

The World of Shakespeare: A Webquest

Source #1: Queen Elizabeth I of England

What condition was England in when Queen Elizabeth began her reign? What was it like when she died?

What made Elizabeth's father, King Henry VIII break England's connection with the Catholic church? (*Hint: When he did this, he named himself the head of the Church of England.*)

What type of education did she have?

How did Elizabeth use the fact that she never married to her advantage in foreign affairs?

What two religious groups were at odds in England when Elizabeth ruled?

List 4 areas/issues that defined Elizabeth's reign.

Source #2: Elizabethan Age in England

What historical event coincides with the Elizabethan Age? Over what years did this era span?

This time period is also referred to as the English Renaissance. Look up the word "renaissance" and define it in your own words.

What flourished in England during this time?

Its rivalry with Spain took its toll on England in what way?

Despite these setbacks, what allowed England to thrive economically during this time?

Looking through the list of holidays celebrated, find 2 that include traditions that look familiar. Compare/contrast them to some modern celebrations you know of.

Source #3: Elizabethan Theater

What was the general feeling toward the theater in this time period?

The Thames is the famous river that flows through London. Theaters were originally built on the other side of the river in Southwark, which was outside the city limits. Why did they choose to build here?

Before there were proper theaters, where did actors perform?

How many people could these theaters hold? From where did many of these people view the action?

When did performances take place? Why?

Who played the female roles in the plays? Based on what you know about how some people felt about the theater at the time, why do you think this was the case?

Source #4: Biography of William Shakespeare

When and where was Shakespeare born?

Most historians agree that Shakespeare had a solid formal education in his youth. What evidence supports this?

What do we know for certain about Shakespeare's education (or lack thereof)?

When did Shakespeare first appear on the theater scene in London? How was he received initially?

With which notable acting troupe did Shakespeare work (*Hint: He was writing and acting for them by 1594*)?

What evidence proves that Shakespeare was considered a successful playwright, even in his own time?

Source #5: The Globe Theatre

What unique financial decision did Shakespeare make when The Globe was built? How did this benefit him?

Take a look at the map provided. In addition to The Globe, theaters known as The Swan, The Hope, and The Rose were also in operation. What do you notice about where all these are located?

Why were Shakespeare and his partners forced to build The Globe, an open-air theater outside of town?

What happened to The Globe in 1613, and how did Shakespeare's company respond?

Describe the general design, layout, and size of The Globe

Now sketch a diagram of it (you may Google Image “The Globe Theatre” if you need to).

Source #6: Phrases Coined by Shakespeare

Describe Shakespeare’s contributions to Modern English.

Using the list of phrases, find 2 you have heard before. Then click on them to learn 1) what they mean exactly and 2) which work of Shakespeare they were first used in.

<p>Saying:</p> <p>1. Meaning:</p> <p>2. Original use:</p>	<p>Saying:</p> <p>1. Meaning:</p> <p>2. Original use:</p>
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