



Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. He first noticed difficulties with his hearing decades earlier, sometime in 1798, when he was about 28. By the time he was 44 or 45, he was totally deaf and unable to converse unless he passed written notes back and forth to his colleagues, visitors, and friends. His deafness was caused by otosclerosis, a condition that shows abnormal bone growth inside the ear. He didn't want to reveal his deafness because he believed, justifiably, that it would ruin his career. When Beethoven started the Symphony of Fate (Symphony No.5 in C minor, op. 67) in 1804, he knew he was going deaf. He wrote it over nearly four years, when he also was busy on other compositions, including string quartets, concertos, and two other symphonies. He lost his hearing while writing Ode to Joy (Symphony No.9 in D minor, op. 125) when he was profoundly deaf when it premiered on 7 May 1824. He died on March 26, 1827, in Vienna, Austria because of lead poisoning. *Eduarda Campesi*



The Brandenburg Gate is an icon that is located in Berlin. It was built in 1791. It symbolises the end of east and west Germany. This used to be a gateway into the different parts of Germany: East and West. The west was inhabited by different countries due to the Cold War. The Brandenburg Gate has roads going through it as that was one of the designated areas things could cross by. The gate is now a tourist destination as it is a symbol of Berlin and the Cold War. At night the Brandenburg gate is lit up with lights. The quadriga (the chariot drawn by horses on top of the gate) represents bringing peace into the city. The sculpture depicts a chariot pulled by horses. The person pulling the reins is Victoria (the goddess of victory). The quadriga was actually stolen by France by Napoleon but was returned back to Germany after his defeat. The gate has withstood lots of political disagreements and wars. It still stood through World War I and during the Cold War. *Anjana Menon*

GERMANY

Capital	Berlin
Population	83.13 million
Currency	Euro €
National Dish	Sauerbraten (pot roast)
National Flower	Cornflower

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Neuschwanstein Castle was intended as a private residence for the King, until his death in 1886. Following the Austro-Prussian war and Ludwig II's loss of power, he sought to build this castle as his retreat from the modern world. It was open to the public shortly after his death and since then more than sixty-one million people have visited it. The castle was constructed under the rule of King Ludwig II and he planned to call it New Hohenschwangau Castle (it only acquired the name Neuschwanstein after the death of the king).

In addition, Neuschwanstein is very beautiful and the most visited castle in Germany; did you know the castle in Sleeping Beauty was actually inspired by it? Ludwig was known as the 'fairytale king'. Although Ludwig II moved into the castle in 1884, he never saw it completely finished due to the various delays and setbacks which put construction so far behind schedule. According to plans, the castle was meant to have over two hundred rooms, but in the end, only fourteen were finished (and much of the castle remains incomplete to this day).

Maddie Aw



The Black Forest

You have probably all heard of the Black Forest Gâteau, or, as it is written in German, the Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte. Although this is a common misconception, it is thought to be named after the Black Forest. The Black Forest is a mountainous region in southwestern Germany, and it is, of course, a forest. It was named the Black Forest because the leaves on the conifer trees in the forest are an extremely dark shade of green, so in some parts, from a distance, they look black. Many fairy tales were inspired by this forest, as it is so picturesque, especially those written by the Brothers Grimm. Some examples of these stories are Sleeping Beauty, Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel and Snow White.

The cuckoo clock was invented there in the 1700s, and these clocks are still made there today. Also, the Black Forest is very popular for its thermal spas, which are renowned to have healing properties. Some of these spas date back to the Roman times, which were over 2000 years ago!

Some of the animals that inhabit the Black Forest include wild boars, lynx, deer and squirrels. In addition to this, there are wolves in the Black Forest, although there is a very small number of them.

There are many attractions in the forest, including Europa-Park, an amusement park, Hohenzollern Castle, which is atop a mountain, and an open-air museum. It is a beautiful, scenic place that is fantastic for tourists.

Holly Campbell

Fun fact!

The tradition of putting up Christmas trees started in Germany before
★ spreading all around the world! *Aarna Chaturvedi* ★

Welcome back to the **food investigation**. This month we will explore how the wonderful world of German food is explored in Nottingham.

This edition was a hard one, as it was difficult to find a place that ticked the family-friendly, nice food and good price boxes. However, German doner kebab is as good of a shout as any, with its friendly low prices (£2 to £10), and even friendlier staff, it is perfect for a quick and easy dinner on the go.

At Christmastime, we have a "German Christmas market" in Nottingham. This is a great way to try traditional German food like bratwurst and schnitzel. It starts in about a month (December 15-31), is called the Nottingham winter wonderland and it's a great way to try traditional German food like bratwurst and schnitzel. There is also ice skating and refreshments (if that floats your boat).

Overall, we have lots of German options close to the school and (especially for students studying the subject) it would be a great way to enrich your cultural understanding.

Arthur Holton



In September and October around 6 million people visit the **Oktoberfest** in Munich. Beer tents, carousels and many other attractions invite visitors to spend time on the festival grounds. Each year around 7.5 million liters of beer are drunk. Beer you'll find during the festival is brewed within the city limits of Munich. The beer is always sold in 1-liter beer mugs. Many of the visitors want to be reminded of the great time they had at the Oktoberfest. What's better than a beer mug to remind me of the beer festival? And so, in 2014, a total of 112,000 mugs were stolen. The service staff in the tents work to their absolute best. They walk back and forth along the long aisles between the beer benches to serve food and drinks. They carry up to 18 beer mugs at once – that's 41.4 kg! The hairier the hat, the wealthier the wearer.

During Oktoberfest, traditional visitors wear Bavarian hats (Tirolerhüte). The more tufts of goat hair on your hat, the wealthier you are considered to be. In 1835, the first Riflemen and Costume (Tracht) Parade was added to the Oktoberfest celebrations, and in 1883 they started the traditional costume association called the Traditional Costume Society (Trachtenverein). If you look back to photos of Oktoberfest in even the early 1900s, almost nobody is wearing Trachten!

Talia Kurdi