

Student Worksheet 2-Foster's Songwriting

Name: _____ Date: _____

Stephen Foster drew inspiration for his songwriting from both his personal life as well as events happening around him. For instance, Stephen and his wife Jane separated in 1853. When they were reunited the next year, he published "Jennie with the Light Brown Hair." It is thought Stephen was inspired by Jane, since his first drafts of the song use her name instead of "Jennie."

Use facts from the biography and timeline to answer the following questions.

1. In which year do you think Stephen wrote the song "Hard Times Come Again No More"?
 - a. 1846
 - b. 1848
 - c. 1850
 - d. 1855

Explain your thinking.

2. In which year do you think Stephen wrote the song "I'll Be a Soldier"?
 - a. 1846
 - b. 1851
 - c. 1856
 - d. 1861

Explain your thinking.

3. In which year do you think Stephen wrote the song "The White House Chair"?
 - a. 1853
 - b. 1856
 - c. 1861
 - d. 1864

Explain your thinking.