



San Francisco Opera's Verdi's *La Traviata*

Curriculum Connections

California Content Standards
Grade 5 through Grade 12

SOCIAL STUDIES

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

Self-Identity & Cultural Identity.

Family (Immediate & Extended), Friends & Community.

Time: Past, Present, Future.

Place: Neighborhood, City, State, Continent, World, Universe.

CIVICS

Social Hierarchy: Class, Status. Ex. aristocracy, servants.

Types of Government: Monarchy.

Political events during Verdi's time.

Labor / Economics: What jobs and occupations were available to men and women? What do average workers in different positions earn? What do women earn compared to men?

GEOGRAPHY

La Traviata's setting: The time period and place of the original opera vs. current production.

Mapping Europe/France/Paris during time period of opera.

Location of Verdi's birth. Where else did he live?

HISTORY

What was life like in 19th century Paris? Politics, society, etc.?

Explore 19th century Paris demimonde: How did this time period influence the creation of *La Traviata* and its source material?

Learn about the time period when Giuseppe Verdi lived (1813-1901). What are the differences and similarities to when Verdi lived in Europe and now?

Explore Verdi's role in Italian history: nationalism and unification.

Why would a designer choose to change original setting of opera from 19th century Paris to Jazz Age?

Explore different cultures of partying/consumption: 19th century Paris demimonde, Jazz Age in Paris and New York, 1970's club scenes in New York, modern and contemporary "scenes".

Explore the role of women during this specific time period and throughout history.

Connections between courtesan culture in Asia and in Europe; influence of Asian culture on 19th century Europe.

Origins and evolution of romance and marriage.

History of Opera: How Opera began, history of San Francisco Opera, history of the Adler Fellow Program.

ACTIVITIES

Design a table setting for the party in Act I. Choose where different characters would sit according to their status.

Design a table setting for a dinner at which important figures of Verdi's time are gathered: politicians, writers, musicians, artists, etc (find photos to fill in spots at the table). Do the same for the Jazz Age, Warhol New York era, 21st Century scene.

Pick another time period in which to set *La Traviata*. Research and design costumes and sets to reflect trends, society at that time.

Study photos from *The Material World* by Peter Menzel: what kind of possessions define people? What kinds of things are people willing to do to acquire possessions? Does Violetta live in a material world?