

Who was Shakespeare?

① With your group: create a poster that is presenting your topic well.

The following questions should be answered:

- a) Who was Shakespeare?
- b) What are important dates in his life?
- c) Where did he live? What was his daily life like?



Keep in mind:

- not everything you say should be written down (keep the bulletpoints short and precise)
- use colours to mark important topics
- use drawings or graphics to make your topic clearer.
- check everything for spelling mistakes.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
1564-1616

John Shakespeare 1522-1601
John was the son of a broom maker who worked as a tax collector for Robert Arden. He moved to Stratford and set up a business trading in wool, wax and iron. John made the money that gave him the money for the mobility he was also a money lender.

Mary Arden 1522-1602
Born the member of a noble Catholic family she was the youngest daughter of the widowed Robert Arden who had substantial property in Warwickshire. On her death she was named as one of the Executors of his will and was left both money and land.

William Shakespeare 1564-1616

Born 1564
Born in Stratford-upon-Avon. In April 1564, his actual birthday is celebrated but it is now celebrated on April 23rd.

Marriage 1582
On November 27th, 1582, at the age of 18, he married Ann Hathaway who was considerably older at 26.

Started his career 1585
It is believed that Shakespeare left his family in Stratford and gained a company of actors as a playwright and actor.

Sonnet 1592
Shakespeare began the first of what amounted for a collection of 154 sonnets.

New Place 1594
Shakespeare bought New Place, one of Stratford's most prominent houses.

The King's Men 1603
The Lord Chamberlain's Men were granted a patent to perform by King James I in London. The Company renamed themselves 'The King's Men'.

Plague 1608
Plague forced the closure of all theatres and business from Spring 1608 to early 1610.

The Burning of 'The Globe' 1613
On 29th June, 1613 during the first performance of Henry VIII, the Globe Theatre caught fire and the playhouse burnt to the ground.

R.I.P 1616
Shakespeare died on April 23rd, 1616 and was buried at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford.

Education 1571
Shakespeare is likely to have gone to the local Grammar School in Stratford where he later became a school master for a time.

First child born 1583
Susanna born in May 1583.

Twins born 1585
Hamnet and Judith born in February, 1585.

'Agnostic' Cryer' 1592
Shakespeare's first cryer as a town watchman in London. He was known as 'Agnostic' because he was known to be a playwright and actor.

The Lord Chamberlain's Men 1594
The King's Men took over the lease of the Theatre from the Lord Chamberlain's Men. Shakespeare was one of its key shareholders and was very successful as a playwright and poet.

The Globe 1599
Major shareholders of the Lord Chamberlain's Men leased land from Nicholas De Witt. The Globe Theatre was built on the banks of the River Thames in London.

Blackfriars' Theatre 1608
The King's Men took over the lease of the Theatre from the Lord Chamberlain's Men. Shakespeare was one of its key shareholders and was very successful as a playwright and poet.

Lost Play 1612
Shakespeare's only lost play was 'Cardenio'.

The Globe reopens 1614
The New Globe was built on the same site. It was opened in July 1614.

Published 1623
The first folio of Shakespeare's 37 plays were published in a collection known as 'The First Folio'.

William Shakespeare and his world

William Shakespeare is probably the most famous playwright of all time. Here's a summary of his life, his work, and important events of the time.

SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE

1564 Shakespeare is born in Stratford-upon-Avon.

1582 Shakespeare marries Ann Hathaway.

1585 Shakespeare's first child, Susanna, is born.

1592 Shakespeare begins to write plays and poems.

1594 Shakespeare moves to London to work in the theatre.

1599 Shakespeare's company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, is founded.

1608 Shakespeare's company moves to the Swan Theatre in London.

1613 Shakespeare's company is forced to close down due to the plague.

1616 Shakespeare dies in Stratford-upon-Avon.

1623 Shakespeare's works are published in the First Folio.

BORN AND DIED ON APRIL 23RD

HAD 7 SIBLINGS & 3 CHILDREN

LIVED UNTIL 52

INTRODUCED ALMOST 3,000 WORDS TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, AND USED OVER 7,000 WORDS ONLY ONCE IN HIS PLAYS

THERE ARE MORE THAN 80 VARIATIONS RECORDED FOR THE SPELLING OF HIS NAME

HIS PLAYS ARE MADE UP OF A TOTAL OF 884,428 WORDS

HE WROTE CLOSE TO 1/10 OF THE MOST QUOTED LINES EVER WRITTEN OR SPOKEN IN ENGLISH, AND IS THE 2ND MOST QUOTED

HE WROTE 87 PLAYS AND 154 WORKS THAT WE KNOW OF.

This is how your poster could look like

The Elizabethan World

② **With your group: create a poster that is presenting your topic well.**

The following questions should be answered:

- Who ruled England during the Elizabethan Age
- Why was it also called the Golden Age?
- What are important dates and events during that time (Expansion, the Church of England..)?
- What did the people wear and eat?



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The Shakespearean Theatre

③ **With your group: create a poster that is presenting your topic well.**
The following questions should be answered:

- a) How did a Elizabethan theatre look like? (Stage, seating...)
- b) Where were the theaters located?
- c) How was the audience?
- d) What is the Globe Theatre and why was it special?
- e) What role did a playwright have in that area?



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The Elizabethan World View

- ④ **With your group: create a poster that is presenting your topic well.**

The following questions should be answered:

- What is the Great Chain of Being?
- Which role did Religion play in the Elizabethan Era?
- What about myths and magic?
- What is the theory of humors?



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The Elizabethan world

Life in Elizabethan England

Tudor Times
The Globe could hold audiences of about 3000 people. It was a 20-sided structure which was as close to a circle as the builders could make it. The stage was raised off the ground to allow the use of a trapdoor. Outside the theatre, flags showed that a play was being performed. Many of Shakespeare's plays were performed at The Globe, including *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*. Actors used special effects, such as fireworks and cannons.

Rebuilding the Globe
The Shakespeare Globe Trust was established in 1970 so that a replica of the Globe Theatre could be built. In 1989, during an archaeological dig, the foundations of the original Globe Theatre were found. The small scraps that could be examined helped builders to understand more about what the building would have looked like. In 1997, close to the original site of the Globe, the new Shakespeare's Globe Theatre opened, showing plays by Shakespeare and other writers. The new building is not a replica of the original but is made from wood and has a thatched roof.

1599
The Globe was built in London on the south bank of the river Thames.

1613
The Globe burned down - a barrel piece of wood from a small cannon set fire to the thatch.

1616
The Globe was rebuilt on the same site. It was more extravagantly decorated, with a tiled roof.

1642
During the English Civil War, it was ordered that the theatre be closed.

1644
The Globe was demolished.

by Lisa Müller & Celina

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