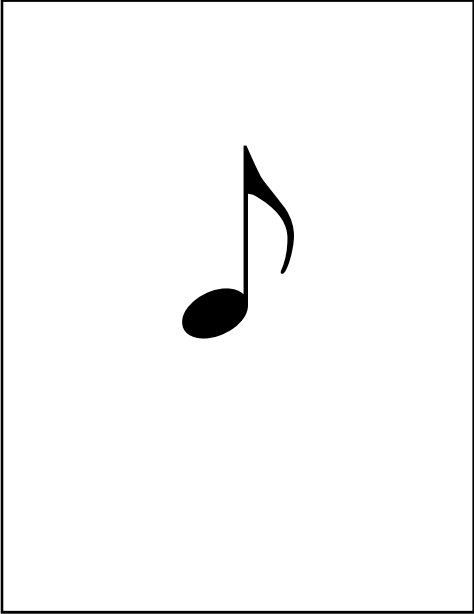
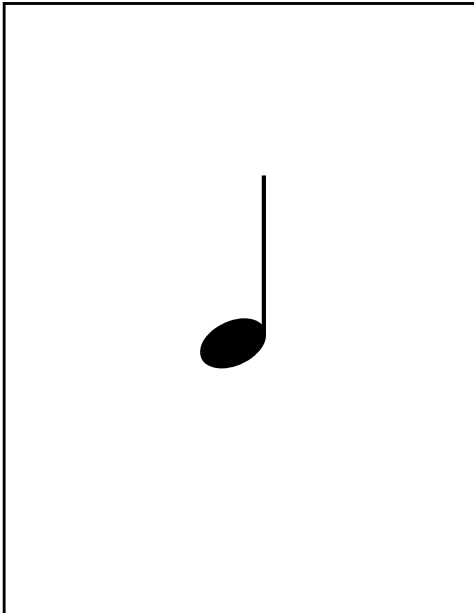
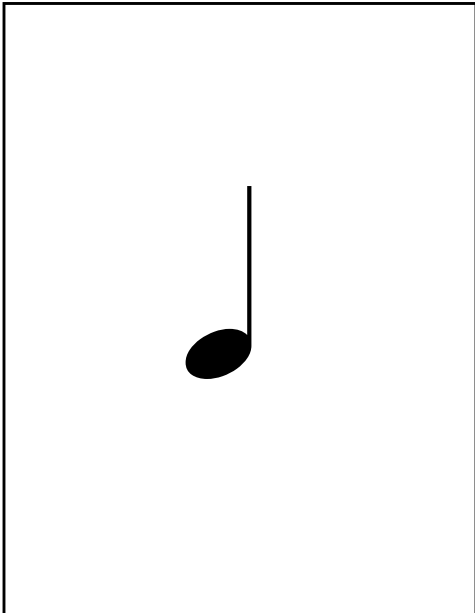
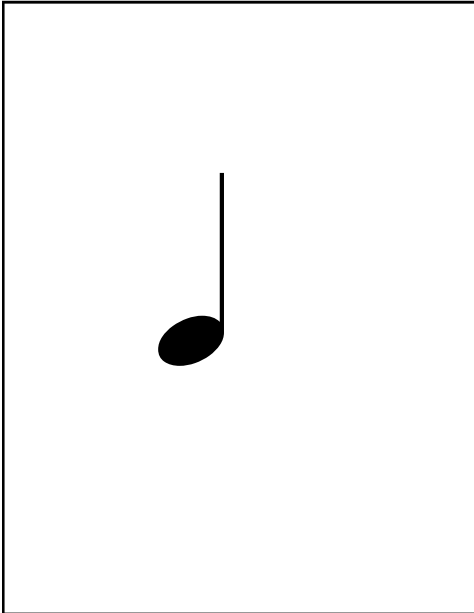
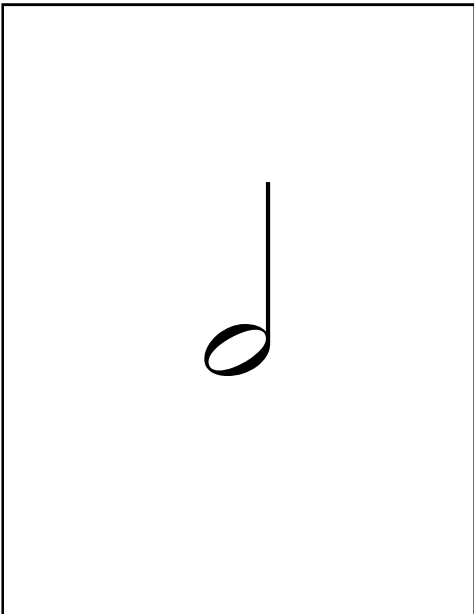
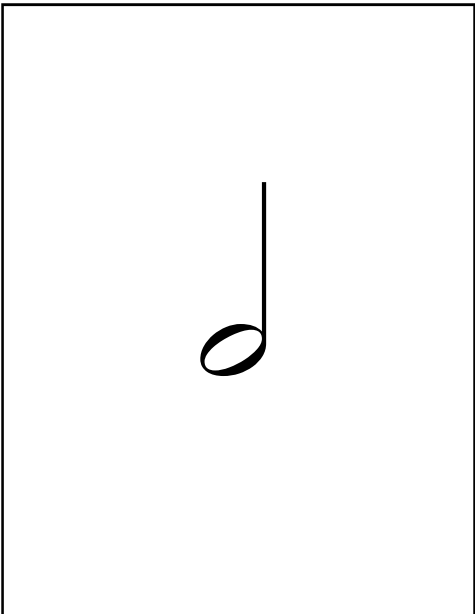
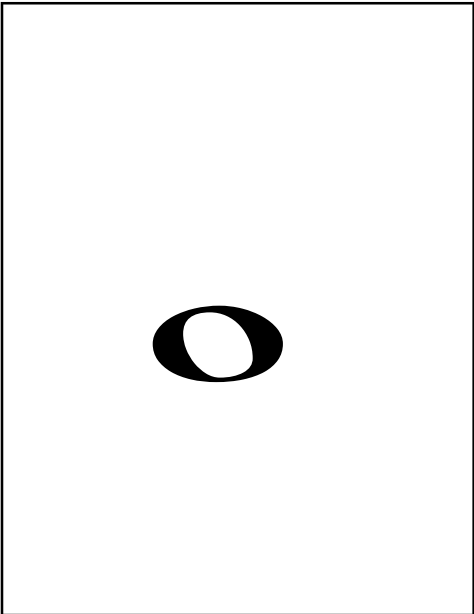
whole note
 half note
 quarter note
 eighth note

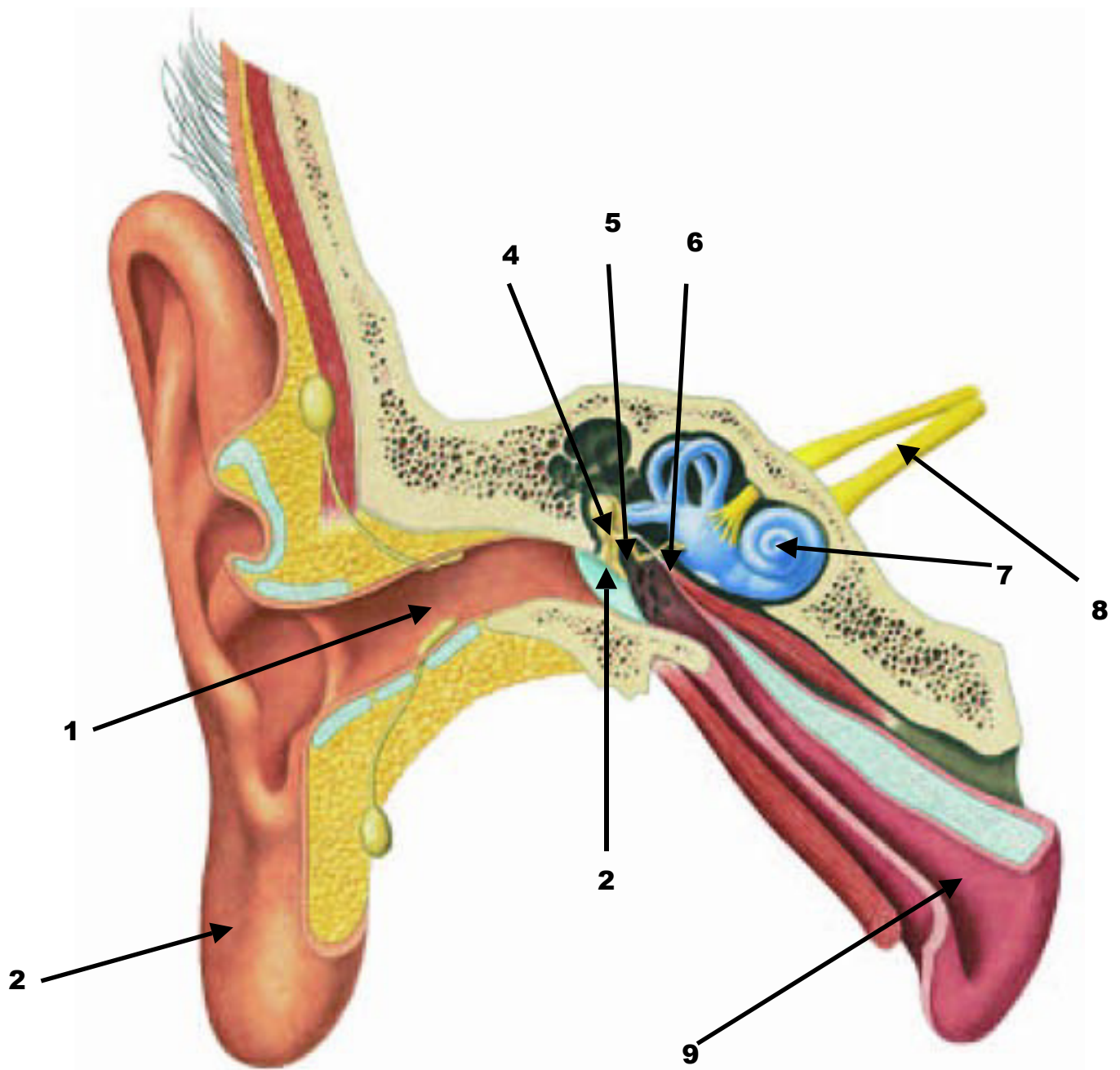


Try to clap these rhythms



Print as many cards as desired. Have your student arrange them and clap the patterns.





WORD BANK:

PINNA OR AURICLE

HAMMER

ANVIL

COCHLEA

EAR CANAL

EAR DRUM

EUSTACHIAN TUBE

NERVES

STIRRUP

**JOHANN SEBASTIAN
BACH**



1685-1750

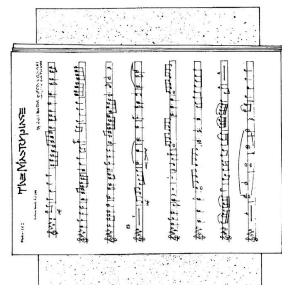
JOHANN SEBASTIAN
BACH



Print onto card stock
and cut out. Punch holes where indi-
cated. Fold on dotted lines. To se-
cure book, string a ribbon through the
holes and tie with a bow on the front.

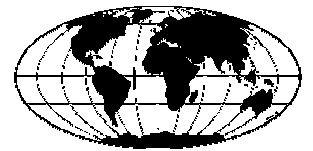
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Is
Germany?

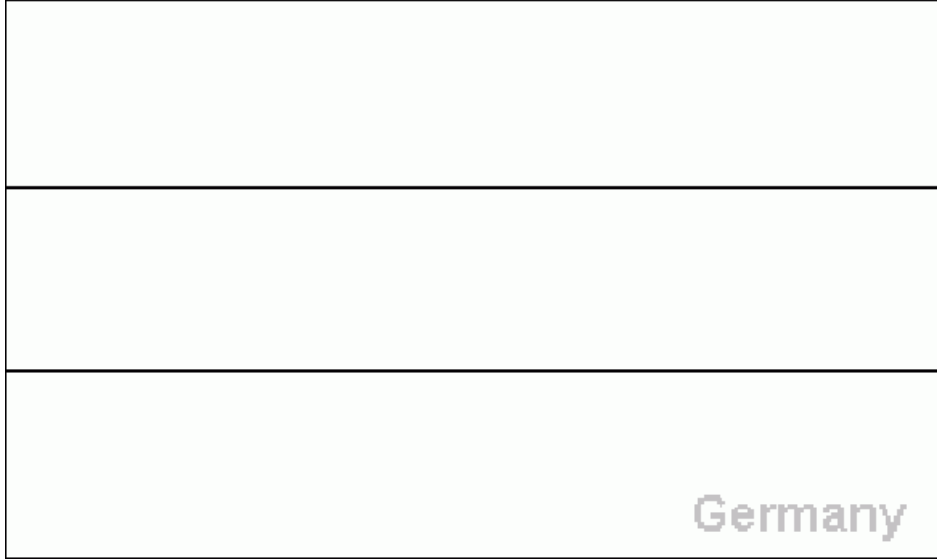
Where
in
the
World. . .



What continent is Germany on?

Find Germany on the map and color it in.

Cut out shutter book and map on solid lines.
Fold shutter book on dotted lines so that words
are on cover. Glue map into book under shutters.



Cut "Flag of _____" book out as one piece. Fold in half. Cut out flag. Color. Paste inside book. Older students may want to write a few flag facts in the book as well.