

# Shakespeare Showcase (Elizabethan England) | History | Years 5 & 6 | Spring Term 2022-23

1547 to 1553 AD	1553 AD <i>(disputed)</i>	1553 to 1558 AD	1558 AD	1564 AD	Mid-1580s to 1594 AD	1603 AD	1616 AD
Reign of King Edward VI.	Lady Jane Grey reigned for 9 days in July of this year.	Reign of Queen Mary I.	Queen Elizabeth I ascends to the throne.	William Shakespeare is born on 23 <sup>rd</sup> April.	Shakespeare arrives in London to seek work in the theatres. In 1592 Shakespeare begins to earn money as an actor and playwright and in 1594 becomes co-owner of acting company 'The Lord Chamberlain's Men'.	Queen Elizabeth I dies on 24 <sup>th</sup> March and King James I ascends to the throne.	Shakespeare dies on 23 <sup>rd</sup> April.

## National Curriculum History

Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources. In planning to ensure the progression described above through teaching the British, local and world history outlined below, teachers should combine overview and depth studies to help pupils understand both the long arc of development and the complexity of specific aspects of the content.

## Artefacts



The Cobbe Portrait – alleged to be the only portrait of Shakespeare during his lifetime.



The Globe Theatre.



Shakespeare's works contribute many words to our language.



Feather quill and ink.

## Cause and Effect

Who succeeded Henry VIII?

After the death of Henry VIII, four monarchs ruled in only 11 years, resulting in instability and uncertainty across England: a child king, opposing religious views, disputed reigns all preceded Elizabeth I's ascension.

What was Shakespeare's lasting legacy?

Shakespeare added over 1000 words and well-known phrases in the English language which he invented and we still use today. He was pivotal in the development of our language during the Elizabethan era and his works contributed significantly to the standardization of grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

What were Elizabethan playhouses like?

In London, they were mostly on the south bank of the Thames and comprised the Heavens, Hell, Tiring House, Galleries and Pit / Yard.

## Vocabulary

**Monarch:** A sovereign head of state, especially a king, queen or emperor.

**Succession:** The order under which one person after another inherits a title/throne.

**Ascend (to the throne):** To become king or queen.

**Reign:** The period of rule of a monarch.

**Playhouse:** A theatre; two types, indoor and outdoor.

**Playwright:** A person who writes plays.

**Tragedy:** An event causing great suffering, destruction and distress.

**Comedy:** Entertainment intended to make an audience laugh.

**The 'Heavens':** The stage roof, supported by pillars, often painted with stars, sun and moon.

**The Pit or Yard:** Open to the sky. Where the 'groundlings' stood.

**'Hell':** Trapdoor in the stage floor.

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## Key Learning: When did this event happen? Beyond Living Memory (Early Modern Era) 1625 AD to 1649 AD

- 1 How did the lives of the rich and poor compare in Elizabethan times? Who was Shakespeare?**

Compare and contrast life today with life in Elizabethan times, making comparisons between the rich and the poor. Learn about key events/facts from the life and work of William Shakespeare, the famous playwright and poet, who lived during the Elizabethan era. Although Shakespeare's exact date of birth is not known, it can be derived from the recorded date of his baptism; it was commonly accepted that people in his time were baptised 3 days after birth. Explain why Shakespeare is a key figure in British history and still influential throughout the world today.
- 2 Who succeeded Henry VIII?**

Know the chronology of British monarchs from Henry VIII to Elizabeth I and understand why there were so many different monarchs over a relatively short period of time. Explain the key beliefs and values of each of these monarchs and consider how the beliefs and values of each monarch may have affected people living during their reign.
- 3 What is Shakespeare's lasting legacy?**

Understand the lasting legacy Shakespeare has had on the English language; because of Shakespeare, we have over 1000 words and well-known phrases in the English language which he invented! Explain / infer meaning of a number of Shakespearian phrases to compare and contrast to language today.
- 4 How did Shakespeare influence Elizabethan entertainment and entertainment today?**

Identify the key features of an Elizabethan playhouse (specifically the Globe theatre). Explain the difference in theatre experiences of the rich and poor in Elizabethan times.
- 5 How did Shakespeare influence Elizabethan entertainment and entertainment today?**

Continue learning from previous lesson. Annotate a diagram of an Elizabethan playhouse with its key features. Shakespeare wrote three types of play – comedies, tragedies and histories. The flag outside the theatre (white, black and red respectively) indicated which type of play was being performed.
- 6 Who succeeded Elizabeth I? What was the Puritan's view of the theatre?**

Know the chronology of British monarchs from Elizabeth I to Charles II, including that following the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, King James VI of Scotland ascended to the English throne, becoming King James I of England. This was significant as it unified England and Scotland under one monarch for the first time. Interestingly, Shakespeare's acting company 'The Lord Chamberlain's Men' had its name changed to 'The King's Men' when King James I came to the throne. Explain the key beliefs and values of Puritans and consider how these beliefs and values affected theatre during this time.