Opera Unit: Fifth Grade

This unit focuses on Mozart’s Opera, The Magic Flute. Throughout the unit, students learn the terminology and jobs of four professions in the opera world. The unit culminates with students organizing a performance of a portion of Act One. Using their knowledge of the professions in opera, students break into small groups to create the set, costumes, music, and performers needed for an opera.

**Day One**: Intro

Listening: Overture from The Magic Flute

Page 1 of Packet: What is Opera?

Watch Wagner clip

Opera is exciting: Read page 2

Watch Met Season clip

**Day Two**: The Magic Flute

Listening: Overture, again

Read The Magic Flute:

Who was Mozart?

Write synopsis, page 2

Why do we do this? Discuss standards.

**Day Three**: The Performers

Listening: Queen of the Night Aria

Page 3:

Review Magic Flute and characters

Which character is which voice type?

Watch English and German YouTube clips.

Compare and contrast, page 10

**Day Four**: Behind the Scenes

Listening: Queen of the Night, again

Page 4: Behind the Scenes

Look at costumes

Look at scenery examples

Opera Word Match- tear off and turn in!

**Day Five**: Composer’s job

What is a composer?

Who composed the magic flute?

Review Ostinato.

Explain Leitmotifs.

Play Jaws theme.

Remind them of “The Ring,” written by Wagner.

How do you spell Wagner?

Wagner is the father of leitmotifs

Play examples of leitmotifs from The Ring.

Find them here: http://www.trell.org/wagner/rhinegold.html

Students will think of two adjectives to describe the character or object.

Use Pair Share to keep students engaged.

Review jobs for project: Performers, Costume Designers, Set designers, Composers

Allow students to choose their top two job choices and turn in.

**Day Six**: Start group projects.

Things to consider…

How can I incorporate the unused pages of the packet?

Add page about composers and leitmotifs to packet.

Show clips from other operas after clean up.

Show Looney Tunes opera cartoon.