

WORDS

appearance = the way someone looks

assistant = a person who helps someone

by your own rules = in your own way ; you don't care about other people

chapel = a small church or a room in a church

citizen = a person who lives in a country and has rights there

completely = totally

complicated = not very easy and difficult to understand

compose = to write music

composer = a person who writes music

create = here: to write

deaf = if you cannot hear anything

force = to make you do something that you don't want to

funeral = when you put a person who has died into a grave

genius = a person who is very , very intelligent and who can do things only a few people can do

joy = great happiness

organist = a person who play the organ

pain = to suffer from something that hurts you

practise = to play regularly so that you get better

public = here: in front of people

sonata = a piece of music with three or four parts that is written for the piano

stay = trip , journey

string quartet = four people who play instruments with strings, like the violin

success = if you achieve what you wanted to

towards = near

untidy = if you are not organised and don't have things in the right place

Viennese = people of Vienna

Ludwig van Beethoven was one of the greatest **composers** in musical history. He was born in Bonn, Germany in 1770. Both his father Johann and his grandfather Ludwig were musicians.

EARLY LIFE

Ludwig's father gave him early musical training and hoped that the boy would become a musical **genius** like Mozart. He forced him to get up in the middle of the night and **practise** the piano.

When he was 7, Ludwig started playing in **public** and at the age of 13 became an **assistant organist** at a **chapel** in Cologne. In 1787 Ludwig van Beethoven travelled to Vienna where he met Mozart but after a short **stay** he had to go back to Bonn because his mother had died. He returned back to Vienna in 1792 , where he stayed until his death.

Vienna was one of the great musical centres of Europe during this time. Some of the city's upper class **citizens** had already heard of Beethoven and were interested in his music. They gave him money to live and study. In Vienna Ludwig also met Joseph Haydn and became his **pupil** for a short time. The **Viennese** thought that Beethoven was a strange man with his **untidy appearance**. He had wild black hair and lived **by his own rules**.

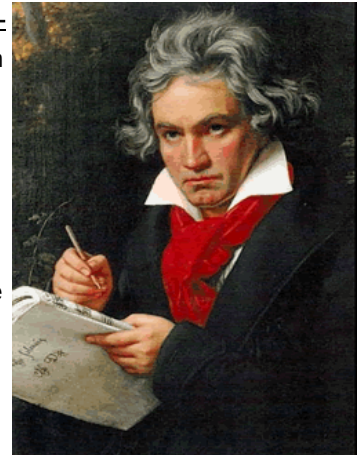
During his time in Vienna he became more and more famous, gave great concerts and went on tours to Berlin and Prague.

DEAFNESS

In the late 1790s Beethoven **discovered** that he was slowly becoming **deaf**. This became a great crisis in his life. But it was during this time that Ludwig van Beethoven wrote the best **works** of his life. In his music he showed his **joy** and emotions , but also his **pain**. He **composed** his most popular **symphony**, the Fifth and his famous opera , Fidelio. By 1820 Beethoven became **completely deaf**. He didn't show himself in **public** very much and spent most of his time writing music.

HIS LAST YEARS

In his last years Beethoven **created** longer and more **complicated** works. **Towards** the end of his life he wrote his Ninth **Symphony**, which also became his last. It was a great **success**, even though Beethoven couldn't hear his music. He also **composed sonatas** , music for **string quartets** . Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna in 1827. Many music lovers of that time came to the **funeral**. Since then his music has become very **popular** and is played in concert halls all over the world.



A page from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony