

Opera's Nature and Wildlife Connections

Opera · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which famous opera features a libretto inspired by an ancient Egyptian myth involving the Nile River and its associated flora and fauna, particularly papyrus reeds?

A) Turandot

B) Aida

C) La Gioconda

D) Madama Butterfly

2. In Richard Wagner's 'The Ring Cycle,' what type of mythical creature, often associated with subterranean elements and precious metals, plays a significant role in guarding the Rhinegold?

A) Dragons

B) Griffins

C) Nymphs

D) Nibelungs

3. The opera 'The Magic Flute' by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart prominently features birds and the natural world. Which character is often depicted with bird-like attributes or associated with avian companions?

A) Sarastro

B) The Queen of the Night

C) Papageno

D) Tamino

4. Which opera, set in the Arctic, indirectly addresses themes of environmental change and survival through its depiction of a vast, icy landscape and the pursuit of a polar bear?

A) Fidelio

B) Das Rheingold

C) The Nose

D) Wozzeck

5. The opera 'Luisa Miller' by Giuseppe Verdi includes a character who is a forester and often sings of the mountains and forests. What is his profession?

A) Miller

B) Hunter

C) Woodcutter

D) Farmer

6. In Giacomo Puccini's 'Madama Butterfly,' the geisha Cio-Cio San's love is symbolized by a blossoming flower. Which specific type of flowering tree is traditionally associated with her homeland, Japan, and its transient beauty?

- A) Magnolia
- B) Cherry Blossom (Sakura)**
- C) Wisteria
- D) Azalea

7. The opera 'La Bohème' by Giacomo Puccini, while set in Paris, features characters who often struggle with poverty and lack of resources, indirectly highlighting societal impacts on access to basic environmental needs. Which of the following is NOT a common theme or element directly depicted in the opera's setting regarding basic environmental access?

- A) Heating
- B) Clean water
- C) Adequate food
- D) Polluted air**

8. Which opera features a scene where a character disguises himself as a gardener and sings about the beauty and cultivation of plants, symbolizing hope and renewal?

- A) Le Nozze di Figaro**
- B) Così fan tutte
- C) Don Giovanni
- D) Die Zauberflöte

9. In Benjamin Britten's 'Peter Grimes,' the harsh marine environment and the fishing community's reliance on the sea are central. The opera uses imagery and sounds that evoke which specific type of coastal natural phenomenon?

- A) Volcanic eruptions
- B) Monsoons
- C) Storms and sea spray**
- D) Desert winds

10. The opera 'Tosca' by Giacomo Puccini has a famous aria where the protagonist expresses her desire to escape to nature. She sings of a place far from the city's oppression. Which natural landscape does she yearn for?

- A) A vast desert
- B) A secluded forest
- C) A sunny countryside villa**
- D) A mountain peak

11. The opera 'The Cunning Little Vixen' by Leos Janáček is heavily inspired by nature and the animal kingdom. Which of the following animals is NOT a central character or significant figure in the opera's narrative?

- A) Fox
- B) Badger
- C) Deer**
- D) Wolf

12. In Charles Gounod's 'Faust,' the pact with the devil often involves temptations related to earthly pleasures. The opera utilizes natural imagery to represent innocence and purity, contrasting with the corruption. Which of the following natural elements is most prominently used to symbolize Marguerite's purity and eventual downfall?

- A) A river
- B) A flower garden**
- C) A forest clearing
- D) A mountain stream

13. The opera 'Porgy and Bess' by George Gershwin, set in the fictional Catfish Row, vividly portrays the challenging environment of a poor African American community. The title itself references a creature often found in such aquatic settings. What does 'Porgy' refer to?

- A) A type of fish
- B) A type of shellfish**
- C) A type of seabird
- D) A type of seaweed

14. The opera 'Nixon in China' by John Adams, while contemporary, features a scene that reflects on the vastness and emptiness of a specific natural landscape. Which of these landscapes is famously depicted as a symbol of China's scale and isolation in the opera?

- A) The Gobi Desert**
- B) The Himalayas
- C) The Tibetan Plateau
- D) The Loess Plateau

15. In Ottorino Respighi's orchestral suite 'Pines of Rome,' which movement specifically depicts the pines of the Villa Borghese and the sounds of children playing, evoking a sense of natural beauty and joy in an urban park setting?

A) The Pines of the Villa Borghese

B) The Pines of the Via Appia

C) The Pines of the Janiculum

D) The Pines of the Catacombs