

Name: _____

Shakespeare 101 Packet



A) WHERE DID PLAYS COME FROM?

Watch the TedEd video together, then record in your own words where plays came from?

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-emergence-of-drama-as-a-literary-art-mindy-ploeckelmann>

B) ENGLAND DURING THE TIME OF SHAKESPEARE

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/shakespeares-london>

1. Go to the following web address above and analyze the photos and read the captions, write three point-form ideas about what England was like then and how it is totally different than our lives now.

2. Read the section called 'Poverty and the Plague' and write 1 paragraph in which you describe what you've read, integrating two quotes from this section.

C) ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND

Read the following excerpt below and record three point-form ideas why Elizabethan England would have been a great place to live during this time:

The age of Shakespeare was a great time in English history. The reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603) saw England emerge as the leading naval and commercial power of the Western world. England consolidated its position with the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, and Elizabeth firmly established the Church of England begun by her father, King Henry VIII (following Henry's dispute with the Pope over having his first marriage annulled).

Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the world and became the most celebrated English sea captain of his generation. Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh sent colonists eastward in search of profit. European wars brought an influx of continental refugees into England, exposing the Englishman to new cultures. In trade, might, and art, England established an envious pre-eminence. At this time, London was the heart of England, reflecting all the vibrant qualities of the Elizabethan Age. This atmosphere made London a leading center of culture as well as commerce. Its dramatists and poets were among the leading literary artists of the day. In this heady environment, Shakespeare lived and wrote.

London in the 16th century underwent a transformation. Its population grew 400% during the 1500s, swelling to nearly 200,000 people in the city proper and outlying region by the time an immigrant from Stratford came to town. A rising merchant middle class carved out a productive livelihood, and the economy boomed. ---- <http://www.bardweb.net/england.html>

D) BOY PLAYERS

Visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boy_player and find out about boy players by reading the 'Boys in adult companies' section. Then, answer the questions below.

1. When did it become permissible for women to perform in the theatre? _____

2 Why were pre-pubescent boys used to play female roles? _____

3. What did audiences think of the boy players? _____

E) WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: AN INTRO TO HIS LIFE

Read the biography on Shakespeare below and try to complete the missing information. Then, visit www.bbc.co.uk/timelines/z8k2p39 to find the correct information and complete the short biography.

Shakespeare is England's most famous playwright and _____. His plays are known throughout the world and he introduced up to 300 _____ and dozens of _____ into the English language.

He was born in _____ - _____ - _____ in the year _____. He probably went to the local _____ school, King Edward VI's School, where he learnt Greek and _____. He didn't go to _____.

In 1582, he married _____, who was three months _____. In total, they had _____ children.

He left Stratford to go and live in _____, working as a playwright and actor. He performed many times for Queen _____.

Shakespeare's group built their own theatre called the _____. By now, Shakespeare was very rich. He bought the _____ house in Stratford and many other properties as investments. He had a good head for business.

He died in _____, probably of _____. In his will, he left his _____ bed to his wife. Nobody knows for certain why he did this. He is buried in Stratford.

F) THE FAMOUS GLOBE THEATRE

Take a tour of the now rebuilt globe theatre and record 3 interesting facts.

[Virtual tour | Discover | Shakespeare's Globe \(shakespearesglobe.com\)](http://shakespearesglobe.com)

G) SHAKESPEAREAN LANGUAGE STILL USED TODAY

a. In pairs, you are going to find out the meaning of the phrases created by Shakespeare. Decide who is Student 1 and who is Student 2. Find out the meaning of the expressions and teach the phrases to your partner.

Student 1: Find the following phrases from *Hamlet*.

<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/phrases-coined-by-shakespeare-in-hamlet.html>

1. in my mind's eye _____

2. make your hair stand on end _____

3. woe is me _____

Student 2: Find the following from phrases from *Macbeth*.

<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/phrases-coined-by-shakespeare-in-macbeth.html>

4. a charmed life _____

5. a sorry sight _____

6. be all and end all _____

7. Now, choose your favourite expression from the main list, record it and its meaning here:

<http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/phrases-sayings-shakespeare.html>
