



Spring 1: All the World's a Stage

Key Questions

- What was Shakespeare's England like?
- What evidence do we have to tell us what Shakespeare's early life in Stratford-Upon-Avon was like?
- How did people enjoy themselves in Elizabethan England?
- Why was the theatre seen as a 'sinful' pastime in Shakespeare's England and how did it gain such popularity despite this reputation?
- How does theatre in Shakespeare's England compare to theatre in Ancient Greece?
- What was so special about Shakespeare that makes us study him?

Great People

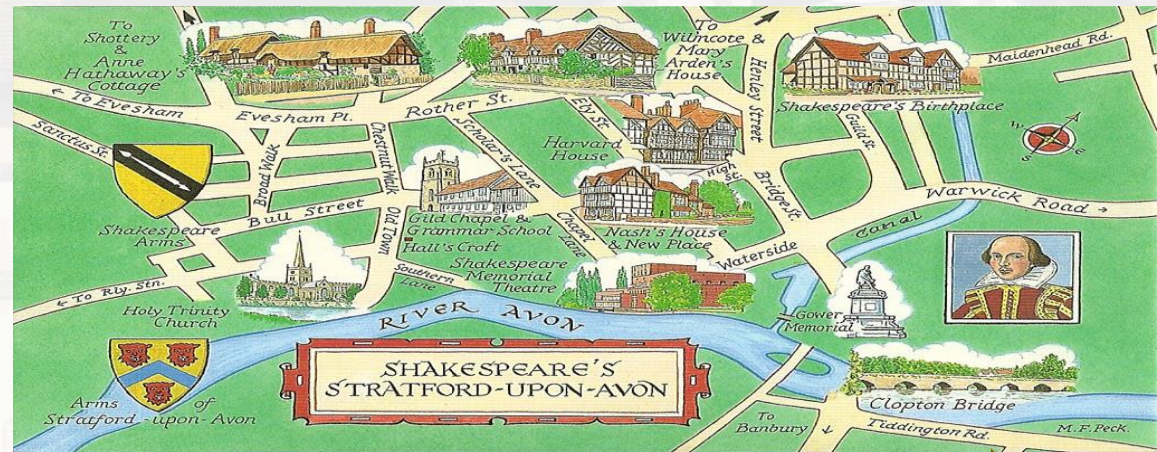
William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was a British playwright and poet.

He is often considered to be the most talented writer of all time.

His plays and poems are still studied and performed over 400 years later!

Shakespeare lived in the 16th and 17th centuries, throughout the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I and King James I. They are both known to have watched his plays. Some of his most famous plays include Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, Hamlet and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Some of the phrases that Shakespeare wrote have become part of our everyday language!





William Shakespeare Timeline

1564:	1582:	1592:	1593:	1594:	1599:	1603:	1609:	1611:	1616:
Shakespeare born in Stratford-upon-Avon	Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway.	The earliest records of Shakespeare in London.	Shakespeare's first poems were published.	His first plays performed by Chamberlain's Men.	The Globe Theatre was built in London.	James I became King. His theatre group renamed the 'King's Men.'	Shakespeare's sonnets were published.	He retired back to Stratford-upon-Avon.	William Shakespeare died.



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Key Vocab and Glossary

- **William Shakespeare** - He was also known as the Bard (another name for a poet)
- **Queen Elizabeth 1st** 
- **Elizabethan Era** - the time period when Elizabeth 1st ruled England (1558-1603)
- **King James 1st** 
- **Jacobean Era** - the time period when King James 1st ruled England (1603-1625)
- **Renaissance** - a period of time from the 14th to the 17th century in Europe. This era bridged the time between the Middle Ages and modern times. The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth".
- **The Globe Theatre** - a theatre in London built in 1599 by Shakespeare's playing company, The Lord Chamberlain's Men (changed their name to The King's Men during the reign of James 1st). It could seat 3000 people and 1000 standing in the 'Yard'
- **Puritans** - a group of religious people who disapproved of many things in Elizabethan society. They disliked all forms of entertainment that distracted people from worshipping God and of the things they hated most was the theatre.
- **Plague** - a deadly disease believed to be spread through the air in the 16th century

Top 10 Facts!

- Shakespeare's three children were called Susanna, Hamnet and Judith.
- In total, Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets and around 40 plays.
- He was sometimes called 'The Bard of Avon.' A bard is another word for a poet.
- The Globe Theatre was shaped like an octagon, with eight sides.
- Not many people could read at the time, so Shakespeare hung up coloured flags to let people know the type of play to be performed.
- Shakespeare's first play was called Henry VI.
- Another theatre that Shakespeare's plays were performed in was Blackfriars Theatre.
- Some of Shakespeare's phrases that are still used today include 'wild goose chase', 'green-eyed monster', and 'neither here nor there.'
- A Midsummer Night's Dream is Shakespeare's most performed play.
- Some believe that Shakespeare never existed, and was a different writer using a pen name.



The Globe Theatre in London and the RSC in Stratford-upon-Avon where lots of Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies and history plays are performed today.



Useful Links

- <https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/william-shakespeare>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/curations/shakespeare>
- <https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/>