

Nature and Animals in Music History

Music History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which composer famously used bird calls transcribed from nature in his 'Catalogue d'oiseaux'?

- A) Olivier Messiaen**
- B) Claude Debussy
- C) Erik Satie
- D) Maurice Ravel

2. The material used to make the strings of lutes and violins before the modern synthetic era was traditionally sourced from which animal part?

- A) Sheep intestines**
- B) Horse hair
- C) Cow bone
- D) Rabbit fur

3. Camille Saint-Saëns composed a famous musical suite depicting various animals; what is its title?

- A) The Wildlife Suite
- B) The Carnival of the Animals**
- C) The Zoo Symphony
- D) Nature's Chorus

4. Which famous composer wrote 'The Trout' (Die Forelle), a lied inspired by the movement of a fish in a brook?

- A) Franz Schubert**
- B) Ludwig van Beethoven
- C) Johannes Brahms
- D) Robert Schumann

5. The 'Vivaldi's Four Seasons' is a violin concerto cycle that depicts what aspect of the natural environment?

- A) Industrial progression
- B) Meteorological and seasonal changes**
- C) Human migration patterns
- D) Ocean currents

6. The didgeridoo, an ancient instrument from Indigenous Australian music, is traditionally crafted from wood hollowed out by which creature?

- A) Termites**
- B) Beetles
- C) Woodpeckers
- D) Earthworms

7. Which 20th-century composer incorporated recordings of whale songs into his 1970 work 'Voice of the Whale'?

- A) George Crumb**
- B) John Cage
- C) Philip Glass
- D) Steve Reich

8. What substance, derived from pine tree resin, is rubbed onto the hair of a violin bow to create friction against strings?

- A) Rosin**
- B) Varnish
- C) Lacquer
- D) Turpentine

9. Which bird's song is mimicked by the flute in the famous 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy' from Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker'?

- A) It does not mimic a bird**
- B) The Nightingale
- C) The Mockingbird
- D) The Starling

10. Beethoven's 'Symphony No. 6' is nicknamed the 'Pastoral' because it captures the atmosphere of:

- A) The deep ocean
- B) The countryside and nature**
- C) Urban parks
- D) Arctic landscapes

11. Which traditional wind instrument is often made from the bone of a vulture or a swan?

- A) Flute**
- B) Trumpet
- C) Tuba
- D) Clarinet

12. What common musical instrument component is traditionally made from the hair of a horse's tail?

- A) Violin bow**
- B) Piano hammer
- C) Guitar bridge
- D) Drum stick

13. The 'Cuckoo' is a recurring musical motif in many works, most famously appearing in Vivaldi's 'Spring' and works by which other composer?

- A) Louis-Claude Daquin**
- B) Gustav Mahler
- C) Richard Wagner
- D) Igor Stravinsky

14. What type of animal hide is the most historically common material used for the head of a djembe drum?

- A) Goat**
- B) Elephant
- C) Snake
- D) Bear

15. Which composer's 'The Lark Ascending' is a musical depiction of a bird rising into the sky?

- A) Ralph Vaughan Williams**
- B) Edward Elgar
- C) Benjamin Britten
- D) Gustav Holst