

Grades: 4-5

Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum
“I am Johann Sebastian Bach / I am Madame Currie”

I am Johann Sebastian Bach, Xavier is pumped to once again rock the school talent show with his rendition of Hot Cross Buns on the recorder. Only problem is, he hasn't exactly improved since last year's performance. In fact, he may have gotten worse! How could this happen? And what can he do about it? To the Secret Museum! Xavier and the gang go back in time to meet someone who knew exactly how to rock out to the max: Johann Sebastian Bach. Joining Bach as he works on his song over and over again, learns all he can about his instrument, and travels miles by foot to watch other musicians play helps Xavier to see there's only one way he can get better on the recorder: he'll have to work hard and practice. Curriculum: "If you want to get better at something, you have to work hard and practice." I am Marie Curie, Brad is crestfallen when he shows up for his first meeting of the Butterfly Club, only to find out it's for kids 7 and up. And he's only 6! Does this mean he'll never get to learn more about his beloved butterflies? To the Secret Museum! Brad and the gang travel back in time to meet someone who never let anything stand in her way: Marie Curie. Marie dreams of one day being a scientist, but those dreams seem to shatter when she finds out girls aren't allowed to go to university. How silly! But, Marie doesn't let that stop her; she finds her own secret university where she can learn, then starts up her very own lab and makes an amazing scientific discovery! Marie Curie inspires Brad to follow his dreams no matter what.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What is the author trying to say through the TV program? What makes you believe this?
- What evidence does the TV show director give to support his or her central idea?
- What is this program “saying”? Cite evidence to support your analysis.
- Which details support the key idea? Look for the who? What? When? Where? Why? How much? How many?
- What is the central message in this program? Explain?

Sebastian Bach:

- [Click here](#) to read more about Sebastian Bach
- Why does Xavier want to visit Bach? What does he want to learn?

Continued on the next page...

- What instruments does Bach play?
- What is a composer?
- Why does Bach write his music by hand?
- Why is it important to understand how an instrument works if you want to play?
- What does Bach mean when he says, “if you want to get good at something you have to work hard and practice.”
- What did Sebastian Bach do to improve his skills as a musician?
- What did Xavier learn from Bach?

Marie Curie

- [Click here](#) to read more about Marie Curie
- What is Brad’s problem?
- What is the obstacle that Marie Curie must overcome to learn?
- How did girls get an education in 1874?
- Why does Marie Curie love school? What subjects does she enjoy learning?
- Why does she think it is important to learn all she can?
- How does Marie Curie start her own lab?
- What is Marie Curie's amazing discovery?
- What award do Marie Curie win? What was she acknowledged for?
- What is the lesson do the kids learn from Marie Curie?

Question Box 2

- How much did you know about the subject before we started?
- How do you feel about this program? Why?
- What did you enjoy about this program?

Listen to music composed by Sebastian Bach:

- [Classics For Kids](#)
- scroll down Music by Bach and listen to: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2: Movement 1
- How does Bach’s music make you feel?
- What does his music tell you about him?
- How does the saying “Practice makes perfect” apply to Sebastian Bach?
- Do you think it was easier or harder to compose music during Bach's time or now? Why?

Marie Curie:

- What attributes did Marie Curie have that helped her to achieve her dream?
- What does Marie Curie mean when she says, “follow your dreams no matter what.” Do you think this is good advice? Why or why not?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Create a storyboard of the program.
- Research more about Johann Sebastian Bach. What did you learn?

- Research more about Madame Curie. What did you find?
- If Xavier practiced the recorder for 20 minutes for 5 days straight, how much time would that be enough practice time? Explain why or why not.

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There are 3 seven-year-olds, 2 eight-year-olds and 4 nine-year-olds. What fraction of the members are seven-year-olds? If Brad joins, what will be the new fraction of seven-year-olds be? How did you arrive at your conclusion?

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- What is something that you've had to work hard to get good at? Why did you choose to work hard at that?
- What is something that you're not very good at? Create a plan that details how you will work hard to get better at it.
- Describe a time when you were excluded from something you wanted to do. How did it make you feel? What did or what can you do so that doesn't happen in the future?
- Check out this website for daily science activities to do at home with household supplies. [Stuck at Home Science](#)

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Make a paper or online timeline of the development and use of x-rays. [Timeline](#)
- Think about the change and the use of x-rays over time: past and present.
- Predict how we will use x-rays in the future and what they might look like.
- Draw a sketch of a futuristic x-ray machine and describe its uses.