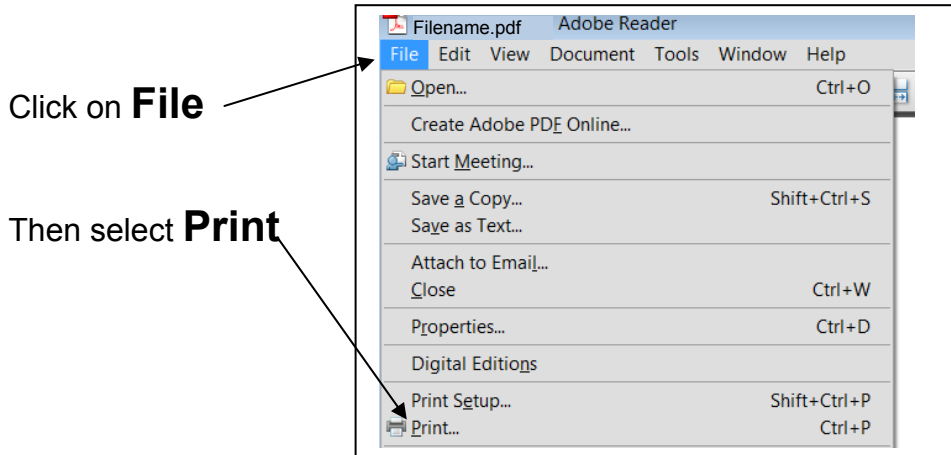


Printing Instructions when printing from Adobe Acrobat Reader.



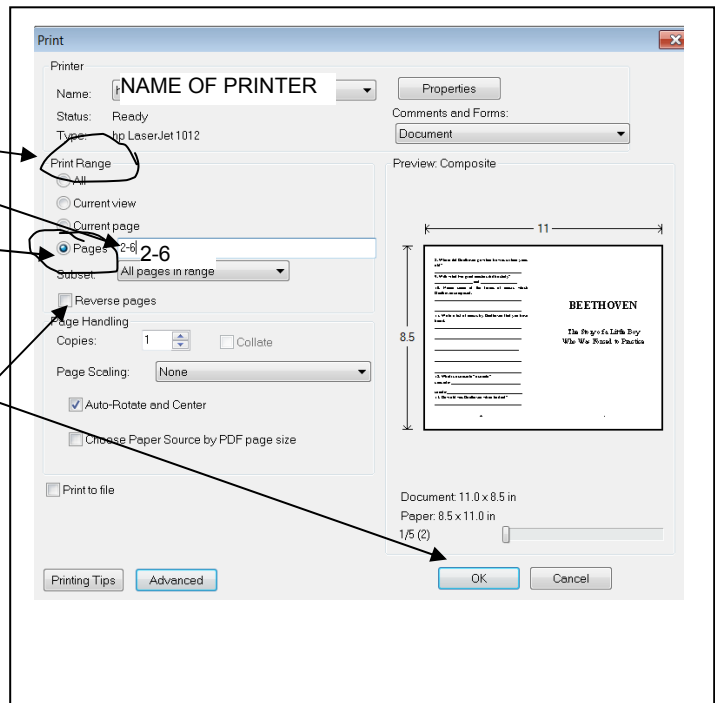
The print dialogue box will appear.

Under **Print Range**

Check the **Pages** button and type in **2-6**,

Click on the **OK** button.

Return the printed pages to the paper tray (refer to your printer specifications to insert paper face up or face down when printing double-sided). Repeat the steps above **EXCEPT** this time you will print pages **7-11** AND you must check the box to **Reverse pages**.



Your pages should come out of the printer ready to be folded in half and secured with three staples on the left margin.

All printers are different and this is a general guideline. You may need to experiment to desired end result.



VERDI AS A YOUNG MAN.

GIUSEPPE VERDI

The Story of the Little Boy
Who Loved the Hand Organ

This book was made by

7. What is a spinet?

8. In what famous city did he study as a boy?

9. How many operas, in all, did Verdi compose?

10. What country is the scene for Aida?

11. How did Verdi devote his fortune to helping other musicians?

Giuseppe Verdi

The Story of the Little Boy Who Loved the Hand Organ

Giuseppe Verdi was born in the village of Roncole, Italy on October 10th, 1813.

Of course, one is not born a great composer. He has to become that. So, at the moment this story begins there is a little boy quite like any other boy. He loved to play, make a noise and to have a good time. But most of all he loved the hand organ.

Giuseppe could not be kept indoors. He followed the wonderful organ and the wonderful man who played it, all day long, as happy as he could be.

When Giuseppe was seven years old his father, though only a poor innkeeper, bought him a spinet, a sort of small piano. So faithfully did the little boy practice that the spinet was soon worn out. New jacks, or hammers, had to be made for it. This was done by Stephen Cavaletti, who wrote a message on one of the jacks telling that he made them anew and covered them with leather, and fixed the pedal, doing all for nothing, because the little boy, Giuseppe Verdi, showed such willingness to practice and to learn.

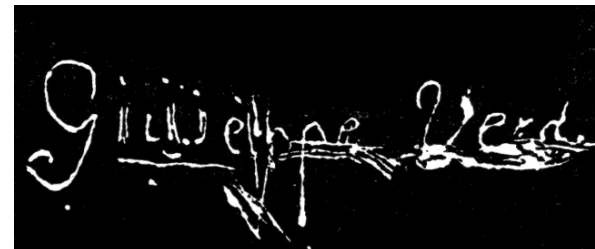
Read these facts about Giuseppe Verdi. Then, using your own words, write a story about him on pages 13 and 14.

1. Giuseppe Verdi was born in Roncole, Italy on October 10th, 1813.
2. He began to learn the spinet when he was seven years old.
3. The spinet is an early form of the piano.
4. Among the great composers who were alive when Verdi was a little boy were: Beethoven, Schubert, Berlioz, and Schumann.
5. He became organist at Roncole when he was ten years old.
6. He went to school in Busseto and lived with a cobbler.
7. He studied in Milan but not at the famous Milan Conservatory, for he was told there that he had no special talent for music.
8. Verdi wrote thirty operas. The first opera was performed in 1839, when he was twenty-six years old.
9. Verdi founded the Casa di Riposo (House of Rest).
10. Besides the thirty operas Verdi wrote a string quartet, The Manzoni Requiem, and a National Hymn.
11. For a period of sixteen years Verdi wrote no operas. Then he produced his two great works, Othello and Falstaff.
12. He died in Milan on January 27th, 1901.

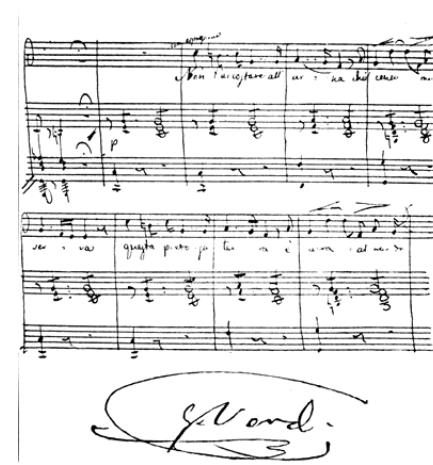
hammer. Fortunately the noise he made brought his father into the room and the spinet was saved.

When he was ten years old Giuseppe became organist at the old church of Roncole. One day he scratched his name on the woodwork. Here is a picture of the organ:

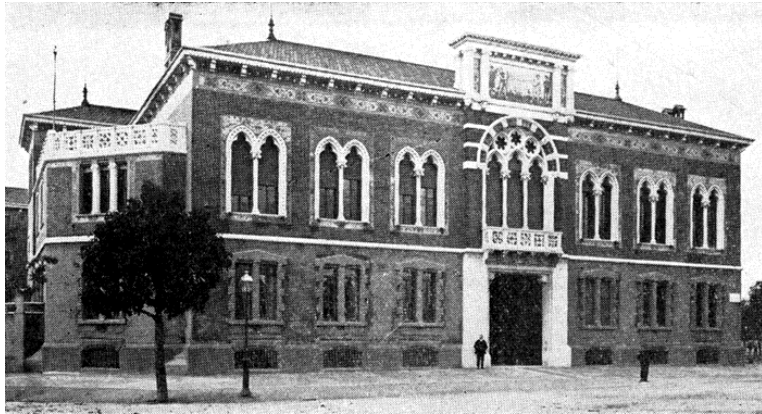
Here is the scratching of his name on the organ:



Here is how he wrote his name as a man:



In the **Verdi Home for Aged Musicians** there are many souvenirs of this great Italian composer.



VERDI HOME FOR AGED MUSICIANS

Verdi was loved by his fellow-countrymen. His music is their joy—and ours—and will remain so for years to come.

he played the flute in the church. At his house Giuseppe heard lots of good music, for the town orchestra rehearsed there.

Then Giuseppe made another friend who gave him a wonderful bit of advice. HE URGED HIM TO BECOME A COMPOSER!

Better still he helped the boy in every way he could until he was sixteen years old. By that time Giuseppe had grown to be quite a man. His friend, whose name was Ferdinando Provesi, was proud of him, for already he was becoming a master. He played the cathedral organ at times; he conducted the Philharmonic Orchestra; he led its rehearsals, and he composed music for its concerts.

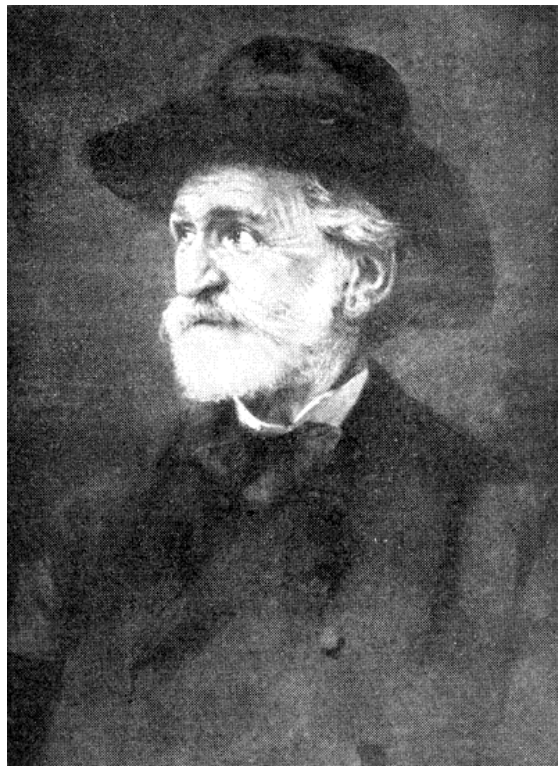
So, as the years went by, he kept on learning more and more, doing his work well and always preparing himself for better things. Then one day he was ready to begin to compose the operas that made him famous.

Some time when you read the full list of Verdi's operas you will learn that he wrote thirty. The first was performed in 1839, when he was twenty-six years old, and the last in 1893

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Verdi Quiz



Giuseppe Verdi

Born

Died

1. When and where was Verdi born?

2. How old was Verdi when he died?

3. Name three works by Verdi that are not operas.

4. What instruments did Verdi play as a boy?

5. What was the title of Verdi's first opera?

6. Write titles of his last two operas.

Then there came the question of education—of reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic—for this music-loving boy. His parents wanted Giuseppe to grow up as he should; so it was arranged for him to go to school in the neighboring town of Busseto. A cobbler lived there who was a friend of the family. Giuseppe went to live with him and received board, lodging, and tuition at the school. All of this for six cents a day.

Giuseppe still played the organ at Roncole, walking there every Sunday morning and returning after nightfall.

One Sunday night when it was dark and he was too weary to notice where he was going, he fell into a ditch, from which he was rescued by an old woman, who, hearing his call for help, pulled the half-frozen Giuseppe out of the water.

Giuseppe had another talent besides music. He knew how to win the friendship of people. So at Busseto a man named Barezzi offered to take him into his business. He sold spices, drugs, and perfumes. But besides this

THE END

Turn the page to review interesting facts about Verdi and complete two fun activities.

when he was eighty years old.

Here are the principal operas by Verdi:

Ernani	Rigoletto	Il Trovatore
La Traviata	Sicilian Vespers	Othello
Aida	Masked Ball	Falstaff

The *Masked Ball* was first entitled Gustavo III. But the authorities would not allow reference to certain political matters in it. Therefore the libretto (or story) of the opera was changed, and the scene became Boston, Massachusetts. One of the characters was the Governor of Boston, a humorous matter to us, for there never was any such official.

Another famous opera by Verdi is *Aida*. It was written for the Khedive of Egypt, and first performed in Cairo in 1871, when the composer was fifty-eight years old.



SCENE FROM AIDA

After Verdi had composed *Aida* he wrote no more operas for sixteen years. Then to the great surprise of all the world he wrote two others, the finest of them all—*Othello* and *Falstaff*. These would be the last operas he would compose.

Meanwhile he was a farmer. He planted, harvested, helped his tenants, and urged them to cultivate the land carefully. He bought all kinds of American farming machinery to show the Italians how to cultivate the ground to the best advantage.

The great man, who was once a simple little boy, died in Milan on January 27th, 1901.

Verdi was well respected and honored in Italy. Over twenty-five thousand people lined the streets for his funeral.

All his life Verdi had succeeded, doing a little more and a little better each year, so that, at the end of his life, he was able to do a truly wonderful thing: namely, to build a home where musicians—who had not succeeded in life—could find a comfortable abiding place in their old age.

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