

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Birth of Venus: Botticelli's Renaissance Masterpiece

### Short Answer Key

1. Venus in "The Birth of Venus" is depicted in a contrapposto pose, with one leg bearing weight and the other relaxed. This pose is significant in classical art because it creates a sense of naturalism and balance, enhancing the overall elegance of the figure.
2. Zephyrus, the West Wind, gently blows Venus towards the shore, while Chloris, the nymph, is transformed into Flora, the goddess of spring, in response to Zephyrus's love. Their role symbolizes the arrival of spring, as Flora scatters flowers upon the land.
3. Botticelli's use of soft, delicate hues for Venus and the figures surrounding her creates a sense of purity and idealized beauty.
4. The vibrant blues and greens used for the sea and sky represent the elements of water and air, contributing to the painting's overall mood and symbolism.
5. Classical mythology influenced "The Birth of Venus" as it drew inspiration from the myth of Venus's birth from the sea foam. This theme was important during the Renaissance because it reflected a revival of interest in the art and culture of ancient Greece and Rome.
6. Answers will vary, but students may mention feelings of awe, admiration, and a sense of timeless beauty when viewing the painting. Its enduring appeal may be attributed to its ability to evoke emotions and capture the essence of classical beauty.

