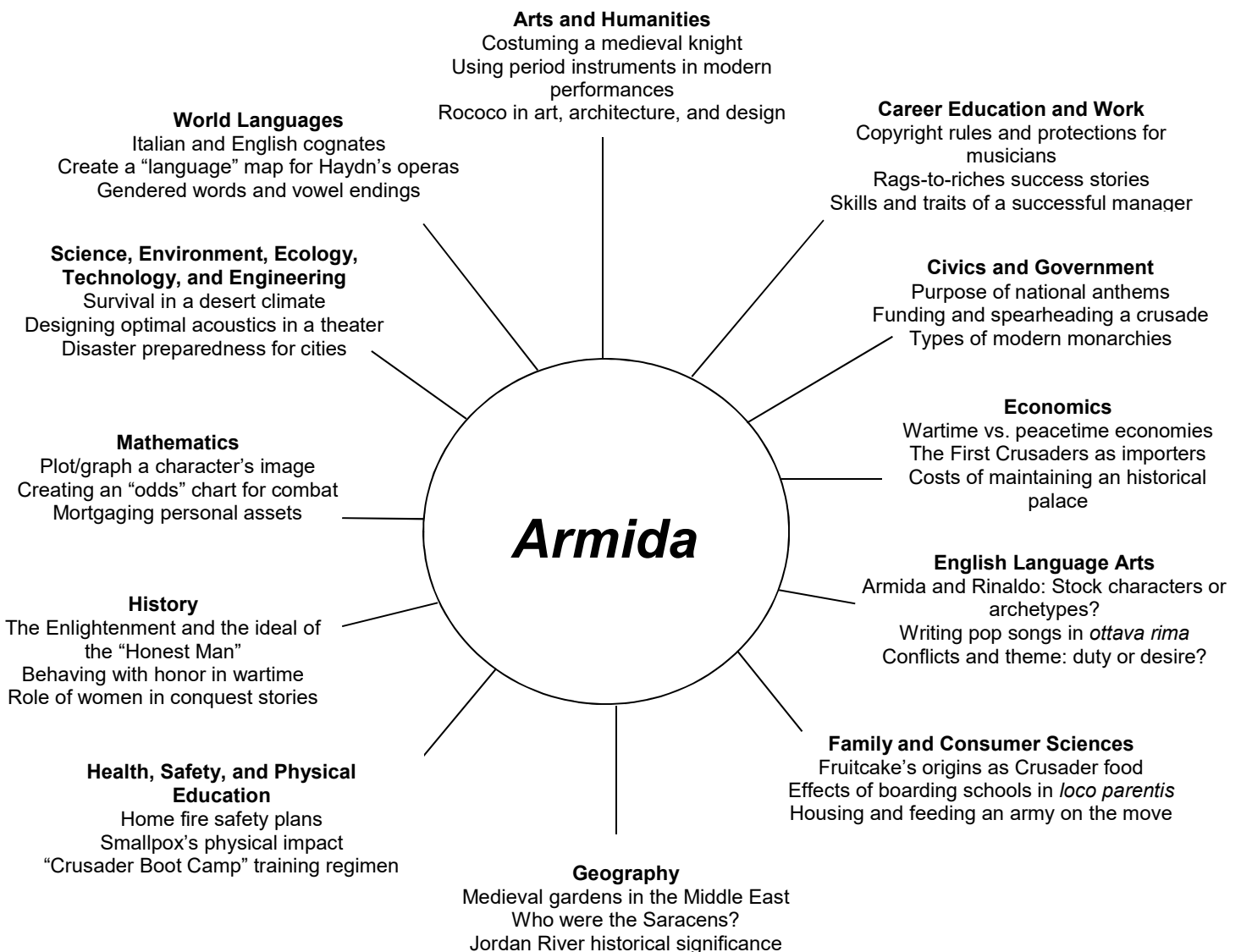


Curriculum Circle for *Armida*

How does the opera *Armida* by Franz Joseph Haydn intersect with all academic content areas? Begin with the opera and brainstorm connections to all curricula.





Lesson Plan Stems for 2024–2025

Developed by Opera on TAP:

Ray Beard	Thomas James III
Cheryl Begandy	Donna Priore
Lee Ann Conover	Marie Romanelli, Editor
Marilyn Egan	Ralph Roskies

Lesson Plan Stems for *Armida*

How does the opera *Armida* by Joseph Haydn 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-Kindergarten, ES =Elementary school, MS =Middle school, HS =High school

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



Arts and Humanities

State Standards: 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4

Franz Joseph Haydn, the composer of *Armida*, was sometimes called “Papa” because he wrote so many symphonies. What are some other names used for fathers? PreK

The composer Haydn is also famous for his “Surprise Symphony.” What is a surprise? Have you ever been surprised? Is a surprise something good or bad? Listen to Haydn’s “Surprise Symphony.” What is the surprise in this music? How can we surprise people? PreK

The *Esterháza Palace*, where Haydn lived and worked, includes a marionette theater. What are marionettes? How are they different from puppets or muppets? PreK/ES

In 1761, Haydn was hired by Prince Paul Anton as the Prince’s Kapellmeister and lived in the Prince’s *Esterháza Palace*. What is a palace? How does it differ from other types of homes? What might it be like to live in a palace with your boss? Brainstorm pros and cons of this arrangement. ES/MS

Armida was sent to enchant Rinaldo because he was the bravest. What does it mean to be brave? What does it mean to be called the “most brave”? How is bravery related to honor? Is it traditional in opera for the “bravest” to be the tenor? ES/MS

There are no chorus parts in *Armida*. Why did Haydn only include six singing roles and not chorus? How does this choice of limiting the number of roles impact how the opera might be produced? How might this choice impact the opera’s popularity? ES/MS

Haydn's <i>Armida</i> is often performed on period instruments. What does the term "period instrument" mean? Why would an orchestra want to use period instruments? How would the sound differ from modern orchestral instruments? How does an orchestra acquire period instruments for just a few performances?	ES/MS
The enchantress Armida falls in love with Rinaldo, a Christian Knight of the First Crusade in the Middle Ages. What is a knight? Who can be a knight and what does that title mean? What costumes come to mind when you picture a knight? Research a medieval knight's clothing and equipment. Design a costume for Rinaldo to wear that makes his character clear to the audience.	ES/MS
What instruments would have comprised an orchestra in Haydn's time? Trace the development of orchestral instruments from the 18 th century to now. Which instruments have changed the most, and which have hardly changed? What instruments does a modern orchestra include?	ES/MS
Haydn's <i>Armida</i> is scored for flute, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, two horns/trumpets, timpani, strings, and continuo. What is a continuo? Was this a typical selection of instruments in 1784? Would Haydn have used his own orchestra at the <i>Esterháza</i> Court Theatre?	ES/MS
"Papa" Haydn was known as the "Father of the String Quartet" and as such was instrumental in the development of chamber music and the piano trio. What is chamber music and what was its purpose? When and where would chamber music originally have been performed? Would the music have been composed for specific occasions?	ES/MS
Haydn wrote some coloratura passages in his operas and some of his music sounds similar to that of Mozart. Did Haydn borrow ideas from Mozart, or did Mozart borrow from Haydn? Was Haydn familiar with Mozart's operas? What other musicians have "borrowed" musical ideas from other composers? What is that kind of borrowing called when used in pop culture music?	MS/HS
When Haydn met Beethoven in Bonn in 1792, Haydn wrote in a letter that "Beethoven will one day be considered one of Europe's greatest composers, and I shall be proud to be called his teacher." In retrospect, how flattering is this tribute? How many other famous musicians (in any style of music) can also claim famous teachers?	MS/HS
Why did Haydn compose so many works for baryton, a cello-like instrument that is no longer used? He also composed 32 pieces for a mechanical clock. Why did he write music for such unusual instruments?	MS/HS
<i>Armida</i> 's United States' 1981 premiere set the production during the Vietnam War, instead of the historical setting of the Middle Ages. What impact does changing the setting have on this story, or how the audience receives the story? Review the opera's synopsis. Where and when would you choose to set a production of <i>Armida</i> ? What setting might resonate best with modern audiences? Why?	MS/HS

At least six composers wrote operas based on Tasso's epic poem *Gerusalemme liberata*: Lully's 1686 *Armide*, Handel's 1711 *Rinaldo*, Salieri's 1771 *Armida*, Haydn's 1784 *Armida*, Rossini's 1817 *Armida*, and Dvořák's 1904 *Armida*. Compare the characters and stories of several of these operas. Would audiences have known the main tenets of the story before attending a new opera based on this same poem? How might familiarity with the story have affected their reactions? Do you enjoy seeing different productions of stories you already know? How does this familiarity impact your reaction? Why might this story have been so popular?

MS/HS

Haydn experimented with prevailing stylistic trends during his lifetime. Listen to some of his earlier music and compare it to Baroque music. Listen to some later music and compare to the elegant musical style typical of Austrian music. Listen to some later music, similar in style to Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach. How did Haydn fuse these styles into his own musical identity?

MS/HS

Esterháza Palace, where Haydn was Kapellmeister, is sometimes called the "Hungarian Versailles" and it is Hungary's grandest Rococo edifice. What is Versailles? What is meant by the term "Rococo"? What design elements define the Rococo period? The palace includes two opera houses and a marionette theater. Why did Prince Nikolaus include a marionette theater? Do other palaces also include marionette theaters?

MS/HS

Why do contemporary arts organizations, such as symphonies and operas, need support beyond ticket sales? What percentage of a performing arts organization's budget is supported by ticket sales? What kind of patronage supported Haydn's composing and performing? How has that kind of support changed in modern times?

MS/HS

Career Education and Work

State Standards: 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4

What kind of music do you like? If you could be a professional musician, what instrument would you play, or would you want to sing? Can you name some famous musicians or singers?

PreK

Haydn's reputation was someone who "played well with others" when he led the *Esterháza* court musicians. What does it mean to play well with others? How can we play well with others?

PreK

Living in the royal palace meant that Haydn did a lot of his work alone. When is it best to do our work all by ourselves? When should we ask to work with others?

PreK

Haydn came from a poor, working class background, and his success can be called a "rags-to-riches" tale. What does it mean if someone has a rags-to-riches story? What other famous people might also qualify as "rags-to-riches"? How did Haydn build his path to success?

ES/MS

What type of craftspeople might be involved in producing an opera? Consider the elements involved in making an opera: designing and constructing sets, building costumes, playing music, singing, dancing, lighting, and so forth. What training or professional development and certifications would these craftspeople need to have to be hired for this opera's production? ES/MS

Create a timeline of Haydn's training and career, beginning with his nine-year apprenticeship in a choir school. What are the important "watershed" moments that helped Haydn build his success? Based on your timeline, would you describe Haydn as a self-taught musician? How does Haydn's career path compare to that of modern musicians? What elements or experiences do they have in common? What advantages or disadvantages mark each musician's career path? ES/MS

Securing a patron was a crucial step for artists in Haydn's time, and Haydn spent much of his career as a court musician for the wealthy Esterházy family. What is a patron? What did the Esterházy patronage mean for his career? Do patrons still exist for modern artists, and do they hold the same significance for careers in the arts now? MS/HS

Esterháza Palace was the home of Joseph Haydn and his orchestra from 1766 to 1790. What were the careers like of the orchestra members? Did they have artistic and personal freedom? Did they have vacations? Did they make their own meals? How could they perform so many concerts in a year? If you were to organize the *Esterháza* orchestra, what might you write into a union document? MS/HS

What skills are needed to be a manager or supervisor? As Kapellmeister, Haydn supervised the Prince's musicians, and by all accounts was a well-respected boss: he maintained a cordial working atmosphere and effectively represented the musicians' interests with their employer. How did Haydn learn those skills? What other traits are needed to be a skilled manager? Where are these skills and traits learned nowadays? MS/HS

What is copyright, and how does it apply to music? In Haydn's day, copyright laws were just coming into being, and few fraud and pirating protections were available to musicians or publishers. What protections are available for musicians? What are the rules around using someone's work as part of a new piece, such as "sampling"? Explore the rules for copyright and the protections they provide. MS/HS

Working at the *Esterházy Palace* in the country meant that Haydn spent much of his career isolated from other composers and trends in music. This isolation—as he put it—"forced (him) to become original." Are many successful people "isolated" in their work? Do you think isolation would help in one's career? Many schools nowadays emphasize working in teams with their students; how does this notion work with Haydn's belief that his lack of exposure to new ideas made him more creative? MS/HS

Investigate the career trajectory for a young theater design student. What training and skill sets are needed to enter this profession? What experiences would help to secure contracts? What are some real-world lessons to learn that might not be taught in the classroom? How can this experience be gained? MS/HS

The patronage system offered opportunities for abuse as well as success since employment conditions were subject to a patron's whims. Haydn's "Farewell" Finale of Symphony #45 shows a clever protest against one such instance when Prince Nikolaus kept his musicians at the palace longer than expected. In this Finale, musicians stopped playing one-by-one, snuffed out their candles, and walked off stage, leaving only Haydn and his concertmaster playing at the end. Apparently the theatrics worked, as everyone was allowed to return home to Eisenstadt the next day. What similarities can you find between union organizers' methods and the tale of Haydn's "Farewell" Symphony? Was his musical work meant to be humorous only, or do you think Haydn was deliberately taking action to make a point with his patron? Would you call what Haydn did a "strike"? MS/HS

Civics and Government

State Standards: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4

Esterháza Palace was built by a prince. Do we have princes in the United States? Who is the head of the United States government? PreK

Haydn wrote a melody that became so popular it was used in Germany's national anthem. What song is the United States' national anthem? Can you hum or sing a verse of our anthem? PreK/ES

In 1797 Haydn wrote the "Emperor's Hymn" and this melody became so popular that it was used as the tune for Germany's national anthem. What is an anthem, and how is it different from other patriotic songs? What is the purpose of having an anthem? Does every country have an anthem? Consider the United States anthem: "The Star Spangled Banner." Look at the words; why was this song chosen to become our national anthem? ES/MS

Armida is set during the First Crusade. Which countries banded together to "liberate" Jerusalem? Who was in charge of the crusader army? What was the command structure for a crusade? How was that decided? How was the First Crusade funded? ES/MS

Armida is set in Jerusalem during the First Crusade. Trace the history of Jerusalem's government and control by different groups of people and religious sects. What shaped the principles of the various governments that have controlled Jerusalem? Why did invading armies feel justified in conquering Jerusalem? Which government is in control of the city today? MS/HS

Pope Urban II called for a Crusade in 1095 to liberate Jerusalem from Muslim forces. What is a crusade? What authority did the pope have in Europe at that time? Could a pope call for a war today? MS/HS

Esterháza Palace was built by Prince Nikolaus Esterházy. Why was Nikolaus given the title of Prince? How do princes usually get their titles? Explore countries that still have a monarchy. What types of monarchies still exist today? In which countries do monarchies still govern? Compare these systems to the modern British royalty. What official governing duties and/or powers do modern princes have? MS/HS

Economics

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

Sometimes, returning Crusaders like Rinaldo imported new types of foods, meaning they brought them back to Europe from different countries. What kinds of foods found in our grocery stores have probably been imported from outside the United States? Why would grocery stores want to import foods? Which do you think is more expensive: food grown in this country or food imported from other countries? Why? PreK

Haydn worked as a court musician for the wealthy Esterházy family. Are there some families who are rich enough to hire musicians to perform at their houses whenever they want to hear music? If a family isn't rich like the Esterházys, how can they also have music in their homes whenever they want it? PreK

As a young man, Haydn earned his living working for the wealthy Esterházy family, but later in his life he was able to work for himself. In what types of work can someone earn money on their own? What types of work need an employer? Which do you think is the better way to earn money: working for yourself, or working for an employer? Why? PreK/ES

The Crusaders brought many new products and foods back to their homelands when they returned. What were some of these new foods and products? Develop a chart listing the distribution of these new items, or trace the flow of these goods on a global map. In what other historic instances has war created new opportunities for trade? ES/MS

The First Crusade was considered a success, which then led to other crusades. Which countries were involved in this first crusade? How were the Crusades funded? Was this success an economic one? What was the impact of the First Crusade on each involved country's economy? Did some fare better than others? Why or why not? ES/MS

Haydn's *Armida* takes place during wartime. What are the differences in economics during wartime compared to peacetime? What is meant by a wartime economy and how does that differ from a peacetime economy? What countries today are functioning with a wartime economy? MS/HS

Esterháza Palace was built by Prince Nikolaus Esterházy. Building a beautiful palace was not cheap; how did Prince Nikolaus raise the astronomical amount of 13 million Austrian gulden needed to build the palace? How much money would it have taken to keep up the palace and employ the workers and musicians? What or who pays for the palace's upkeep today? Is maintaining a building such as this palace worth the cost of its upkeep? MS/HS

Many people who have never seen an opera are familiar with operatic music because these pieces are frequently used in other media: movies, cartoons, and commercials. Explore the concept of royalties: monies that are paid to performers, distributors, or estates. To what extent do royalties affect a performer's income? Who owns the music from operas as old as Haydn's? Do royalty laws differ from country to country? 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*:



In *Armida*, the character Rinaldo is the bravest in the opera. What does it mean to be brave? How does a brave person act? When have you been brave? PreK

Some of Haydn's symphonies have nicknames, like "Surprise" or "Farewell". What is a nickname? What is your nickname? PreK

Armida is an opera that was based on a long poem. What makes a poem look and sound different from a story? Think about a story you know. How could you turn that story into a poem? PreK/ES

Do you think the story of *Armida* is a true story? Why or why not? How can you tell the difference between fantasy (things that are imagined) and reality (things that are factual or true)? Do operas tell real stories? Sing a story that you know is true. PreK/ES

Armida takes place in a desert, a word that is often confused with dessert. What are the different meanings? How can one make sure to use the correct term? ES

Create a character chart for *Armida*, including character traits. Show the relationships among the characters. ES/MS

In the synopsis of *Armida*, The Prince of Darkness has sent the enchantress Armida into the world to seduce the Christian heroes and turn them from their duty. The bravest of these, Rinaldo, has fallen under Armida's spell. What does it mean to "enchant" someone? What is a "spell"? ES/MS

Pittsburgh Opera's marketing slogan for *Armida* is "All's fair in love and war." Where did this line originate? Is the statement true? ES/MS

Learn the definitions of the following words, and describe how they relate to the story of *Armida*: ES/MS

Amended	Crusade	Enchantress	Grove	Knight
Probity	Prolific	Saracen	Seduce	Vengeful
Virtue				

Armida is a story rooted in an actual historical war between Christian and Muslim countries, yet many other kinds of mystical and mythical creatures appear in the story, such as the nymphs who try to protect Armida's myrtle tree. Examine all the mystical elements of the opera. Why were they included in what was historically a religiously-motivated conflict? ES/MS

The term "gaslighting" originated from the title of a 1944 mystery movie *Gaslight*. What does it mean to gaslight someone? In Haydn's *Armida*, does Armida gaslight Rinaldo to go away with her? ES/MS

What is the classical (Aristotelian) definition of a tragic hero or heroine? How do the characters of Armida and Rinaldo reflect this ideal? MS/HS

One of the most noted conflicts in *Armida* is the emotional conundrum endured by characters torn between their desires and their duty. What other works of literature use this conflict? What theme statements could you develop from the exploration of this conflict in the opera? MS/HS

Armida is adapted from Torquato Tasso's poem *Gerusalemme liberata*; this source material is composed of 1,917 stanzas in a poetic form called *ottava rima*. What is *ottava rima*? What kinds of poems used this structure? How does this poetic structure compare to other forms? Rewrite a stanza of a popular song in *ottava rima*. What did you need to change or add to your source material to make it work with this structure? MS/HS

What is an epic poem? Read a translation of the original epic poem by Torquato Tasso, called *Gerusalemme liberata*. Compare his version to several libretto adaptations. Why do you think this story has been used in more than 100 operas and ballets? What makes it so well suited to these art forms? HS

What is a stock character, and how do stock characters differ from archetypes? Explore several of the characters that appear in Torquato Tasso's epic poem *Gerusalemme liberata* and the *Armida* libretto, such as Armida and Rinaldo. Would you consider these characters stock or archetypes? Why? What other archetypes or stock characters also appear in this story? Why do so many stories employ stock or archetype characters? HS

Family and Consumer Sciences

State Standards: 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4

Crusaders ate a food called “fruitcake”. Have you ever tasted fruitcake? What are your favorite fruits? Would those fruits work well in a cake? PreK

Haydn was good friends with other younger musicians, but he didn’t have any children of his own. Draw a picture of a “friend tree” to show people who are close to you, but not related to you. PreK

Soldiers and knights on a Crusade were traveling for a long time away from home and needed to plan how to get their food. Have you ever been on a long trip and had to plan your meals in advance? What food would you bring for a long trip? PreK/ES

In *Armida*, there are knights. Look at some clothing that knights wore. What is their clothing made from? What materials are used in our clothing today? PreK/ES

Haydn was sometimes called “Papa”, but he and his wife never had children. How did he earn this nickname? PreK/ES

Fruitcake originated as food for the crusading armies. Find a recipe for traditional fruitcake; analyze its nutritional and caloric content. What was fruitcake for a Crusader and what ingredients did it contain? Why was it called fruitcake? Why would fruitcake make good travel food for an army? What nutrients might be lacking? What ingredients are in fruitcake nowadays? How would you describe modern fruitcake; is the cake heavy or light? How does the fruit not spoil? ES/MS

Joseph Haydn was a friend and mentor of Mozart, a tutor of Beethoven, and the elder brother of composer Michael Haydn. Create a musical “family tree” or “lineage line” of important musicians’ relationships to Haydn. Who are the people that influence you for something that is important to you, such as music, sports, games, etc.? Create an influence “family tree” for yourself. ES/MS

Moros y Cristianos are festival activities celebrated in Spain that commemorate battles between Moors (Muslims) and Christians during the Crusades. Explore several recipes for *Moros y Cristianos* Rice. Would you classify this dish as vegetarian? ES/MS

Haydn’s parents were poor, so when Haydn displayed unusual musical talent by age six, a cousin who was a school principal and choirmaster offered to take Haydn home to train him. For this opportunity, Haydn left home and never lived with his parents again. What effects did leaving his parents so young have on Haydn? Do parents still send young children away for school? MS/HS

How does a modern invading army meet its food and housing needs? How do they keep food from spoiling? What types of food are staples in an invading army? During the Crusades, what foods were developed to resist spoilage and feed an army on the march? MS/HS

Armida and Rinaldo fall in love during a war. Do people fall in love more often during war? Is there a different sense of urgency? Do soldiers often marry right before going into battle? Do soldiers ever fall in love with the enemy?

MS/HS

Geography

State Standards: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4

In *Armida*, the land where the story is set has lakes and rivers. What are the differences between a lake and a river? What do they have in common? Are lakes and rivers near where you live?

PreK

Look at a photo of *Esterháza Palace*. What shape is the palace? What special features do you notice? Compare this palace to another famous palace: *Buckingham Palace* in London. What are the differences and similarities?

PreK

Haydn lived most his life in Hungary. Locate Hungary on a map. On which continent is Hungary found? What other countries border Hungary?

PreK

Armida has a garden in this opera. What kinds of plants would grow in an enchanted garden? How are gardens different in dry climates, like deserts, from rainy climates, like Florida? What kinds of plants do you expect to grow in each? What kinds of plants grow best in your neighborhood?

PreK/ES

Look at a photo of the gardens around *Esterháza Palace*. How are these gardens different from gardens around large buildings in Pittsburgh?

PreK/ES

Create a map of Haydn's travels, indicating his birthplace and what cities he lived in while working as a composer. Add colorful graphic elements to the map to provide details about the musical genres and compositions he wrote while living in these places.

ES/MS

In *Armida*, King Idreno is the King of the Saracens. Who were the Saracens and where do they come from? During the Crusades, what did the term Saracen mean? How has the meaning of the term changed over time? Is it still used today: why or why not? Locate the cities of Jerusalem, Rome, and Damascus on a map. In which of these cities might Saracens have lived? On your map, what actual bodies of water exist where Saracens lived?

ES/MS

Locate the Jordan River on a map and explore its history and significance. Which countries does it border today? What does the term "Levant" mean? How has water use from the Jordan River changed over time?

ES/MS

During the First Crusade, Godfrey of Bouillon and his knights scaled Jerusalem's walls by climbing wooden ladders, and this victory over Jerusalem led to their recapture of the Holy Land and all its religious sites, including the Holy Sepulchre (the tomb of Jesus Christ). Locate all the religious sites in Jerusalem using contemporary GPS applications as well as historic printed maps.

ES/MS

Who were the Crusaders? Where did the Crusaders come from? How many Crusades were organized? Create a map with arrows showing the movements of the Crusaders from their home countries to the Holy Land (1095–1291). ES/MS

Gardens in the Middle East from the time of the Crusades are the stuff of legends. What would an 11th-century garden have looked like? Where would these gardens have been located, in public or private spaces? What would Armida have planted in her garden? What plants typically flourish in Jerusalem? Design a garden for Armida. Include crucial elements such as purpose for plants, an adequate water supply and delivery system, pest control, and climate tolerance. MS/HS

Esterháza Palace, the place where Haydn lived and worked from 1766–1790, was built in Fertőd by Prince Nikolaus Esterházy. Sometimes called the “Hungarian Versailles”, it is Hungary’s grandest Rococo edifice. Locate the palace on a map. Was this location always part of Hungary? How isolated is this location? Compare the palace to the actual *Versailles Palace*. MS/HS

Health, Safety, and Physical Education

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

Crusaders and soldiers often walked for long distances carrying heavy equipment. Try walking around your school without carrying anything, and then walk around again carrying a heavy pile of books. How does your body feel after each experiment? PreK

Haydn practiced his musician skills for many hours to become successful. What does it mean to practice something? What skills are you improving by practice? PreK

Esterháza Palace was built near a swamp, where mosquitoes can thrive. What’s a mosquito? How can you protect yourself from getting mosquito bites? Are mosquitos dangerous? PreK/ES

Because his family was very poor, Haydn sometimes didn’t have enough to eat when he was a boy. How do you feel when you need to eat? What are some ways your body tells you it needs food? How can someone without a lot of money get enough food to eat? PreK/ES

The musicians in Haydn’s orchestra included wind players and string players. How can people who play wind instruments keep their lungs strong? How can people who play string instruments keep their muscles strong? ES/MS

There were several fires at *Esterháza Palace* while Haydn lived there. What should someone do if a fire breaks out? How can fires be prevented? Do you think fires might have started because people used candles for lighting? What are the most common causes of house fires nowadays? Create a fire safety plan for your home and family. ES/MS

Opera singing artists must care for their bodies in order to perform well. This includes exercise, good nutrition, and general physical wellbeing. Can an opera artist sing well without a full set of teeth? How important is dental health? ES/MS

Even though Haydn's physical appearance was marked by smallpox scars, he was still considered the rock star musician of his time. What is smallpox? How did having smallpox affect a person's appearance? Is smallpox still prominent today? In our modern times, how does someone's physical appearance impact how others relate to them or what people assume about? Do you think that the old saying that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" is true today? ES/MS

What were the physical fitness needs for a Crusader? Consider what a Crusader would have needed to do: march long distances in heavy armor, survive harsh climates, and engage in hand-to-hand combat. What would a training regimen be for becoming a Crusader? What would the dietary needs have been? Create a "Crusader Boot Camp" regimen. ES/MS

In his early years, Haydn was poor and often didn't have enough to eat. He also survived smallpox. How did these events and conditions affect his health? What long-term effects did he carry with him physically and in his appearance? Do people still struggle with the same problems that affected Haydn? If someone is undernourished, how does that impact physical and emotional health? What are some medical concerns that are prominent today with people living in poverty or "food deserts"? MS/HS

Esterháza Palace was built near the south shore of the Neusiedler See, on swampy land, which was a health hazard at the time. What health hazards exist near swampy land? Why would someone want to build a palace near a swamp? Would there be any advantages to having this kind of land form nearby? MS/HS

Haydn suffered with nasal polyps during much of his adult life. Polyps are soft, non-cancerous growths on the lining of the nose or the spaces inside the nose, known as sinuses. Nasal polyps often occur in groups, like grapes on a stem. How do they affect someone who has them? How did this health condition prevent him from composing? How are nasal polyps managed today? HS

History

State Standards: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4

King, Sultan, Emperor, and President are titles for the top leader of a country. Which title is used for a leader who is chosen by the people? PreK

In Haydn's time, most people would have died at home, but nowadays sometimes people die in a nursing home or hospital. Has anyone in your family died at home? PreK

Create a timeline for the first Crusade. How do the events of <i>Armida</i> fit into the timeline?	ES/MS
<i>Armida</i> is portrayed as a powerful woman. What other medieval women were powerful leaders who influenced world events? Compare to women leaders today.	ES/MS
Stories of the Crusades include tales of Knights, Kings, and Vassals. What do those terms mean? Who were the Knights Templar? How did the feudal system work in the Middle Ages?	ES/MS
In the <i>Armida</i> synopsis, Idreno is referred to as the king of the Saracens. Is a Sultan the same thing as a king? What does the word Sultan mean? Where is the title Sultan used? How is the term related to the story of <i>Armida</i> ? How much power did a Sultan have?	ES/MS
Haydn composed the stirring song “Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser” (“God Save Emperor Francis”) in 1797. This melody was so popular that it became the national anthem of the Austrian monarchy, as well as the music for Germany’s “Deutschland, Deutschland über alles,” and it remains the German national anthem now called “Deutschlandlied”. Find other national anthems and their creators. Why do countries have anthems? What do anthems do? What are the stories behind each anthem?	ES/MS
James Webster writes of Haydn's public character thus: "Haydn's public life exemplified the Enlightenment ideal of the <i>honnête homme</i> (honest man): the man whose good character and worldly success enable and justify each other." What was the Enlightenment? Explore other creators of the Enlightenment and compare their personal characteristics.	MS/HS
Examine the role of women in the libretto of Haydn’s <i>Armida</i> . Historically, what parts do women play in conquest or territorial disputes? To what extent do stories of abduction and seduction figure into the historical lore of conquest? Does the opera portray women only in historical roles? Are there any exceptions? How predictable are the women's roles in <i>Armida</i> ?	MS/HS
In 1809, Napoleon’s forces besieged Vienna and entered the city in May. Though terminally ill, Haydn refused to leave his house and take refuge from the invading French, so Napoleon placed a guard of honor outside Haydn’s house. The dying composer was even visited by a French officer who sang him an aria from Haydn’s own composition <i>The Creation</i> . On May 31 Haydn died peacefully, and he was buried two days later. How unusual were these events, considering Napoleon was at war with Austria?	MS/HS
Haydn was “isolated” from other composers at the <i>Esterháza Palace</i> . What is isolationism in government and civic policies? What are some outcomes of this policy? Is physical removal or physical distance the same as isolationism?	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*:

Esterháza Palace has 126 rooms. How many rooms are in your house? How many rooms are in your school? Which building is the largest?

PreK

A trio is a grouping of three. Haydn composed many trios—to be played by three different instruments. Find some examples of the number three in your classroom. Make groups of students by threes and find something different for each person. (For example, one person has pink shoes, one person has brown shoes, and one person has grey shoes.) How many trios did you create?

PreK

Haydn's compositions have been grouped and catalogued by the type of music they represent, a kind of organizing system called genre. How many ways are there to organize or group things together? What makes a good grouping system? What do you need to know about something in order to group it with other items? Create a grouping system for items in your classroom.

PreK

How many characters are in this opera? Compare the numbers of characters in this opera story to the number of characters in other versions such as *Rinaldo* (Handel) and *Armida* (Lully, Salieri, Rossini, Dvořák). Create a chart to demonstrate similarities.

PreK/ES

Franz Joseph Haydn lived from March 31, 1732 to May 31, 1809. How old was he when he died? Was that a long time according to life expectancies of that era?

ES/MS

The first performance of Haydn's *Armida* was in 1784, and it had 54 performances from 1784 to 1788 at the *Esterháza* Court Theatre. During the composer's lifetime it was also performed in Pressburg, Budapest, Turin, and Vienna. *Armida* then disappeared from operatic repertoire until a 1968 concert version revival in Cologne, and later in Bern. The United States premiere was in 1981. Create a graphic organizer to show the frequency of this opera's performances.

ES/MS

Haydn's compositions were catalogued by Anthony van Hoboken. Unlike most other catalogues that sort works chronologically, the Hoboken catalogue sorts by musical genre. What does it mean to catalogue something chronologically? What is meant by cataloguing by genre? What information would best be catalogued by chronology and what might be best by genre? Create a catalogue for all your homework and classwork assignments this week. Which system works best for your catalogue?

ES/MS

Given the dimensions of the Benedum Center Stage (Stage size: 75' X 142', Gridiron Height: 81' 11"), how many square yards are available on stage for the storing and use of sets? How many cubic yards?

ES/MS

Create a budget for a production of *Armida*. Consider costs for artists, costumes, orchestra, sets, stage hands, technology, etc. What will you have to charge for tickets in order to make a profit? Are those prices reasonable? What are some ways to save money? ES/MS

Esterháza Palace has 126 rooms. The large library holds almost 22,000 volumes. Explore the other unusually large numbers affiliated with the palace, including construction costs, and compare to mansions built today. ES/MS

Connecting dots plotted on a graph can sometimes reveal hidden pictures. Using a photo of a character from this opera, create sets of plot points to be plotted on a graph that when connected, reveals a simple line representation of your photo. ES/MS

Research the numbers of Crusaders compared to the number of defenders in the First Crusade. Who outnumbered whom? What is the ratio of Crusaders to defenders? Who actually won the battle for Jerusalem? Research other historical battles that pitted small armies against large armies. What were the ratios of combatants in those battles, and what were the outcomes? From your research, develop an “odds” chart—what are the odds of a small army defeating a larger army? MS/HS

When Pope Urban II called for a Crusade to liberate Jerusalem from Muslim forces, Godfrey of Bouillon mortgaged and sold his lands and holdings, including Bouillon Castle, to raise the money for his invading army. What is a mortgage? How are mortgages calculated? If you were to mortgage your home, how much money would you get? What are the terms of the mortgage the bank would give you? How long would you have to pay it back? Given the length of the First Crusade, would you have recommended mortgaging property as a good way to fund that campaign? MS/HS

Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology, and Engineering

State Standards: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9
(SEETE Standards to take effect on July 1, 2025)

Look at a photo of a myrtle tree, the same kind of tree that Rinaldo cuts down in *Armida*’s garden. Is it more like a bush or a tree? Where else have you heard the word “myrtle”? Myrtle trees are evergreen, which means they keep their leaves all year long. Find trees around your house and school that are evergreen. PreK

The Crusaders had to cross a desert to reach Jerusalem. What is a desert? How would you describe a desert? If you had to march across a desert like the Crusaders, what food and water would you carry with you? Is it dangerous to travel in a desert? What plants grow there? Is there shade? PreK

In <i>Armida</i> , King Idreno becomes worried when he hears the Crusaders have crossed the Jordan River. What is a river? What makes it different from other bodies of water? What kinds of fish live in rivers? What do fishermen catch in Pittsburgh rivers? Have you ever gone fishing at a river?	PreK/ES
Compare the deserts near Jerusalem to deserts in America. Chart the kinds of environmental factors that make them similar and different. How would an invading army survive a march across a desert?	ES/MS
In an arid climate such as Jerusalem's, water acquisition and storage are keys to survival. How did people get water for cities such as Jerusalem? What ancient techniques allowed water to be stored for cities? Are any of those techniques still in use today? Design a castle that would maximize water conservation as well as withstand a siege.	ES/MS
Because the Jordan River is a meeting point for several different biogeographic regions, it has a unique ichthyofauna. What are the native fish? What other fish can be found in the Jordan River? Research the pollution in the Jordan River and the challenges for its ecosystem. Compared to other world rivers, how does the Jordan rank as far as endangered ecological sites?	ES/MS
In <i>Armida</i> , Jerusalem is under siege. What is a siege and when is it used? How effective is a siege as a military tactic? In 1099, what hardships would city dwellers have faced when besieged? How would cities have prepared to endure an enemy siege? How do cities prepare to handle disasters (manmade and natural) today? Are any of the concerns for a city's survival of a siege from 1099 similar to emergency concerns today?	MS/HS
Investigate the hazards required in an <i>Armida</i> staging. How would stage technicians have realized the special effects and staging in Haydn's time? How would the hazards be realized today? Which hazards could be generated by using CGI (computer-generated imagery) technology?	MS/HS
How could you design a unit set for <i>Armida</i> that includes all the synopsis locations (council chamber, steep mountain with fortress at the top, apartments inside the fortress, a garden, the Crusader camp, a dark forbidding grove with a myrtle tree)? Would you use projections?	MS/HS
How do theater designers use the notions of frequency, wavelength, and speed of sound to create theaters that can accommodate large audiences and are also effective in carrying vocal and instrumental sounds? What are the best construction materials for achieving good quality sound in a theater?	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)

Armida is a woman's name. Rinaldo is a man's name. What other names do you know that end in "a" or "o"? PreK

Haydn spoke German and Italian. Learn the way to say "hello" and "goodbye" in those languages. Can you say hello or goodbye in another language? PreK

The prince who built the *Esterháza Palace* was named Nikolaus. Compare the spellings of his name in other languages: PreK

Nikollë (Albanian)

Niko (Croatian)

Nicolaas (Dutch)

Nicolas (French)

Nicholaus, Nicolaus (German)

Nicolo (Italian)

Nikorasu (Japanese)

Nico (Spanish)

Which letters appear in every version?

Cognates are words in two or more languages that share similar spellings, pronunciations, and meanings. For example, "pizza" in English looks, sounds, and means the same as "pizza" in Italian. What are some words you know in another language that have English cognates? PreK/ES

When an opera singer does a terrific job with a song, the audience might shout one of three terms: brava, bravo, or bravi. Each of these terms applies to a different situation. Which term do you think is used for a woman? Which one for a man? Which if more than one person is singing? Which part of the word helped you choose when it should be used? Do you know any other words that follow a similar pattern? PreK/ES

Haydn wrote operas in Italian and German. How many languages did the composer speak? What was his first language? How would he have learned other languages? ES/MS

Haydn's librettist for *Armida* was Italian. Why was the librettist not Austrian or Hungarian? What were operatic language customs during Haydn's lifetime? ES/MS

Armida by Haydn is a 1784 opera in three acts described as a *dramma eroico*. What does this term mean? Translate the term into several other target languages. What other terms were used to describe Haydn's other operas? ES/MS

Create an opera "language" map for Haydn's operas. How many languages were involved in the production of *Armida*? What was Haydn's native language and how many languages did he speak? What language would the audience have spoken at the 1784 premiere of *Armida*? ES/MS

- What do the vowel endings of each name in *Armida* tell you about the characters? How many different languages can you discover that use endings to distinguish between genders? Create a “gender name” chart for the classroom—translate each classmate’s name into a different language and underline the part of the name that indicates gender. ES/MS
- What languages would have been spoken in Jerusalem in the late 11th century? Did all the Crusaders speak the same language? What languages would have been present in the crusading army? MS/HS
- While in London, Haydn began work on the oratorio *The Creation*, the text of which was translated into German by Baron Gottfried van Swieten. The work was written with both the English and German texts in mind, so that performances could be in either German or English. Choose an aria in a piano-vocal score of a Haydn opera and add a second translation in a target language underneath the published one. MS/HS
- The name of the wealthy family—Esterházy—and their palace—*Esterháza*—is sometimes spelled with an additional “z”: Eszterházy and *Eszterháza Palace*. Investigate the Hungarian language alphabet and rules about translating words in English. HS

Character Themes for *Armida*

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 LOYALTY—after reading the synopsis of Armida.

1. Knowing she has cast a spell on Rinaldo to divert him from his conquest, do you think Armida really loves Rinaldo? How would Armida define love? What do her final actions reveal—love, jealousy, vengeance, or another attribute?
2. Can someone be tricked into loving another person? Can love result from deceit? How are desire and obsession different from love? What does this story's use of love as manipulation tell us about the nature of love in this opera?
3. To whom is Armida really loyal? Is she using her love to serve her country or herself? How do her final actions influence ideas about her concept of loyalty? To whom is Rinaldo loyal? Is his loyalty stronger than his desire?
4. Did Rinaldo ever really love Armida? What do his final actions toward her reveal? Did loyalty to his cause overcome love, or is he demonstrating a different character attribute?