

Famous authors

Name:

Date:



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was a German writer, poet, novelist, actor, scientist, geologist, botanist and philosopher. As a young boy, he wrote stories and plays and learned Greek, Latin, and French. He studied law in Leipzig and Strasbourg and later collected folk poetry with a poet named Herder.

At the age of 25, he wrote *The Sufferings of Young Werther* which was very successful all over Europe and inspired many young men. He also wrote a long play called *Faust* about a man who is promised happiness by the devil if he signs a pact with his own blood.

Goethe spent most of life working for a Duke called Karl August and studying geology, mineralogy, botany and anatomy. He went on two trips to Italy and wrote a play called *Iphigenie auf Tauris* combining the beauty of Classicism with great poetry. He was friends with famous poet Friedrich Schiller and they shared many ideas and helped each other with their works.

Goethe's most famous work is *Faust* which he worked on for most of his lifetime. He wrote *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* (an education novel) and *Die Wahlverwandtschaften* (about divorce). His last book was *Westöstlicher Divan* which uses ideas from Persia and other Eastern countries. Goethe died in 1832 and left behind a big impact on European literature.

"Instruction does much, but encouragement everything."

Letter to A. F. Oeser (9 November 1768), Early and miscellaneous letters of J. W. Goethe, including letters to his mother. With notes and a short biography (1884)

My Notes

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Famous authors

Name:

Date:



Name

Birth date

Birthplace

Life

Work

Achievement

Famous for

Famous authors

Name:

Date:



 **Task:** Fill in correctly.

Answer the questions

What inspired many young men after Goethe published *The Sufferings of Young Werther*?

- ☐ It became a symbol of Romantic rebellion.
- ☐ It was a guide on geological studies.
- ☐ It provided insights into Eastern philosophy.
- ☐ It was a significant scientific discovery.

In what way did Goethe combine Classicism and poetry in his play *Iphigenie auf Tauris*?

- ☐ He integrated elements of folklore with Romantic ideals.
- ☐ He focused on the aesthetics and thematic beauty of Classicism.
- ☐ He explored Western and Eastern philosophical concepts.
- ☐ He blended scientific theories with dramatic storytelling.

How did Goethe's friendship with Friedrich Schiller benefit their literary works?

- ☐ They collaborated on scientific discoveries.
- ☐ Their shared ideas helped improve their literary creations.
- ☐ They focused on the development of Eastern literature.
- ☐ They wrote a joint novel about education.

What subject matter is explored in Goethe's novel *Die Wahlverwandtschaften*?

- ☐ Themes of geology and mineralogy.
- ☐ The complexities surrounding divorce.
- ☐ Botanical studies.
- ☐ Eastern philosophical ideas.