

Year 8 Work Booklet



Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre



Name:

Teacher:

Task 1: Before reading the below information on Shakespeare, write down what you already know about him.

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Task 2: Read through the information on Shakespeare's life. Highlight the most salient information.

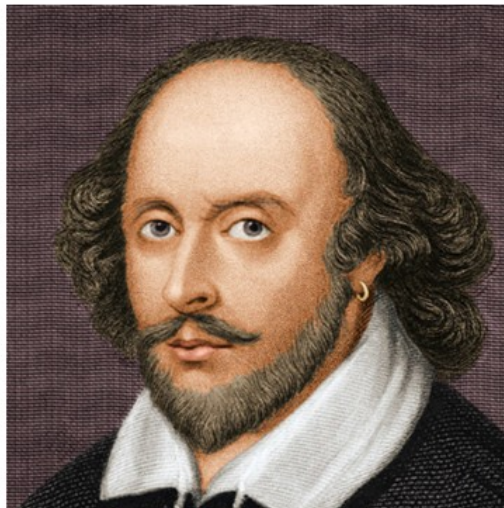
Famous playwright during Elizabethan England.

He wrote a number of plays and sonnets.

He was originally from Stratford upon Avon.

He was born and died on the same day.

He had three children, whom he left with his wife, Anne Hathaway, in Stratford upon Avon.



One of his competitors was Christopher Marlowe.

He wrote a number of comedy, tragedy and history plays.

One of his most famous plays was Romeo and Juliet.

Many English idioms (sayings) used today originate from his writing.

All of the following well known idioms come from Shakespeare's writing, but what do they mean?

Task 3: Complete the table.

SHAKESPEARE'S IDIOMS	WHAT DO THEY MEAN?
<i>'Vanished into thin air'</i>	
<i>'It's greek to me'</i>	
<i>'A tower of strength'</i>	
<i>'Stood on ceremony'</i>	
<i>'Seen better days'</i>	
<i>'The game is up'</i>	

Task 4: Fill in the blanks with the following words:

Born Christening William Stratford Eight
 Birth William's
Wool heiress Avon

William Shakespeare was _____ in April 1564, in Henley Street, Stratford upon _____. The Stratford parish register notes his _____ as April 26th 1564. Since Elizabethan christenings often take place three days after the _____, it's generally assumed that he was born on April 23rd (St. George's day).

_____ father, John Shakespeare, was a farmer's son who had moved from the country to _____. Here, he worked as a glover and also traded in barley, timber and _____. John Shakespeare's wife Mary was the daughter and _____ of Robert Arden. Of their _____ children, only five survived: _____ (the eldest), Gilbert, Joan, Richard and Edmund.

Task 5: Read through the information about Shakespeare's early life then answer the questions beneath the extract.

During his early childhood, Shakespeare's family were growing increasingly prosperous and well-established. In 1566 John Shakespeare became an alderman, then High bailiff (Mayor) and finally Chief Alderman. By 1575, he could afford to buy two houses in Henley street, and a year later applied for a grant of coat of arms. This was turned down, and by the time William was ten, his father's fortunes began to decline (possible due to religious entanglements with Catholics or Puritans). He ceased to attend Council meetings, was forced to spend some of his wife's inheritance and even had to mortgage her property at Wilmcote.

Fortunately, his son's education was free. As was befitting his social class, young William attended Stratford's Grammar School. The rigours of his school-day would seem, to a modern student, a horrendous ordeal. From six or seven in the morning until to eleven, and from one in afternoon until five or six in the evening, the hapless pupil would study reading, writing, rhetoric, logic, Latin and the Greek New Testament. But the Grammar School also introduced Shakespeare to the poetry of Ovid and Virgil, the histories of Plutarch, and the comedies of Terence and Plautus - all of which influenced his early poetry and plays.

On November 28th 1582, William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, who came from Shottery, a nearby village. The groom was 18; the bride was 26, and pregnant. Some seven months later, on 26th May 1583, their daughter Susanna was christened. When Susanna was 18 months old, Anne bore William twins, Hamnet and Judith, who were christened on 5th February 1585. we know little about Shakespeare's marriage and family life, except that Shakespeare rarely went home after he moved to London.

Questions:

1. When did John Shakespeare became an alderman? (1)
2. How old was William when his father's fortune began to decline? (1)
3. What affect did this have on John and his family? (3)
4. Which school did William attend? (1)
5. Compare William's school to Ysgol Rhiwabon. What are the differences? How are they similar? (5)
6. What happened on November 28th 1582? (1)
7. Why were the **next three years** busy for William and his wife Anne? (2)
8. When was William mentioned in the London theatre circle groups? What can we take from this? (2)

Task 6: Read the article on Shakespeare's theatre then complete the Venn diagram to summarise the information.

Shakespeare's theatre was based in London. It was established in 1590s during Queen Elizabeth I's reign; this became known as the Elizabethan period.

Shakespeare makes several references to the Queen in many of his plays. As an active advocate of the theatre, she played a significant role in the theatre community and often would invite theatre companies to perform in her royal court; this was recognised as an honour amongst the acting world.

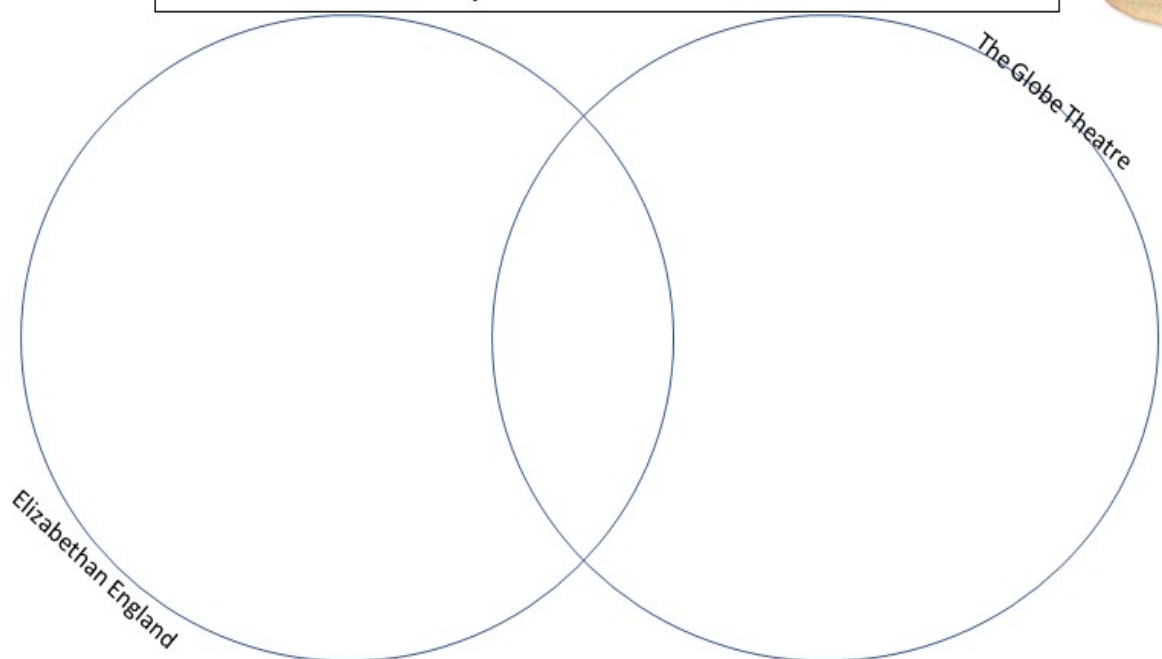
During the 1590s there were two main actor player groups; the Lord Admiral's Men and the Lord Chamberlain's men. You may notice the use of the word 'men' in the theatre group names, this was because in Shakespeare's time, Women were not allowed to perform on stage. Female characters had to be played by young boys whose voices had not yet broken.

Shakespeare was a member of the Lord Chamberlain's Men. During his time with them he wrote 20 plays, which they performed. The Globe theatre was built in 1599. It was situated on the South Bank of the Thames, it was the players themselves who raised funds and helped build the theatre themselves.

The theatre was a very popular pastime in Elizabethan England. It was the main source of entertainment and it would attract anyone and everyone through its doors. The peasants would stand in the pit during the performance; those with some money would sit in the stalls and the very rich were seated in the balconies, and had the luxury of a cushion to sit on, to ensure comfort during the performance.

Shakespeare's theatre

Having read the article on Shakespeare's theatre, complete the Venn diagram in which you summarise the information.



Task 7: Read through the below information on the audience, atmosphere and amenities at the Globe Theatre. Highlight information on the design of the theatre.

The Globe theatre was open to audiences in the summer and the performances took place by daylight; the King's company usually began to play in the month of May. Days out at the Globe Theatre would have been an exciting event. The grounds surrounding the Globe Theatre would have been bustling with people. There would be stalls selling merchandise and refreshments creating a market day atmosphere. Non playgoers would flock to the Globe Theatre to go to the market stalls and 'soak in ' the holiday-like atmosphere.

- Lighting - Natural lighting as plays were produced in the afternoon. However there was some artificial lighting mainly intended to provide atmosphere for night scenes
- Heating - There was no heating in the Globe Theatre. Plays were performed in the summer months and transferred to the indoor playhouses during the winter.
- Toilets - None! People relieved themselves outside. Sewage was buried in pits or disposed of in the River Thames.
- The Grounds of the theatre were filled with stalls selling a variety of take-away foods and beverages.
- The Globe theatre was also used for gambling, and prostitutes plied their trade within the confines of the Globe building and grounds! Fights also broke out amongst audience members adding to the entertainment available.
- The Nobles - Upper Class Nobles would have paid for the better seats in the Lord's rooms paying 5d for the privilege.
- The Lower Classes, the Commoners, were called the Groundlings or Stinkards, and would have stood in the theatre pit and paid 1d entrance fee. They put 1 penny in a box at the theatre entrance - hence the term 'Box Office'.

The 'groundlings' would pay 1 penny to stand in the 'Yard' of the Globe Theatre. The gentry would pay to sit in the galleries often using cushions for comfort! Rich nobles could watch the play from a chair set on the side of the Globe stage itself. Theatre performances were held in the afternoon, because, of course, there was limited artificial lighting. Men and women attended plays, but often the prosperous women would wear a mask to disguise their identity. The plays were extremely popular and attracted vast audiences to the Globe - the audience capacity was over 1500 people and this amount increased to 3000 when people mingled outside the grounds. In 1599, Thomas Platter noted the cost of admission in his diary:

"There are separate galleries and there one stands more comfortably and moreover can sit, but one pays more for it. Thus anyone who remains on the level

standing pays only one English penny: but if he wants to sit, he is let in at a farther door, and there he gives another penny. If he desires to sit on a cushion in the most comfortable place of all, where he not only sees everything well, but can also be seen then he gives yet another English penny at another door. And in the pauses of the comedy food and drink are carried round amongst the people and one can thus refresh himself at his own cost".

Task 8: Study the image below of the Globe Theatre and answer the below questions.



Why is there an open roof?

Why are there galleries?

Why are there no seats on the ground?

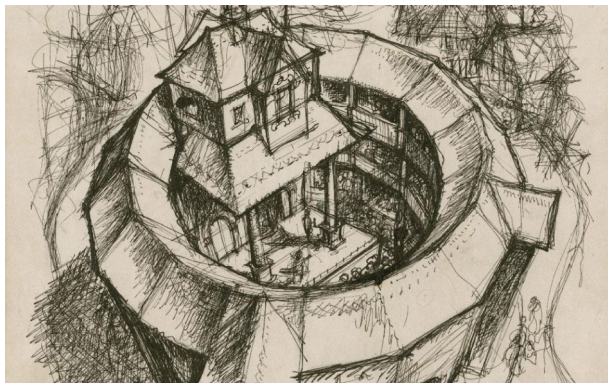
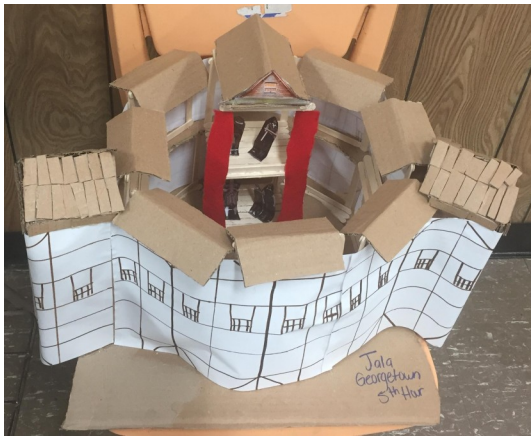
Why are the stairs located around the outside?

Task 9: Using your understanding of the design, atmosphere and amenities of the Globe Theatre, create your own model!

You can draw the model on paper, use cardboard or any other materials you may have.

Here are some ideas to help you:

<http://www.papertoys.com/globe.htm> - this is an A3 paper template model.



[illegible]

The Globe

Task 11: Research the correct answers then tick the correct box.

Groundlings were:

- 1 The land the theatre was built upon. ☐
- 2 Audience members who had to stand on the floor. ☐
- 3 The pillars used on stage that connected with the ground. ☐

How did the audience know the play was going to start?

- 1 They would check their watch or mobile phone. ☐
- 2 An actor would shout from the stage. ☐
- 3 A trumpet was sounded. ☐

A playwright is the:

- 1 Author of the play. ☐
- 2 The person who checked the play for any problems and put them right. ☐
- 3 The person who would prompt the actors if they forgot their lines. ☐

Shakespeare was a shareholder in the Globe. This meant:

- 1 He could sell spare seats in performances to friends. ☐
- 2 He had shares in the success of the company and theatre. ☐
- 3 He was the spare actor who might take a part at the last minute. ☐

Puritans were:

- 1 Strict protestants who were very religious and who were against theatres. ☐
- 2 People who liked to wash their hands. ☐
- 3 Theatre fans. ☐

Actors learnt their part:

- 1 By being given a copy of the whole play for them to use. ☐
- 2 By being told their lines. ☐
- 3 By being given a section of the play with just their part on it. ☐

Plays and theatres were:

- 1 Enjoyed by everyone in society. ☐
- 2 Blamed for spreading the plague and crime. ☐
- 3 Only open on a Tuesday. ☐

Going to the theatre cost:

- 1 Nothing at all. ☐
- 2 50p to stand and £1 for a seat. ☐
- 3 Only 1 penny for a groundling to stand. ☐

