



## San Francisco Opera's Rossini's *CINDERELLA* Curriculum Connections

California Content Standards  
Kindergarten through Grade 12

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### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

#### PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

Self-Identity.

Family: Immediate & Extended. Caring relationships.

Describe the family relationships in *Cinderella*? How are Cinderella and her stepsisters different? How would you describe Cinderella's relationship with her stepfather?

Roles of family members in your life and the choices you make.

Time: Past, Present, Future.

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

#### CIVICS

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

How is class indicated by the music, the costumes and other elements in *Cinderella*?

What are the relationships between the "commoners" and the nobility in this story?

Examine the power relationships in the opera. What is the position or status of Don Magnifico?

What is happening in Italy in the late 18th century – early 19th century?

What was happening in the world when *Cinderella* premiered?

Examine the position of the royalty at the time of the opera. How does Don Ramiro choose a bride? Does Angelina have the same luxury of choice? How are royal marriages arranged today?

What are the different views of marriage in the opera?

#### GEOGRAPHY

Where in Italy was Rossini from? Where else did he live?

Where in Italy did *Cinderella* premiere?

The Opera's setting: Where is this place? What is this culture?

*Cinderella* takes place in Italy. Where is Italy? Map it.

Based on the story, pick a new setting for the opera. How would the story change, if at all?

Review the cast list for this production of the opera; where do the singers come from?

## HISTORY

Research when Rossini was born and the time period when Rossini lived.

Research Jacopo Ferretti; what other careers did he have beside librettist?

Where was Rossini when he composed *Cinderella*?

During what time period was *La Cenerentola / Cinderella* written? What was the government of Italy at the time?

What was happening in Italy when the opera was written? What were the social structures in Italy at the time?

Examine class system during Rossini's time.

Dandini (as Prince) in his false flattery tells the Baron and his daughters they are Etruscan. Who were the Etruscans? Why is this a compliment?

Research the development of *Cinderella*. Who commissioned Rossini to write *Cinderella*? Why would an artist be commissioned to write an opera? How do new operas get made today?

Research reception of *Cinderella*, the play and the opera.

What would the audience during Rossini's time have known about character roles before seeing the opera? What would they be expecting from characters like the Angelina and Prince Ramiro? Don Magnifico and Dandini?

How has the status of women changed from when the opera was written?

Comic characters, such as Dandini and Don Magnifico, in *Cinderella* come from the Commedia dell'Arte tradition. What is the history of Commedia? What is the history of comedy in theater?

Create a Venn diagram for *Cinderella* — What is fairy tale vs. reality? Both?

How is historical information reflected in the viewpoints of the characters?

How does news travel in the opera? How is that different today? How does that change the pace of our life?

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

## ACTIVITIES

Assign different topics from the time of the opera to small groups, and have them present to each other: money and trade, social structures, military, the arts, etc.

Research the stories of *Cinderella*. Compare and contrast two different versions of the story.

Create a timeline of the story of *Cinderella*; include events that were happening elsewhere in the world at the same time.

Map settings in which play and opera take place.

Create a board game or card game that would have been typical of the era involving the characters from *Cinderella*.

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

Write a letter from one character to another using the writing materials used at the time of *Cinderella* (quill pens, wax seals, parchment).

Create timelines of events in opera; Rossini's operas.

Create an organizational chart of the character relationships in *Cinderella*.

Researching the backstory or the story that comes after *Cinderella*.