

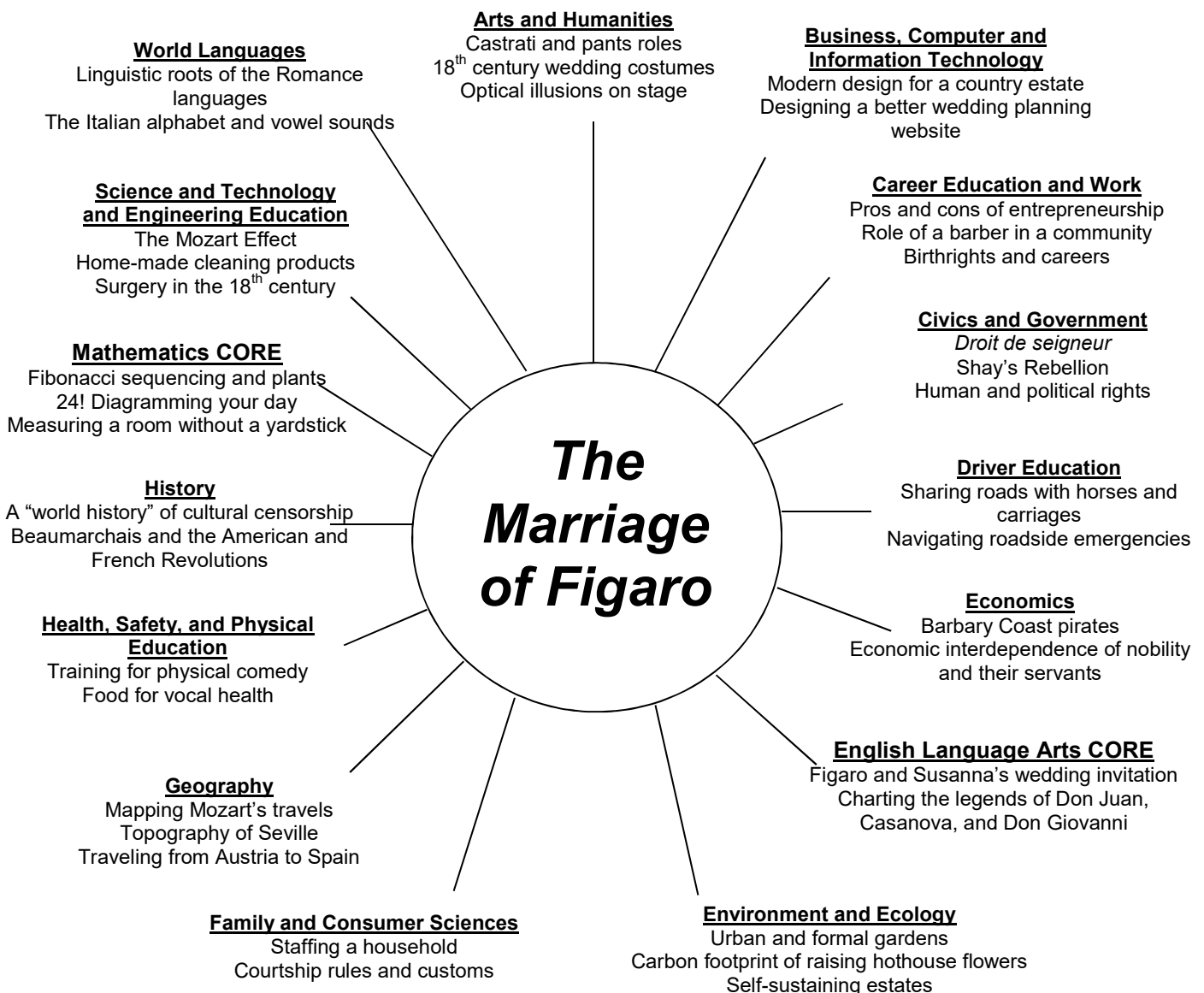
Lesson Plan Stems

Developed by Opera on TAP, past and present:

Tara Beichner	Ann Giorgi	Lindsay McGinnis
Athena Bober	Lori Greene	Marsha Owens
Carol Brinjak	Tirrell Grimsley	Donna Priore
Randy Broker	Fred Guerriero	Krista Reitz
Nicole Brugnoli Sheaffer	Braná Hill	Marie Romanelli, editor
Anne Christianson	Christy Hinkelman	Christina Salgado
Lia Christulides	Cynthia Jankowski	Wasana Sriprachya-anunt
Lee Ann Conover	Robert Lee	Shirley Tucker
Marilyn Egan	James Lueers	Celeste Vitunic
Deb Frauenholz		Ben Werley

Curriculum Circle for *The Marriage of Figaro*

How does the opera *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart intersect with all academic content areas? Begin with the opera and brainstorm connections to all curricula.



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Lesson Plan Stems for *The Marriage of Figaro*

How does the opera *The Marriage of Figaro* intersect with all academic content areas?
 Begin with a lesson plan stem and connect the opera to classroom curricula.

NOTES: Suggested grade levels are listed to the right of each lesson plan stem.
 PreK = Pre-school, ES = elementary, MS = middle school, HS = high school

Lesson Plan Stems in the English Language Arts and Mathematics sections are *Common Core Friendly*, and are marked:



CCF

Arts and Humanities

State Standards: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4

- Use scarves to show how *The Marriage of Figaro* Overture moves fast, being careful to move only in your own space. PreK
- March to the music of “Non più andrai” in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Go when the music goes and stop when the music stops. Practice marching with your hands, fingers, elbows, and feet. PreK
- What is Figaro’s voice type in Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro*? This same character appears in Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville*. What is Figaro’s voice type in Rossini’s opera? Why might they be different? ES/MS
- Compare the Countess’ aria “Dove sono” with the soprano aria, “Agnus Dei”, from Mozart’s *Coronation Mass in C Major*. What is similar about these two pieces? Why do you think Mozart changed the music from one to the other? Is it common for composers to borrow music from their other works? ES/MS
- In the opera, the chorus parts are labeled “SATB.” What does this mean? What voices and voice types sing certain kinds or styles of music? ES/MS
- What is an *opera buffa*? Compare video scenes from *opera buffa* to slapstick comedy and *commedia dell’arte*. ES/MS

What is the role of the <i>castrati</i> and how are those roles portrayed today?	ES/MS
Define “pants role.” Is it the same as a “trouser role”? Which character in this opera is a pants role? Who used to sing these kinds of parts?	ES/MS
What are the voice types for the lead roles in <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> ? Are these common voice types for lead roles? What distinguishes a voice type?	ES/MS
Of all the lead characters, why do you think Mozart only wrote two tenor roles? Why are both Figaro and Count Almaviva bass-baritones? To what extent do voice types have something to do with characterization?	ES/MS
Plan and demonstrate a masquerade ball at the time of <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> . What new skills would need to be learned?	ES/MS
What type of music would have been played at Figaro’s wedding? How does that music compare to the music most commonly performed at wedding ceremonies today?	ES/MS
Why is it important for an opera to have a certain number of each voice part? Why are there certain ratios maintained when dealing with the voice parts in the chorus?	MS/HS
<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> is considered the best opera ever written. What movie of today is the best ever? Explore the music of each. Make a timeline of movies for reference of discussion. Compare criticism of then and now. How has the process of arts criticism changed since Mozart’s day?	MS/HS
Compare <i>The Barber of Seville</i> and <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> . How is Rossini’s music different from Mozart’s? How are the characters portrayed differently by the two composers? How are the overtures different?	MS/HS
What are some of Mozart’s most famous compositions? How would he rate on a versatility scale compared to other composers?	MS/HS
How do disguises impact and affect our understanding of people and events? What kinds of disguises have been used throughout history?	MS/HS
Explore optical illusions in several art media. How are optical illusions used in the theater?	MS/HS
Design the set and scenery for the marriage scene in two or more styles or historical periods. What elements can be manipulated to change styles?	MS/HS
What other operas involve weddings? Design an appropriate wedding gown for Susanna, considering her station in life. What would wedding gowns have looked like at the time this opera is set? When did the Western convention of a white wedding gown emerge?	MS/HS

Business, Computer, and Information Technology

State Standards: 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9

- Look at some images of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on the computer to select the one for an adult to print. Why did you choose the one you chose? PreK
- Pretend you are having a wedding. Do you want to be the bride or groom? Do you want to take the photographs? Do you want to arrange the flowers? Who are the people who have jobs at a wedding? PreK
- What is an entrepreneur? What entrepreneurial skills does someone need to become a wedding planner, and grow their business? ES/MS
- Explore different websites that help couples plan wedding create a graphic organizer to compare the results of your exploration. Which websites are easiest to navigate and/ or the most helpful for wedding planning? What features or design made these websites “better” than others? If you were to create your own wedding planner website, what would you include or change in your website that makes your site better that the existing websites? ES/MS
- The opera opens with Figaro measuring the room with his hands to see if a new bed will fit. What technology-based measuring tools are now available that would help make Figaro’s measurements more accurate? ES/MS
- Create an “Airbnb” listing for a country estate in Seville, Spain. What information would you need to include in your listing? What amenities could a country estate offer travelers? How much would you charge per day? ES/MS
- Using a computer-aided modeling program (such as CAD,) design a country estate to resemble that of an 18th century design. What essential elements did estate buildings include? Compare that to a modern design for a country estate. What elements have changed from the 18th century to now? What elements would modern designers include to make their buildings “state of the art” designs? What role would computer technology play in the function of your modern country estate? MS/HS
- Investigate landscaping programs used by professional landscapers to plan gardens. Using this software, design an “evening” garden for Act IV. What considerations must your design take into account, based on the description of the scene and the action within? MS/HS

Career Education and Work

State Standards: 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4

Figaro is a butler. Practice being a butler to answer the door, check off names on a guest list, lay out someone's clothes, and carry a tray of food.	PreK
Cherubino is a teenage boy in <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> . Ask some teenagers what they want to do when they grow up. What do you want to do when you grow up?	PreK
Figaro is the Count's major-domo. Is a major-domo the same as a valet? Compare the job responsibilities of a major-domo to those of a concierge, a personal assistant, an au pair, and a butler.	ES/MS
This opera is set to take place all within a one-day period. How much does each of these people earn in one day: Bill Gates, President of the U.S., your school district's superintendent, teachers at the top and at the bottom of your district's pay scale, a Pittsburgh Steelers football player, a union steelworker, and a McDonald's employee.	ES/MS
Define the roles of a barber in a community at the time the opera <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> takes place. Compare that role to the job description of a barber today.	ES/MS
How does a person get a job as a private music teacher? How do you find private teachers, and how much does a private teacher cost per lesson? How many students would a private teacher need to have in order to support himself?	ES/MS
Antonio is the Count's gardener. If you wanted to become a gardener, landscaper, or a landscape architect, what training and education would you need? What are the pros and cons of being self-employed, an entrepreneur who starts his own landscaping business, or working for an established landscaping firm?	ES/MS
Susanna is a maid in the Count's household. Would she have been paid for her work? What would be the annual income of a live-in maid today?	MS/HS
Which characters in <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> would have been able to choose their careers? Which "landed" in their positions either through birth or through social class or circumstances?	MS/HS
Don Basilio is a "music master." Explore what a career as a private music teacher is like today, including private studio rental, policies, and contracts.	MS/HS
Don Curzio is a magistrate. What is a magistrate's job? How can one become a magistrate? How does one earn a job in these related professions: lawyer, judge, sheriff, justice of the peace, and city councilman?	MS/HS
Compare the career paths of Lorenzo da Ponte, Mozart's librettist, to that of a modern day librettist, Michael Korie. Research current Pittsburgh lyricist Linda Maras. Have you heard any of her songs?	MS/HS

Civics and Government

State Standards: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4

Governments make rules about who should pay taxes and for what purpose. What items are taxed at the grocery store? What is the tax money used for?	PreK
What does it mean to be a citizen of the United States? If you are not already a citizen, how can you become a citizen?	PreK
Count Almaviva assigns Cherubino to his regiment in Seville. How did the military of that time obtain soldiers? Was soldiering considered a good job? Why or why not? How are soldiers obtained or recruited nowadays?	ES/MS
At one point in the opera, Count Almaviva agrees to forego the <i>droit de seigneur</i> —the right of a nobleman to take a manservant’s place with his bride on the servant’s wedding night. What is a political right or a human right? What does it mean to say that people have “rights”? How is this <i>droit de seigneur</i> similar or different from our modern concepts of rights?	MS/HS
The <i>droit de seigneur</i> also allowed noblemen to levy taxes on the vassals that worked their land. For what were these taxes used? How do these taxes compare to the taxes we pay our different kinds of government: city, state, federal government? For what are our current taxes used?	MS/HS
In 18 th century Spain, where did a count such as Count Almaviva fit into the aristocratic hierarchy? How much political and social power did a count possess?	MS/HS
Shay’s Rebellion began in 1786, the same year in which <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> premiered. Compare Shay’s Rebellion to those of the peasant revolts that fueled the French Revolution. Why was the newly formed American government successful in quashing this revolt, and the French government unsuccessful in preventing their revolts?	MS/HS

Driver Education

State Standards: 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6

The Marriage of Figaro takes place in Seville, Spain, where there aren't any main streets that take you to the center of the city. Describe the main streets, side streets, alleys, and country roads near your home. PreK

Everyone in a car in Spain must wear a seat belt. Practice using a seat belt and helping someone else use one. PreK

Compare the expenses of owing a car to those of owning a carriage and horse. What are the costs associated with purchasing, owning, and operating each? Do (modern) carriage operators have to have operators' licenses? Must they carry insurance? ES/MS

In Mozart's time, the horse and carriage would have been the main form of transportation (apart from walking.) What were the "rules of the road" then for carriage operators? What inspections would have been done to insure safety? How would carriages have been repaired if they broke down? What protocol is used when a modern driver experiences a roadside emergency? MS/HS

What modern-day cultures eschew automobiles in favor of horse-driven carriages? Those conveyances must share the same roads with automobiles. What are the rules of the road for both autos and carriages? What are the penalties for disobeying those rules (assuming a driver gets caught...?) MS/HS

Economics

State Standards: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5

Mozart lived in Austria for much of his life. If you wanted to buy something that was made in Austria, how could you do that? Find out where your clothes and toys were made. PreK

Mozart's full name was Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart. Count the number of letters in each name. How many letters are there all together? How many letters are there in all your names? PreK

The Count is a member of the Spanish nobility. How did the noble class support its lifestyle in the 18th century? Describe a nobleman's estate as an economic system. MS/HS

In 1756, the year Mozart was born, Germany opened the first chocolate factory. How has the mass production of chocolate impacted the world economy? Which countries produce the most chocolate today? Create a map showing all the areas in the world involved in the chocolate trade. MS/HS

Lifestyles are interdependent. Describe the economic interdependence of the Count, Figaro (his major domo), and Susanna (his maid). MS/HS

In 1786, the year *The Marriage of Figaro* premiered, Nicholas Biddle, an American financier, was born. What is a financier? How did Biddle become one? What role do financiers play in today's economy? Are financiers regulated like banks? MS/HS

How many different money systems existed in Europe in 1786, the year *The Marriage of Figaro* premiered? Which countries' monies were most widely recognized and exchanged? How were monetary values established and maintained in the 18th century? How is the value of money fixed today? MS/HS

In 1786, the year the opera premiered, Barbary Coast pirates raided United States ships in the Mediterranean Ocean. What trade were the pirates targeting? How did piracy impact international trade in the 18th century? Are there still Barbary pirates today? What is the "cost" of modern-day piracy? MS/HS

English Language Arts CORE

State Standards: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5

Lesson Plan Stems in the English Language Arts section are *Common Core Friendly*:



Mozart's name begins with the letter "M". What are some other words that begin with "M"? Which of these words begin with an "M": music, marriage, magic, number, name, maestro? PreK

Listen to a short bio about Mozart. Who is the story about? Did Mozart compose music when he was a little boy? Did Mozart play instruments? What other facts did you hear in the story? PreK

Review the definitions for this vocabulary list: amorous, betrothed, boudoir, Casanova, enraged, estate, farcical, importuning, infatuation, inveighs, mad (not angry), *opera buffa*, philandering, prolific, rendezvous, rhapsodize, scheming, slimy (not texture), sour (not food). Match these words to the characters in the opera who you think they best describe. ES/MS

Write a journal from Figaro's perspective that retells this opera's story. ES/MS

What does the Countess mean by forgiveness? Look at the concept of forgiveness in this opera, and brainstorm other literature wherein this concept is also a central theme. ES/MS

This opera was unusual for its time because the servants "outwit" their masters. What are some other stories in which the servant is cleverer than the master? ES/MS

- Read the synopsis of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Create a graphic organizer that identifies and summarizes the following elements of fiction: characters, setting, problem (conflict), complications, climax, resolution, and (if applicable) author's message to the reader. ES/MS
- At the end of the opera, all the characters are reunited, and the "mad" day ends. Explore the many meanings of the word "mad". How has the meaning changed? How do we use this word today? Who is "mad" in this opera? ES/MS
- The Marriage of Figaro* is a comic opera. Use the writing process (brainstorm, draft, edit, revise, publish) to create your own comic story about a "mad" day in your own life. ES/MS
- In 1756, the year Mozart was born, Casanova escaped from Piombi. This type of colorful character seems to have made an impression on Mozart, as many years later he wrote the opera *Don Giovanni*, a similar type of character. Who was Casanova? Create a graphic organizer comparing the legends of Casanova, Don Giovanni, and Don Juan. MS/HS
- Design a wedding invitation for Figaro and Susanna. Create a formal invitation, an informal invitation, and an e-vite invitation. What is the difference in the wording and format of each? What message about the wedding does each version send to the receiver? MS/HS
- Create a photomontage of "A Day in the Life of..." to illustrate the mad day of *The Marriage of Figaro*. What is a "Mad Day"—Ferris Bueller's Day Off? What is a "Mad Day" in a student's life? Compare the photo collections *A Day in the Life of America* to *Day in the Life of Ivan Desonovich*. Create your own "A Day in My Life" book. MS/HS
- What did Mozart and Lorenzo du Ponte alter from the Beaumarchais play to create *The Marriage of Figaro*? What are the results or effects of these alterations from the play to the opera? Why did Mozart and de Ponte make these changes? MS/HS
- There are three Beaumarchais plays that comprise this trilogy of Figaro stories. Explore the third play in the trilogy that Beaumarchais wrote: "The Guilty Mother." Why is this play not performed as frequently as the other two (if it is performed at all)? What makes sequels successful? MS/HS

Environment and Ecology

State Standards: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5

- Mozart rode in a horse-drawn carriage when he travelled from city to city in Europe. What does a horse need to live? Who took care of the horse? Do you think Mozart liked horses? PreK
- When a carriage had to cross a river or a stream in Mozart's time, were there bridges? Would the water in the river have been clean? PreK
- In Act II of the opera, Antonio the gardener is furious because someone has crushed his plantings of geraniums. Try growing geraniums in the classroom. Compare the cost of growing these plants from seed and from cuttings. Which propagation method yielded the best results—seeds or cuttings? ES/MS
- Where are geraniums native plants? Create a graphic organizer to demonstrate a geranium's "carbon footprint." What technologies are needed to bring a geranium to Pittsburgh and to keep it alive? How long will a geranium plant live? Create a scientific model of the geranium plant. ES/MS
- Describe the differences between the formal gardens of the Count's estate and the different kinds of urban gardens that are becoming popular in Pittsburgh today. In what ways have human interactions with gardens changed or remained the same since the 18th century? Why do people have gardens? MS/HS
- There are a lot of "in the nick of time" escapes in this opera. Make a "trail of evidence" that a person leaves behind each day. In what ways can you reduce your own trail of evidence? If you were planning an escape, how might this analysis of this evidence trail be useful? MS/HS
- Create a model of an estate of the time of *The Marriage of Figaro*. On what would the estate's income be based? What are the important agricultural products that would have been produced by such an estate near Seville? MS/HS

Family and Consumer Sciences

State Standards: 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4

What is unique about your family? What special traditions do you celebrate on holidays and birthdays? Would you like to learn about how other families celebrate? PreK

Have you ever attended a wedding? What did you see? What did you eat? What did the bridal party wear? PreK

Count Almaviva's household staff included a valet, a page, a gardener, a maid, and a traveling music master. How many staff members could you use in your home? Describe their jobs. Would these staff members be full-time or part-time workers? Which jobs would receive more pay? Where would they live? ES/MS

In the opera, Marcellina wants Figaro to marry her to cancel a debt he cannot pay. Suggest solutions for paying off debts. Brainstorm other examples in literature or real life of debts that need to be paid. What are the consequences of not paying a debt? ES/MS

What crazy things happen on wedding days? Compare wedding customs and costs during the 18th century and now. Compare wedding music, dances, celebrations, and food then and now. What role have churches played then and now? MS/HS

Compare courting then and now. Compare courting, flirting, pursuing, having a crush, and being jealous. Does courting exist today? How would you describe it? Are girls flirting more today? Have courtship rules changed? Find examples in literature. MS/HS

The Marriage of Figaro is set in Seville. Plan a menu for a 100-guest wedding reception that serves only the ethnic foods and beverages of the region around Seville. What items will you feature on your menu? What will the cost be per person? MS/HS

Geography

State Standards: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4

Mozart and his wife Constanze lived in a grand apartment near St. Stephen's church in Vienna. Find Vienna on a map and imagine where Mozart walked. What did he see and hear from his apartment windows? What did his neighbors hear?	PreK
Look at a picture of the Hohensalzburg Castle high on a hill in Salzburg. How would you get to the castle? What could you see from the castle?	PreK
Locate Seville on a map, and find the towns in the countryside surrounding Seville. Describe the topography and weather of the countryside and what is produced there. Is Seville surrounded by plains, mountains, or ocean?	ES/MS
Locate Salzburg, Austria, where <i>The Sound of Music</i> was filmed, and where Mozart was born. Determine the distance between Salzburg and Seville. Describe the topography changes that a person would notice traveling between the two cities.	ES/MS
In Salzburg, where Mozart was born, Hohensalzburg Castle was built <i>above</i> the city, rather than inside the city. What was the purpose or function of the Castle? Why was this location chosen, and by whom? In your hometown, where would you erect a castle and why would this location be ideal?	ES/MS
Although <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> was banned in Vienna, it was staged in Seville. How would a person in the 18 th century have traveled from Vienna to Seville, and how long would it have taken that person to make this trip? How many miles is this journey? Using today's standards, how long would it take someone to travel this distance now, and what mode of travel would be the quickest?	ES/MS
Mozart traveled widely throughout Europe. Pinpoint the movements and the stages of his life's travels.	ES/MS
Seville is a harbor town in southern Spain. What is a harbor town? What economic advantages does this give Seville? What challenges are presented by its location?	ES/MS

Health, Safety, and Physical Education

State Standards: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5

Mozart played the piano very well. His piano usually didn't have pedals. What parts of his body did he use to play?	PreK
Mozart had very good rhythm when he played piano. Listen to a Mozart piano piece and move your fingers/hands/arms exactly the way the music sounds.	PreK
How do disagreements change people's plans? How do they affect opinions? Demonstrate the "give and take" of ideas in movement.	ES/MS
<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> is a comic opera, which involves some physical humor known as slapstick. How do actors train to deliver these kinds of physically comic performances? What other forms of entertainment require advanced physical training? What are the dangers inherent to performers during "stunts"?	MS/HS
Research the most popular dances that are usually performed at modern weddings, and compare to dances that were popular in the 18 th century. How many of these require special training to perform? How many are done by large groups? How many are "couples" dances? Learn one of the group dances and teach it to the class. Using what you've learned, make up a dance to be performed at Figaro's wedding.	MS/HS
In the opera, Count Almaviva hires a music teacher. What foods and liquids are best to maintain vocal health? What foods and liquids should a singer avoid?	MS/HS
Given the difference in their social standing, would Count Almaviva and his maid, Susanna, have eaten the same types of foods? Why or why not?	MS/HS

History

State Standards: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4

When Mozart was four years old, he started to take keyboard lessons. When he was five years old, he played music in public. Do you know anyone who takes music lessons?	PreK
Mozart travelled all over Europe when he was a child. Where have you travelled? Where will you go in the future?	PreK
Why did Vienna's power structure censor the performances of Beaumarchais plays? About what was the Viennese government concerned? Name other examples of government censorship of the arts. In each case, what was the government trying to prevent the public from seeing? Create a graphic organizer to show a "world history" of government-sponsored cultural censorship.	ES/MS
Find pictures of hatpins from the 18 th , 19 th , and early 20 th centuries. How much do these hatpins sell for in the antiques market? If you were writing an opera or play, how could you use such an object in the plot for a serious or comic effect?	ES/MS
Why are barbers' poles red and white? Research the historic role of barbers in their communities. How have those roles changed today? Are barbers and barbershops still culturally important?	ES/MS
Explore the life of Lorenzo da Ponte (1749-1838), the librettist. Why is he buried in Queens, NY? How does his life parallel the story line of <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> ?	ES/MS
Explore the connections between the life of Beaumarchais and the American Revolution. To what extent did Mozart's opera and Beaumarchais' plays influence the French Revolution?	MS/HS
What purpose do the soldiers serve in <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i> ? When did the concept of a police force come into being? What role did the army play then and now? Consider the force of law in <i>opera buffa</i> versus <i>opera seria</i> .	MS/HS
In what ways could this opera be used as a model to study the class structures and causes that sparked the French revolution? Research the three estates in 18 th century France, and compare the French social structure to that of England and Spain. To what extent did the causes and effects of the French revolution influence England and Spain's social structure and government?	MS/HS
What were the socio-historical expectations for a nobleman such as Count Almaviva's role in his society? Do noblemen nowadays have the same responsibilities and rights that they did in the 18 th century?	MS/HS
Compare the class systems of Mozart's time to today. Compare the class systems within our country today. How do art works focus our attention on the distinctions between classes?	MS/HS

Mozart's opera uses the convention of the mask to further its plot. How have masquerades—masked balls—played a role in social history? MS/HS

What was *le droit de seigneur*? This practice was one of the most controversial aspects of the feudal system in European history. By the 18th century, how frequently was this right asserted? Is there documentation to show that *le droit de seigneur* actually occurred? What other plays, movies, or novels use this practice in their plots? MS/HS

Mozart had an art patron for some of his life. How does a patron compare to someone who commissions art? How has support for the arts changed throughout history? MS/HS

Describe marriage customs and finances then and now. What prerequisites are sometimes required? What debt is involved? What are pre-nuptial agreements? MS/HS

Mathematics CORE

State Standards: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4

Lesson Plan Stems in the Mathematics section are *Common Core Friendly*:



Mozart had to practice piano a lot to perfect his playing. Sometimes he would have ten buttons on the piano so he could move one each time he played a song correctly, with the goal of playing ten times correctly in a row. Practice counting ten blocks as you stack them. PreK

Look at some images of instruments that Mozart wrote music for and find shapes in the instruments. PreK

The Marriage of Figaro takes place in 24 hours. Make a diagram (or a clock) of what happens in each hour. How could you represent the divisions in your day? ES/MS

List all the characters in this opera. Create a three-ring Venn diagram with a set for males, one for females, and one for masters. Into which sets would each of these characters be organized? Do any of these characters belong in more than one set? ES/MS

The Marriage of Figaro lasts approximately three hours, 15 minutes with two intermissions. If each intermission lasts 20 minutes, how long (in minutes) does the actual performance last? ES/MS

Cherubino's leap from the window crushes the gardener's precious geraniums. How many petals are on a geranium flower? How many petals represent a healthy plant? From your count, do the flowers on a geranium plant follow the Fibonacci sequence? ES/MS

Measure the distance between Vienna, Rome, and Seville. How much would it cost to ship sets from one theater to another? ES/MS

The Marriage of Figaro is listed as number six on Opera America's list of the 20 most-performed operas in North America. If an opera house plans to pick an opera to perform from this list, what is the probability of *The Marriage of Figaro* being selected? What are the top five operas from this list? What is the probability that one of them will be picked? ES/MS

In the beginning of the opera's first act, Figaro counts his steps as a way to measure his bedroom. What other ways exist to measure a room? If Figaro's foot is 12 inches long, and the bedroom is 10 feet wide, how many steps will comprise Figaro's count? ES/MS/HS

Science and Technology and Engineering Education

State Standards: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4

Mozart had a pet starling who could imitate music. What care would a pet starling need? Do you take care of a pet? PreK

Mozart and his sister Maria Anna, who was nicknamed Nannerl, look a lot alike because they had the same genes. If you have brothers or sisters, how do you look alike? PreK

The opera *The Marriage of Figaro* occurs in a 24-hour time span. What are the different models used for measuring time? How have models for time-measurement changed over history? How do time-measurement models support scientific theory or vary in accuracy? ES/MS

In the history of medicine, barbers played dual roles, often serving as a community's surgeon. What types of injuries would a barber have been asked to heal? Who would heal those wounds now? What instruments would he have used? What sanitary concerns with this practice would have been a problem? ES/MS

Explore the internet to find definitions and opinions about the "Mozart effect." After listening to a Mozart composition, write about internal reactions. MS/HS

Measure the decibel level of sound needed in order to be heard from behind closed doors. Estimate the volume needed to be heard in the theater by the audience. How do sound engineers plan the volumes needed when they work in empty houses? MS/HS

What kind of cleaning agents would have been used in the 1700s? Make some of your own cleaning products from ingredients widely available in the 18th century. Compare them to the effectiveness of products available today. MS/HS

World Languages

ACTFL Standards: 1 Communication, 2 Cultures, 3 Connections, 4 Comparison, 5 Communities
(National Standards from American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)

- Learn how to say the names of some orchestral instruments in French, German (nouns are capitalized), and Italian: PreK
- flute, flûte, Flöte, flauto
 - clarinet, clarinette, Klarinette, clarinetto
 - horn, cor, Horn, corno
 - violin, violon, Violine, violin
 - bass, contrebasse, Kontrabass, contrabasso
- Mozart spoke German and other languages. Look at some words in German and find letters that have extra markings on them. PreK
- Consider that an Austrian—Mozart—composed an opera written in Italian, with a setting in Seville, Spain. Why would Mozart compose in a language other than his own? Why isn't the opera in Spanish? How might translating the opera's libretto change the sound and meaning of the texts? ES/MS
- Compile a list of commonly used words that are similar in English, Italian, and Spanish. ES/MS
- Compare the number of different languages an average European speaks to the number of an average American. How is this changing in America as the world becomes more global? ES/MS
- Latin is a common root to many modern languages, but today we call it a "dead" language. What does that term mean? Is it still studied? If so, where and why? ES/MS
- The Italian alphabet has only 21 letters. What are the vowels and vowel sounds? Are any of the consonants pronounced differently than they might be in English? What are the "missing" five letters? Do Italians ever use these letters? MS/HS
- Mozart's primary language was German, but *The Marriage of Figaro* was written in Italian. How does a composer work between languages? What kinds of obstacles can you imagine exist to the musical translation process? MS/HS
- Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese are called "Romance" languages. What is their common linguistic root? What makes a language a "Romance" language? What are non-Romance languages, such as German and English, called? What are their roots? How many other roots for languages can you identify? MS/HS
- Mozart was Austrian yet his opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, is based upon a French play, set in Spain, and sung in Italian. Explore the multicultural roots of this opera and offer an explanation as to why so many cultures, languages, and nationalities are implicated in *The Marriage of Figaro*. MS/HS

Character Themes for *The Marriage of Figaro*

Eleanore N. Childs, a Pittsburgh attorney and child advocate, worked with teachers for more than a decade to research character education and develop the Heartwood Ethics Curriculum for Children. Heartwood's life lessons through literature promote understanding and practice of seven universal character attributes, which constitute the foundation of community among all people.

The Heartwood Institute defined seven universal character attributes:

- **Courage** is not only mastering fear; it is the ability to face difficulty or risk with integrity and honor.
- **Loyalty** is being faithful to a person, group, or ideal based on understanding that we are all part of something greater than ourselves.
- **Justice** is being guided by a balance of truth, reason, and fairness to all.
- **Respect** is regard for all life on earth. It calls us to value all people and their contributions, viewpoints, and differences, such as culture, religion, age, race, and ability.
- **Hope** guides our future through faith and aspiration, helping us to rise above selfishness and despair.
- **Honesty** is being truthful and honorable, the foundation for friendship and community.
- **Love** is deep care and concern for others, encompassing all the attributes. The more love we give, the richer we become.

*Discuss two attributes—LOVE and HOPE—after reading the synopsis of *The Marriage of Figaro*.*

1. There are many kinds of love in this opera; which comes closest to the definition given above? Given this definition, how would you characterize the Count's love for Susanna, Marcellina's love for Figaro, and Cherubino's love for any woman?
2. How is the Count's persistent pursuit of Susanna both an example of, and the opposite of, hope as it is defined above?
3. Given the examples set in this opera, was love an important aspect of marriage in the 18th century? Which character attributes seem to be the focus of the kind of love marriages were built on in those days?
4. There are many instances of jealousy causing mischief in this opera. How might the qualities of jealousy, love, and hope be intertwined?
5. The Countess is able to forgive her husband, despite his obvious and unrepentant philandering. What role does forgiveness play in love? How does the Countess's behavior restore the harmony in her home? Would she behave the same way toward the Count nowadays?