

Lesson ideas and materials

William Shakespeare

The times

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Teaching aims

Students will learn about the societal structures of the Elizabethan Age during which Shakespeare lived, including class structures, legal structures, gender relations and the beliefs underlying them. Students will learn important vocabulary to be able to discuss and write about the Elizabethan Age. They will attain a first foundation for finding and understanding passages in Shakespearean plays that relate to social relations and beliefs. There will be a quiz and plenary consolidation/discussion to explore and solidify the information input.

Description of material

The following material consists of:

- text about the society of Shakespeare (1 page), document name: "Society Fact Sheet" (available under the following download link from "Twinkl": <https://www.twinkl.de/resource/t4-e-383-shakespeare-social-and-historical-context-activity-pack>)
- reading task+quiz for text comprehension (Worksheet 1)
- quiz solution key
- language help vocabulary sheet (Worksheet 2)
- image of Globe Theatre (GTI) for first impulse; teacher should prepare image for beamer or projector

Overview of lesson design:

Phase / Teaching activity / Impulse	Material
Activity 1 [silent impulse] Teacher invites students to comment on the image of the Globe theatre (GTI) and collects comments. Possible follow-up teacher questions: <i>What is happening?, When might this be taking place?, Who do you think has written those plays?</i>	GTI, beamer/ projector



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Phase / Teaching activity / Impulse	Material
<p>Activity 2 [individual work, partner work]</p> <p>Teacher hands out the text input, explains the tasks. The reading task is done as individual work. The quiz can be either done individually or together with a partner.</p>	<p>Society Fact Sheet, WS1, WS2</p>
<p>Activity 3 [plenary discussion]</p> <p>Responses are collected and discussed in class. Answers are collected on the board.</p>	<p>Society Fact Sheet, WS1, WS2, KQS</p>
<p>Activity 4 [homework]</p> <p>Teacher introduces homework task. The students are asked to write an essay about the following topic: Compare our society and life today with the Elizabethan Age and comment on similarities and differences. Write approximately 150-300 words.</p>	<p>board</p>