

Name _____ Date _____

The Conductor's Job

RESOURCE MASTER



Read about what conductors do. Then answer the questions below.

Conductors are people who stand in front of a band or an orchestra and move their hands in time to the music so that the musicians stay together while they are playing. Conductors may use a stick called a **baton**, or they may conduct with only their hands.

Conductors do much more than just keep time, however. They often choose the music that the band or orchestra will play. They also spend a lot of time rehearsing and teaching the musicians to play the music in a certain way.

Most conductors are highly educated. They go to special colleges called conservatories to learn about music and to learn how to be a good conductor. Only the best ones will get jobs with large orchestras.

One famous conductor was Leopold Stokowski. He led the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1912 to 1947. He is famous for shaking Mickey Mouse's hand before conducting the orchestra in the Walt Disney film *Fantasia*.

Leonard Bernstein was the conductor of the New York Philharmonic from 1958 to 1969. He thought that it was very important for students to learn about classical music, so he held special concerts just for kids. They were often shown on television.

1. What is the name of the stick conductors use? _____
2. What else do conductors do besides keep time? _____

3. What special colleges do conductors often attend?

4. Why did Leonard Bernstein conduct special concerts for students?
