

The Classical Era 1750-1825

During this time, artists, musicians and architects greatly admired the styles and ideas of ancient Greece and Rome.

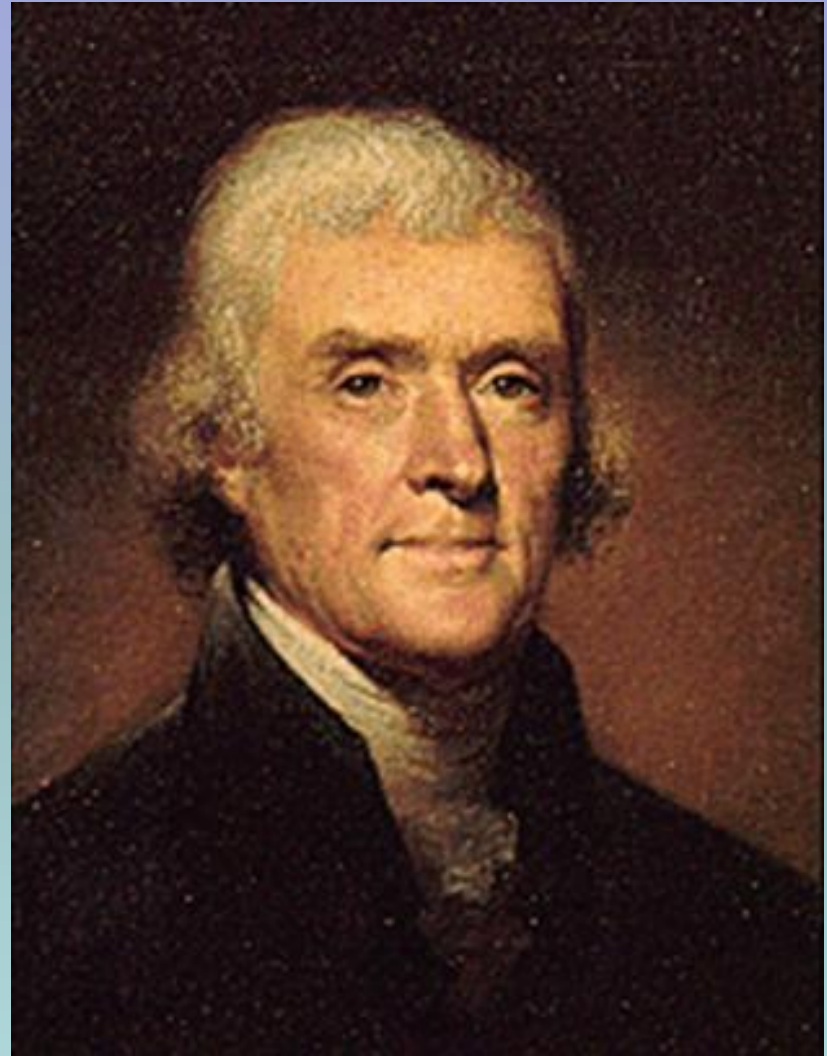
Ancient Greeks tried to create elegant, balanced art that was simple in form. This was a reaction against the elaborate and ornate styles of the Baroque era.



The Parthenon is one of the finest examples of Ancient Greek architecture. Builders in the Classical period often copied aspects of Greek buildings such as the columns.



The 1700's were an age of great change. Writers and philosophers were exploring new ideas. People like Thomas Jefferson wrote about people having freedom to shape their own destinies. He wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776. These democratic ideas encouraged people to fight against oppressive governments and led to the French and American Revolutions.



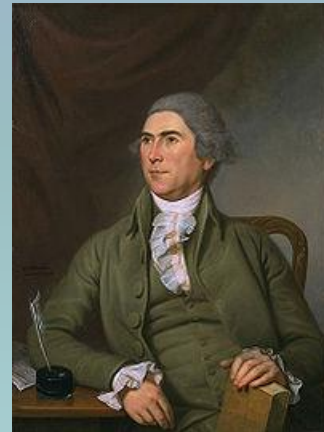
Thomas Jefferson

Classical Era Clothing



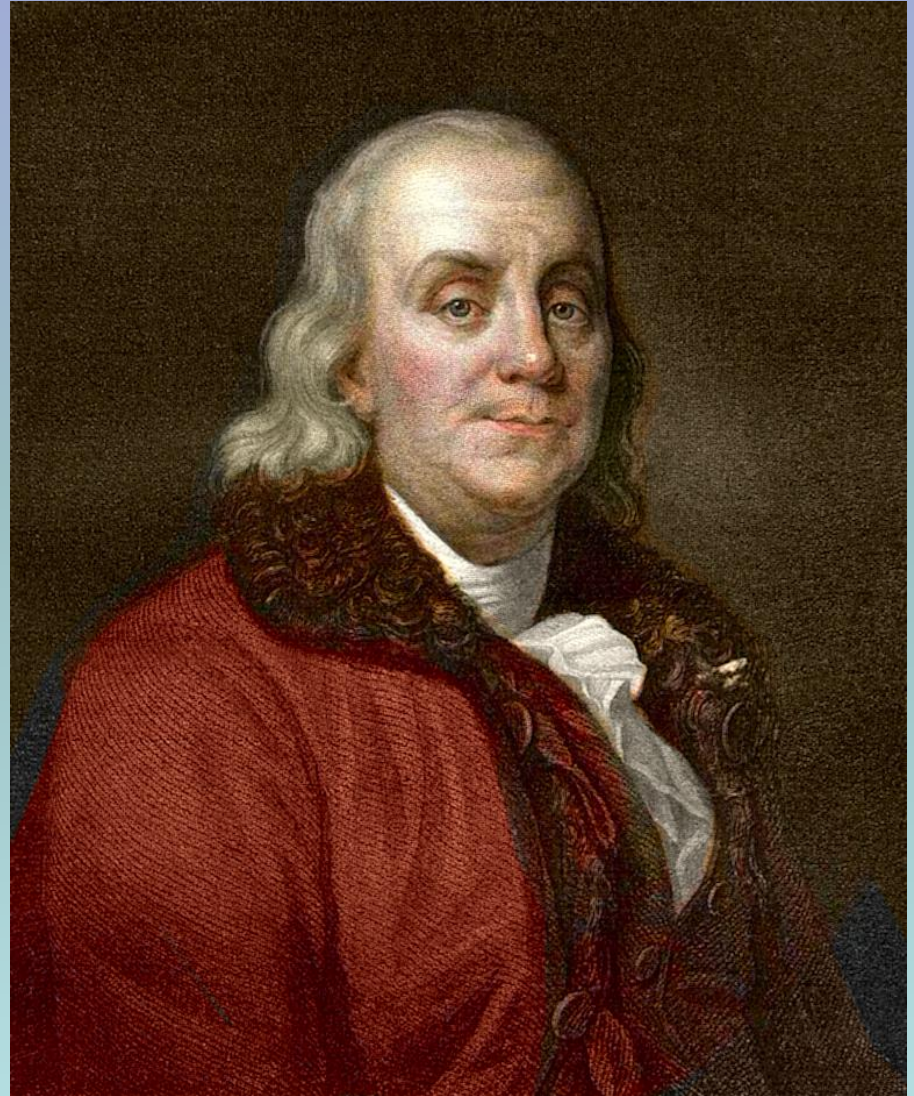
Classical Era Hairstyles

Wigs were worn for formal occasions, or the hair was worn long and powdered, brushed back from the forehead and clubbed (tied back at the nape of the neck) with a black ribbon.



Classical Era Science

During the Classical Period Benjamin Franklin discovered lightening is electricity. Joseph Priestley, and English chemist discovered oxygen and Robert Fulton, an American inventor produced the first submarine, which he called “Nautilus”.



Classical Instruments

Bartolomeo Cristofori di Francesco (1655 - 1731) was an [Italian](#) maker of musical instruments, generally regarded as the inventor of the [piano](#). During the Classical Era, the piano replaced the harpsichord and became the favorite instrument of composers.



Composers during the Classical period still worked for wealthy patrons, churches or courts. For the first time however, some composers became self employed. This allowed them more freedom in musical expression.

Public concerts also became more popular during the Classical Era. Concert halls became bigger and the orchestra nearly tripled in size between 1750 and 1830.



The most popular large-scale instrumental music during the Classical Period was the symphony. Early Classical symphonies had three movements in a fast-slow-fast format.

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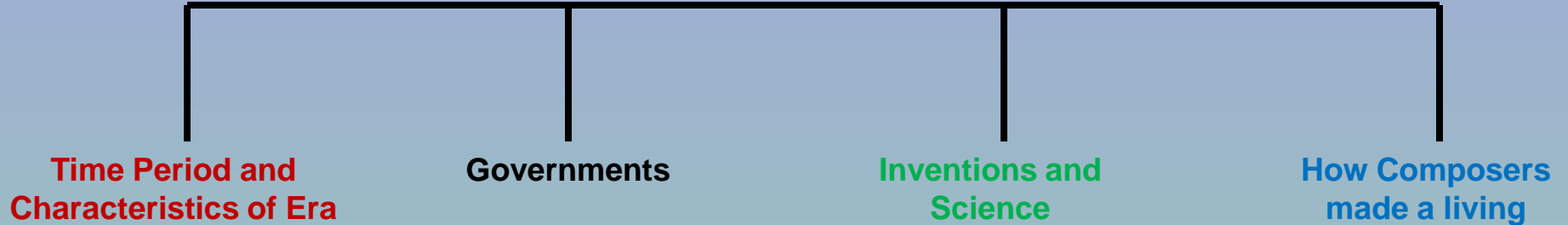
What is the overarching idea?

Characteristics of the Classical Era



What are the main ideas?

Characteristics of the Classical Era



What are the main ideas?

Characteristics of the Classical Era

Time Period and Characteristics of Era

- **1750-1825**
- **Art, music & architecture modeled after ancient Greece**
- **Elegant, balanced**
- **Reaction against the elaborate style of Baroque era.**

Governments

Inventions and Science

How Composers made a living

What are the main ideas?

Characteristics of the Classical Era

**Time Period and
Characteristics of Era**

Governments

**Inventions and
Science**

**How Composers
made a living**

- **Democratic ideals became popular among writers, politicians, philosophers and everyday people.**
- **1776 Declaration of Independence**
- **French & American Revolutions**

What are the main ideas?

Characteristics of the Classical Era

**Time Period and
Characteristics of Era**

Governments

**Inventions and
Science**

**How Composers
made a living**

- **Ben Franklin discovered electricity**
- **Oxygen discovered and first submarine invented**
- **Piano invented by Christofori**

What are the main ideas?

Characteristics of the Classical Era

**Time Period and
Characteristics of Era**

Governments

**Inventions and
Science**

**How Composers
made a living**

- **Some composers still worked for wealthy patrons**
- **Other composers began to be self-employed**