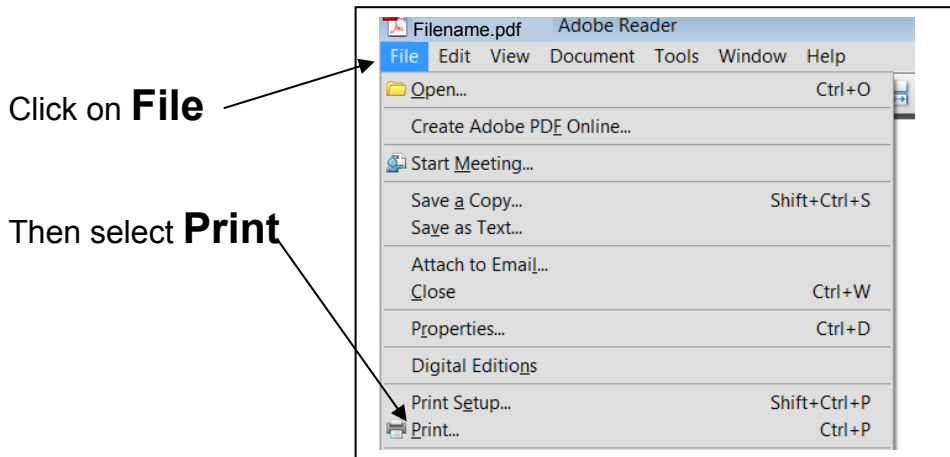


## Printing Instructions when printing from Adobe Acrobat Reader.



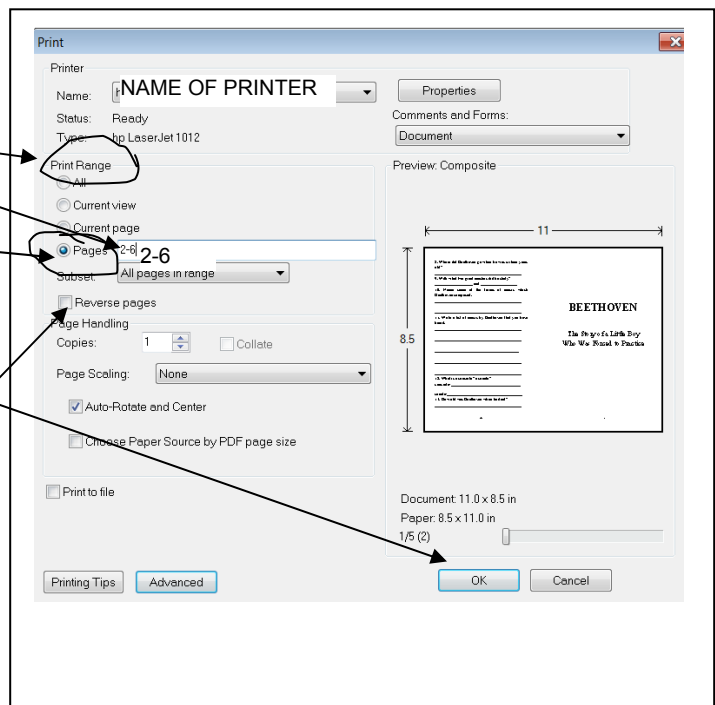
The print dialogue box will appear.

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.



**HANDEL AT THE KEYBOARD**

# HANDEL

The Story of a Little Boy  
Who Practiced in an Attic

This book was made by

---

9. Of what country did he become a citizen?

---

10. Name some of the famous composers of the day whom Handel knew.

---

11. What kinds of music did Handel write?

---

12. What form of music is the *Messiah*?

---

13. What was the *Water Music*?

---

14. How did Handel come to write the *Water Music*?

---

15. When did Handel die and where is he buried?

---

# HANDEL

## The Story of a Little Boy Who Practiced in an Attic



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

1. Born in Halle, Germany, February 23rd, 1685.
2. His full name was George Frederick Handel.
3. As a little boy he practiced the harpsichord in the attic.
4. He played the organ for the Duke of Saxe-Weissenfels and won the Duke's attention.
5. The Duke advised the father to let the boy study music.
6. His first teacher was Zachau, who taught him many things, including organ and harpsichord playing.
7. After a few years with Zachau he went to Berlin.
8. Handel then returned to Halle, but after his father's death he went to Hamburg.
9. In Hamburg he and Johann Mattheson became good friends.
10. He lived in Italy for three years.
11. Handel wrote the *Water Music* for a royal boat procession on the river Thames.
12. For many years Handel composed operas, but finally he won fame by writing oratorios.
13. He wrote the *Messiah* and many other oratorios well known today.
14. He became blind toward the end of his life.
15. He died on Good Friday, 1759.

One day when little George was seven years old his father set out by coach to visit another son, who was in the service of the Duke of Saxe-Weissenfels. The little boy begged his father to let him go on the journey. "No," he replied, "you are too young to go so far."

However, when the coach set out George Frederick set out too on foot to follow, and he would not be sent home again.

He kept on trudging along as fast as his little feet would go. Everyone hoped he would get tired and go back, but finally the father had to order the coach to stop and take him in. Thus did he show the determination which helped him all his life.

When they arrived at the castle the boy soon made friends with the chapel musicians. They took him to the organ loft, where he played for them.

All were delighted with his talent. One day the Duke himself heard him play. He, too, was astonished that one so young should show so much skill. Calling the father into his presence, he pointed out how wrong it was to deny the

Perhaps the most famous of all his oratorios is the *Messiah*. When this was sung for the first time in London the king and all present rose at the words—*For the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth*. Thus came the custom of rising at the singing of the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Handel loved England and became a naturalized British subject.

A great lover of children, Handel once conducted the *Messiah* for the benefit of a hospital for little children, to which he gave large sums.

Toward the end of his life he became blind. When someone would lead him to the organ loft, with his wonderful skill, he could still charm and delight.

The last appearance that Handel made in public was to conduct the *Messiah*. A few days later, on Good Friday, April 13th, 1759, he passed away.

The English people loved and admired him so much that he was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Handel studied with Zachau for three years. The teacher said one day, "The boy knows more than I do." So he was sent to Berlin, when he was eleven years old, to find other teachers.

Here he met two famous men, Buononcini and Ariosti. The former was harsh and unkind to him, but Ariosti treated him kindly and encouraged him. They all met again in later years in London.

When Handel was twelve years old his father died. From that time on he worked hard to perfect himself in his profession. He became an organist in Halle, but soon left there for Hamburg, which at that time was renowned for its music.

In Hamburg Handel began to make many friends, one of whom was Johann Mattheson. One day Handel and Mattheson went to Lubeck, where, at one of the churches, an organist was wanted. Mattheson wished to try out for the position, but when he learned he would have to marry the daughter of the old organist he and Handel went back to Hamburg.

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# Handel Quiz



**George Frederick Handel**

Born

---

Died

---

1. In what year was Handel born?

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2. What other great composer was born the same year in Germany?

---

3. What was the profession of Handel's father?

---

4. How did it come about that Handel was allowed to study music?

---

5. Who was Handel's first teacher?

---

6. What subjects did he study with his teacher?

---

7. What instruments did Handel play?

---

8. In what other cities and countries did Handel live?

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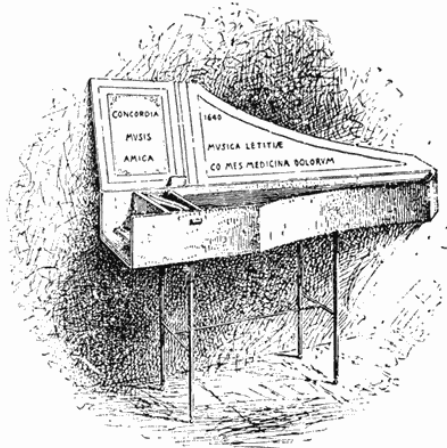




boy the right to study music. "The world," he said, "should have the good of your son's great ability."

At the Cathedral in Handel's home city, Halle, there was a famous organist named Zachau. He became the boy's teacher. He had lessons from Zachau not only in organ playing, but in harmony, counterpoint, canon, and fugue; and in hautbois, violin, and harpsichord playing.

If you will look at this picture of the harpsichord on which Handel played, you will see that it is unlike the grand piano of today. How does it differ? And yet for this simple instrument Handel wrote beautiful music.



**HANDEL HARPSICHORD.**

# THE END

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

Though Handel went to Hamburg an unknown boy, he soon became famous. Here he wrote sacred music and his first operas.

When Handel was twenty-two years old he went to Italy, where he stayed for three years. Here he met and became very friendly with Corelli and the two Scarlattis.

After his residence in Italy Handel went back to Germany, where he met the Elector of Hanover, who induced him to accept the post of Capellmeister. Handel agreed to do this on condition that he might first visit England.

When Handel reached England he found himself already well known there. The English people knew his operas, and liked them so much that Handel decided to stay.

But to his surprise and confusion it happened while he was in London that the very Elector of Hanover became George I, King of England. Handel expected he would fare badly with the king for not having returned as Capellmeister to Germany. But a friend arranged the matter so that Handel should compose some music for the king's

coronation, hoping thereby to please his majesty.

He composed twenty-five pieces, called *Water Music*. A boat containing the players followed the boat in which the king sat. When the music was performed the king asked who composed it. This led to Handel's being invited into the royal boat, where he again won the king's favor.

For many years the writing and staging of operas took all of Handel's time and thought, but he was not destined to make it a true success. Handel was a very fine performer at the keyboard.

Once again Handel visited his native land. He then to England, which would become his home for the future, and he was asked by a wealthy gentleman, the Duke of Chandos, to become composer at the ducal residence. Handel accepted this offer and composed a lot of beautiful music.

Although Handel was unsuccessful as an opera composer, he wrote some of the loveliest music the world possesses.

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