

Opera and the Natural World

Opera · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. In Puccini's 'Madama Butterfly', what is the titular character's given name, which translates to 'butterfly'?

A) Cio-Cio-San

B) Suzuki

C) Kate

D) Pinkerton

2. In Mozart's 'The Magic Flute', which bird-catcher character is dressed in colorful feathers?

A) Tamino

B) Sarastro

C) Papageno

D) Monostatos

3. Which animal does the character Siegfried slay in Wagner's 'Siegfried' to claim the Rhine gold?

A) A giant wolf

B) A dragon

C) A sea serpent

D) A mountain bear

4. Which insect is the subject of Rimsky-Korsakov's famous orchestral interlude 'The Flight of the...'?

A) Cricket

B) Dragonfly

C) Bumblebee

D) Locust

5. In Leos Janáček's 'The Cunning Little Vixen', the protagonist is a member of which animal species?

A) Badger

B) Wolf

C) Fox

D) Weasel

6. Which creature is prominently featured in the title of the opera 'The Nightingale' by Igor Stravinsky?

A) A bird

B) A horse

C) A fish

D) A cat

7. In Tchaikovsky's 'The Queen of Spades', the title refers to a specific card, but the opera features imagery of which bird associated with winter?

A) Raven

B) Swan

C) Owl

D) Falcon

8. The plot of 'The Pearl Fishers' by Bizet is set in which natural environment?

A) A deep jungle

B) A coastal village

C) A mountain peak

D) A desert oasis

9. Which large mammal is symbolically represented by the 'Beast' in the operatic adaptation of 'Beauty and the Beast' by Philip Glass?

A) Lion

B) Bear

C) Bison

D) Wolf

10. In 'Rusalka' by Antonín Dvořák, the main character is a water spirit often associated with which aquatic creature?

A) Fish

B) Mermaid

C) Frog

D) Turtle

11. The opera 'Brundibár' by Hans Krása centers on a conflict involving an organ grinder and which animal character?

A) A brave sparrow

B) A clever cat

C) A wise owl

D) A sneaky snake

12. Which natural disaster serves as the climax for the final act of Verdi's 'Aida', often staged with elaborate set designs of desert sands?

- A) Earthquake
- B) Sandstorm**
- C) Drought
- D) Flash flood

13. In the opera 'The Bartered Bride', which natural setting provides the backdrop for the circus and village activities?

- A) A lush Bohemian meadow**
- B) An icy tundra
- C) A dark cavern
- D) A volcanic island

14. What type of animal appears in the title of the opera 'L'Enfant et les Sortilèges' (The Child and the Spells), featuring a sequence of singing objects and creatures?

- A) Squirrel
- B) Frog
- C) Dragonfly
- D) All of the above**

15. Which of these birds appears prominently in the title of a famous opera by Giacomo Puccini?

- A) The Falcon
- B) The Dove
- C) The Swallow**
- D) The Eagle

16. In Wagner's 'Das Rheingold', the story begins at the bottom of which natural feature?

- A) A canyon
- B) A river**
- C) A volcano
- D) A glacier

17. Which animal is hunted during the forest scenes in Carl Maria von Weber's 'Der Freischütz'?

- A) Deer**
- B) Boar
- C) Rabbit
- D) Pheasant

18. The setting for the first act of 'La Bohème' is an attic, but the characters often compare their cold living conditions to which season of nature?

- A) Autumn
- B) Winter**
- C) Spring
- D) Summer