

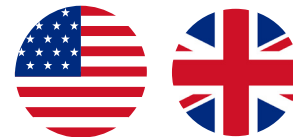


NAME _____

DATE _____

My Country, 'Tis of Thee: Part 1 BEETHOVEN 7 Variations on 'God Save the King', WoO 78

WHAT DO YOU HEAR?



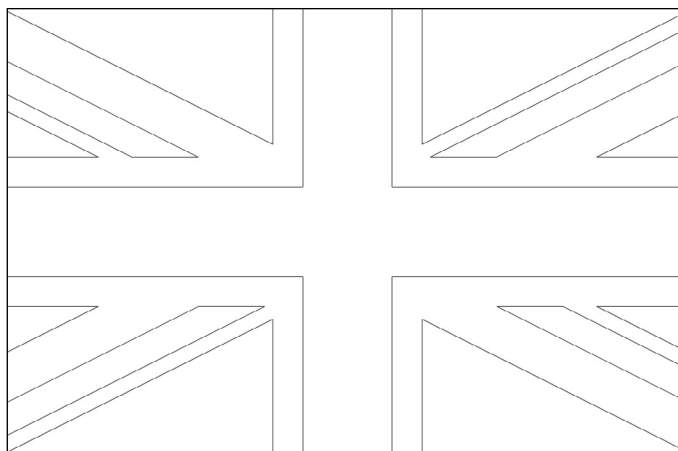
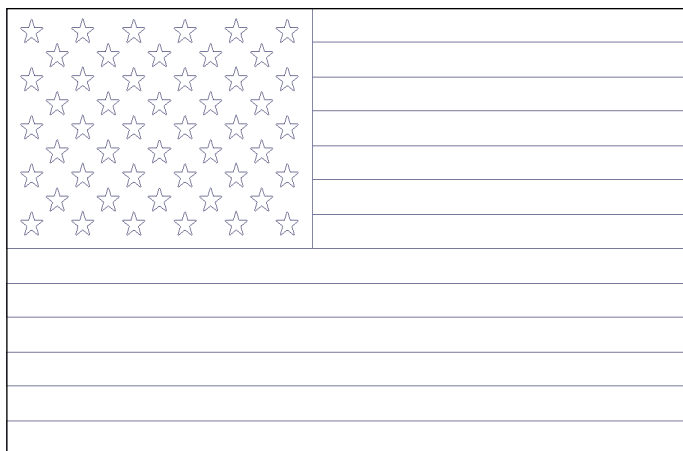
BEFORE YOU WATCH

"America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)" is a patriotic song in the United States. As Buddy says, the tune for this piece has been around a long time, and no one is sure who wrote the original version of the music. The lyrics and arrangement for "America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)" were written in 1831, by Samuel Francis Smith, and it was used as one of the country's *de facto* anthems prior to the adoption of the "Star-Spangled Banner" in 1931 as our official national anthem.

In the United Kingdom, they know the tune currently as "God Save the Queen," and it has been the country's national anthem in some form since the 18th century. The lyrics are sung as either God Save the Queen or King, depending on the gender of the monarch in power at the time.

Who is the current monarch in the United Kingdom? _____

Color the flags of the United States and the United Kingdom below! Do you notice any similarities?





WHILE YOU WATCH

Beethoven took this tune and wrote seven variations based on it, creating a musical form known as **theme and variations**. A theme is a melody, and variations copy and change the theme so that it has a different mood or sound. All the variations are then played together as a set, starting with the theme.

In this episode, Buddy and Benjamin Rossen trade off playing four of the seven variations our composer wrote. Let's see if we can figure out how they are different from one another.

Buddy plays the theme first, followed by Benjamin with the first variation. How was the first variation different from the theme? Circle your answers below.

The music is: FASTER / SLOWER

The music sounds: SMOOTHER / CHOPPIER / THE SAME

Benjamin's hands were: ALL OVER THE KEYBOARD / IN ONE PLACE

Can you still hear the theme? YES / NO

Buddy follows right behind Benjamin with the second variation! How is this different from the first variation? Use the questions above and your own observations.

Can you still hear the theme? YES / NO

Benjamin picks up where Buddy leaves off with the third variation, and things start to get really fancy! How does it sound different to you?



Finally, Buddy finishes off this episode with the fourth variation, and our composer starts to do new things with the music that test the performer. Buddy shows us how the fourth variation is played. What does he do with his hands?

How does this variation sound different than the others?

Can you still hear the theme? YES / NO