

Name _____

Period _____

Webquest: Shakespeare and Romeo and Juliet



For the next two days, you may work by yourself or with a partner to use the internet websites provided to search for more information about William Shakespeare, the Elizabethan Age (the time period during which Shakespeare lived and wrote), the Globe Theatre, and the play *Romeo and Juliet*. ***Each person needs to complete a paper so that you have the information for tests! Good luck and happy hunting!**

<http://william-shakespeare.info/site-map.htm>

William Shakespeare's Life and Family

1. Where was Shakespeare born? Give the town and country.
2. Shakespeare's exact birthdate is unknown, but it is approximated as April 23, 1564. What custom of the time suggests that this was the actual date?
3. Who were Shakespeare's parents?
4. Who did Shakespeare marry?
5. Give information about Shakespeare's children.
6. When did Shakespeare die? What is unusual about this date?
7. What did Shakespeare bequeath (leave to) his wife in his will? What was she entitled to receive according to the law?

8. List four other people (besides his wife) that Shakespeare mentioned in his will and describe what was bequeathed to each person.

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Shakespeare's Plays and Sonnets

9. Shakespeare wrote 37 plays, and 36 of them were published in *The First Folio*. What was *The First Folio* and who was responsible for compiling and editing it?

10. In what year was *The First Folio* published?

11. Shakespeare's plays are divided into three main groups. What are these?

12. Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets. What is a sonnet? How many lines, and what is the rhythm?

<http://www.folger.edu/template.cfm?cid=960>

Theatre in Shakespeare's Time

13. What was unique about the actors in Shakespeare's plays?

14. What was the original name of Shakespeare's acting company? What was it later named?

15. What was the name of the first London playhouse? When was it built? Who built it?

16. Name at least three other famous public playhouses during Shakespeare's time.

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/trivia/globe/globe.htm>

The Globe Theatre

17. In what year was The Globe Theatre completed and opened?
18. Who built the Globe?
19. Where was the Globe Theatre? What river did it overlook?
20. What was the playhouse's motto? (in English) What was its crest?
21. Why did the audience really need to use their imagination when watching a play?
22. What happened to cause the Globe to catch fire and burn? During what play did this occur?
23. Was the Globe re-built? Explain.
24. Describe the Globe theatre today. Where is it and how is it the same and different from the original?
25. Who was the most famous actor in the Lord Chamberlain's Men acting troupe?

<http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/elizabethan-life.htm>

Elizabethan England

26. Who was the Queen of England during Shakespeare's life? What were the years of her reign?
27. Name two world explorers of the time.

28. What were some unusual punishments for crimes in Elizabethan Times?

29. What were the two major religions at the time that clashed?

30. What were some marriage and wedding customs of the time?

<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/shakespeare-play-romeo-and-juliet.htm>

Romeo and Juliet

31. It is believed that the play *Romeo and Juliet* was written and first performed in what year(s)?

32. Comedy, History, or Tragedy? (circle one)

33. Is the play based on a true story? Explain.

34. What are the names of the two feuding families in *Romeo and Juliet*?

35. What is the setting (city and country) of the play?

** When you are finished, turn in your webquest to the teacher and pick up the Globe Crossword puzzle. It is homework and is due on Thursday.