

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

WebQuest Description: Students will research William Shakespeare's life and times to understand the context from which his great works were written.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: English / Language Arts

Keywords: William Shakespeare, Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet

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Introduction

Your team will investigate one aspect of William Shakespeare's life or of the time period in which he wrote. Your goal is to gather information and answer questions to become an expert and transfer your knowledge to the class. In order to properly study any of Shakespeare's works, you must have some background knowledge of his life and times. By covering

Shakespeare's life and the society in which he lived you will gain an appreciation of the environment in which Shakespeare's plays were written and therefore a better understanding of the plays themselves.

The main concepts covered in this lesson would be the life of William Shakespeare (i.e.. his childhood, early acting career, life as a playwright, his personal life) and the Elizabethan Era. There would be a number of concepts covered under the heading of the Elizabethan Era such as: Queen Elizabeth I, Education, Medicine and Health, Law and Punishment, Clothing, Entertainment, Theatre, and The Globe.

Tasks

Today you will be researching online the life and times of one of the most well-known authors of all time - William Shakespeare.

Working in pairs, you will follow the instructions on the process page answering the questions on the handout by following the links provided to appropriate websites and pages. You will have 45mins to complete this task and then we will discuss your answers as a whole group.

Process

Historical and Social Context

Who was Queen of England during the time Shakespeare began to write? Who ruled after her? Give the approximate dates of the Elizabethan period. Identify the social classes during Shakespeare's time.

Describe

the status of women. How would a young woman respond to a request from her father?

What

is primogeniture?

What

was the Bubonic Plague and how did it affect society during Shakespeare's time?

Describe

these aspects of Elizabethan life:

foodsocialization city life, hygiene, crime
homesclothing

Elizabethan Timeline

Clothing

Elizabethan HousesElizabethan Period

Plague

Homes

Primogeniture

EducationElizabethan Marriage Customs

Where did marriages take place during the Middle Ages?

Why were marriage contracts arranged?

Who performed the marriage ceremony?

What was the common age for marriage?

What is a betrothal?

What was the goal of a Renaissance wedding?

Describe the common wedding attire during this period.

Describe what foods might be served at a wedding feast.

Betrothal and Wedding

Love and Marriage

Feasts,

Attire, and Customsakespeare's Life

When and where was

Shakespeare born?

Describe his

upbringing and education.

What were the four

types of plays he wrote?

Where were his plays

performed and by whom?

Besides writing plays,

what other skills made Shakespeare a "jack of all trades?"

When and where did

Shakespeare die?

Why do we still read

his works today? (Hint: think of theme)

Find several famous quotations that originated in Shakespeare's

works. Mention the works from which they come.

Shakespeare's Life

More on Shakespeare's LifeThe Elizabethan Theater

Where

were most theaters built? (in or out of the city)? Why? Why
is the Globe Theater so famous?

What

time of day did performances take place? How was the public notified
about performances?

Who

played the female roles and why?

What

type of scenery and props were used?

What

were the costumes like?

What

other skills did actors need besides acting ability?

What

was the cost of standing room at the Globe?

Who
was Richard Burbage?

Who
were the King's Men or Chamberlain's Men? Identify:

PitGroundlingHeavensTrap
doorTiring
house

Language

– The language Shakespeare uses seems very different from the language

we use today. What developments had they made in language? • Could everyone read? • Was there a dictionary or collection of common vocabulary? • What do we call what Shakespeare wrote in? • What are the other major works of the time? Useful Tools:
<http://www.pbs.org/shakespeare/locations/location154.html> <http://www.fathom.com/course/28701903/session2.html>
<http://www.bardweb.net/globe.html> <http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/> <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/> INTERNET RESOURCES *Please be advised that although these resources are helpful, you are welcome to find others that work best for your project needs. Elizabethan Society: <http://ise.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/society/societysubj.html> Elizabethan Society: <http://www.kingsmenshakespeare.org/set/history.pdf> Elizabethan Era: <http://elizabethan.org/compendium/index.html> Shakespeare's Life: <http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/timeline/timeline.htm> Shakespeare's Life: <http://ise.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/life/lifesubj.html> Shakespeare's Life: <http://www.online-literature.com/shakespeare> Globe Theater: <http://virtual.clemson.edu/caah/Shakespr/VRGLOBE/VRGlobe.htm> Globe Theater: <http://www.enotes.com/william-shakespeare/shakespeares-globe-theater> Globe Theater: <http://www.bardweb.net/globe.html> Elizabethan Language: <http://www.renfaire.com/Language/index.html> Elizabethan Language: <http://ise.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/literature/languagesubj.html> Romeo & Juliet Quotes: http://www.online-literature.com/quotes/quotation_search.php?author=Shakespeare&from=Romeo+and+Juliet Romeo & Juliet Overview: <http://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us/romjul.html>

Evaluation

Category and Score	Exemplary 4	Very Good 3	Developing 2	Beginning 1	Score
Teamwork	The work was divided and shared equally among all team members.	All team members contributed some work to the project.	Most team members participated in the work.	One or two members handled most of the work while other members did very little.	%25
Layout	The newsletter features outstanding visual appeal with excellent use of space, color, line, and graphics are neatly presented. Photos and other graphics are appropriate.	The newsletter features visually attractive layout with good use of color, space, line, and graphics is apparent. The newsletter is neatly presented.	The newsletter features a simple layout design neatly presented.	The newsletter lacks visual appeal and/or neatness in layout.	%25
Required Components	Newsletter features all of the required components, evidence of extensive planning and organization, and evidence of extensive research using a variety of Internet, print, and other sources.	Newsletter features all of the required components, evidence of basic planning and organization, and evidence of basic research using a variety of other sources.	Newsletter features most of the required components, with evidence of basic organization and planning, and use of several sources.	Newsletter features few of the required components, lack of unified structure, and the use of few verifiable sources.	%25
G.U.M	An excellent grasp of standard writing and language use is apparent. The newsletter is free of most errors in grammar, usage, spelling, punctuation, and sentence formation.	A good grasp of standard writing and language use is apparent. The newsletter contains only minor errors which do not interfere with understanding the ideas presented.	Reasonable control of standard writing and language use is apparent, but some errors interfere with understanding the ideas presented.	Errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage, and sentence formation distract the reader and interfere with understanding the ideas presented.	%25
				Total Score	%100

Conclusion

Through your research into the life of William Shakespeare, Elizabethan England and Romeo & Juliet you now have the background information necessary to approach the play with a better understanding of Shakespeare's inspiration. As we read, consider the information you've now researched and how it may have contributed to the masterpiece.

Teacher Page

This lesson is design to give ninth grade students an introduction to Shakespeare. The students are able to gain background knowledge, integrate technology, work collaboratively, create a product, and hopefully, gain motivation to study Shakespeare. There are many ways that this lesson may be changed to fit your specific needs. Feel free to copy and use any or all of this lesson for those purposes.

Standards

Credits

Other