

Introduction to Shakespeare

WHO WAS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE??

1) Shakespeare born in the year _____, in a town called _____ His parent's names were _____ and _____ and he had _____ brothers and sisters! He attended school until he was _____ years old, when he left to help his father run his business, which was _____.

At 18 he married A _____ H _____. They had _____ children, called _____, _____. He worked in the city of L _____ where he became a famous _____ and actor.

His first play was performed in the year _____.

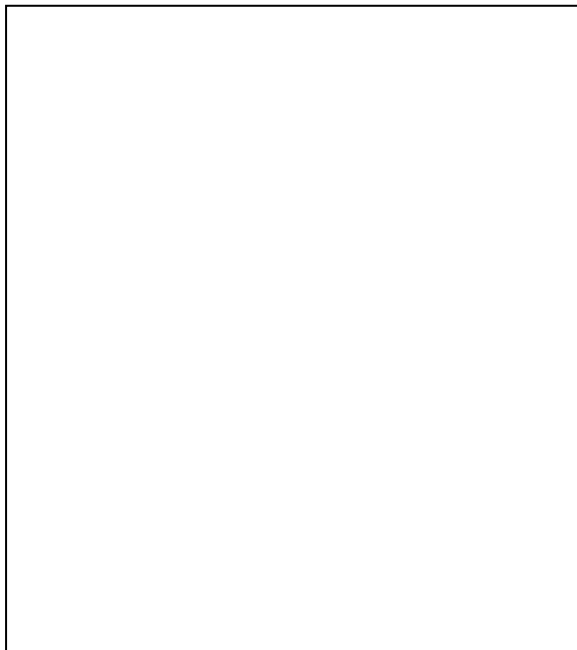
When he died in the year _____, he had written _____ plays, several poems and many s _____.

Shakespeare lived in a time called the E _____ Age. This was a time when _____ ruled England.

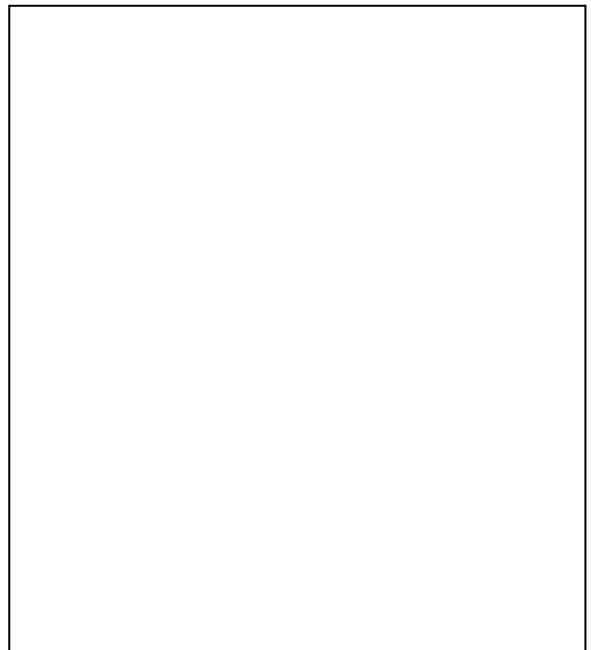
The fashions of the E _____ times were very different to today's style.

2) *Find a picture of men and women's fashion. Sketch below and label some of the key features. Eg. Men in tights!

Men



Women



Shakespeare wrote _____ plays in total!

**Find the year each of these plays (note this is just a selection its not all 35!!) was written and record it next to each title.*

Julius Caesar (_____)

Merchant of Venice (_____)

Romeo and Juliet (_____)

Midsummer Nights Dream (_____)

Much Ado About Nothing (_____)

A Winter's Tale (_____)

Macbeth (_____)

Anthony and Cleopatra (_____)

Measure for Measure (_____)

Othello (_____)

Hamlet (_____)

** Now create a timeline to show what and when the above plays were written.*



The plague hit London twice in Shakespeare's lifetime, this was bad for Shakespeare. When did the plague hit London?

_____ and _____.

What affect did this have on the theatres in London? _____

His plays were loved by everyone, r_____ and p_____ as they were great entertainment! His plays were popular because they contained parts that appealed to a wide section of society.

** Circle the issues below that you think might appear in Shakespeare's plays!*

love magic fairies sword fighting

death sadness racism dreams

jealousy anger rude jokes insanity

ancient societies famous people from history religion

war strange creatures fear adultery

sex fighting arguments relationships

murder insults tears stealing

Shakespeare's plays were usually performed at the _____ theatre.

* Sketch a diagram of the theatre and label the diagram below.

Use this http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/converse/movies/sound_globe.swf to help you!

During his performances people would l_____ and c_____ with the emotions of the actors on stage.

Questions about the theatre!!!!

1. How big was the stage of the Globe Theatre?

2. How did the actors 'make' thunder?

3. Where did the actors change into their costumes?

4. What other props did the actors use?

5. Why were swords important?

6. What did theatre-goers do before the performance?

7. Why did people arrive early?

8. What was the 'pit'?

9. Who were the 'groundlings'?

10. Why was the theatre often very noisy?

The Globe Theatre!

1. What was the name of the theatre company who used The Globe?

2. A playwright is someone who writes plays. Who was the popular writer of plays in the 1590s?

3. What other things did Shakespeare do?

4. Where was the Globe built?

5. Give 2 reasons why it was built there.

6. Where had the Lord Chamberlain's Men performed their plays before the Globe?

7. What happened to the wooden building they called 'The Theatre'?

8. What was the flag on top of the Globe used for?

9. How did people find out which play was to be performed?

10. Make a list of as many differences between the Globe and theatres today as you can think of.
