

Opera and the Natural World

Opera · Practice Test · 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