

Material 3: Playhouses during Shakespeare's time

1. Reading Comprehension Quiz

Instructions: Read each question carefully and select the best answer based on the information from the passage.

1. What were the two types of playhouses in Shakespeare's time?

- a) Public and private inns
- b) Taverns and inns
- c) Outdoor and indoor playhouses
- d) Music halls and amphitheatres

2. Where was the first playhouse, the *Red Lion*, built?

- a) In Newington Butts
- b) On the south bank of the River Thames
- c) In Stepney, outside the city walls
- d) In the Court of Queen Elizabeth I

3. Who was involved in building the *Theatre* in 1576?

- a) William Shakespeare and James Burbage
- b) John Brayne and James Burbage
- c) The Earl of Leicester and Queen Elizabeth I
- d) King James I and John Brayne

4. Why were many playhouses built outside the city walls?

- a) The city officials supported the construction of playhouses outside the walls.
- b) It was cheaper to build outside the city walls.
- c) City officials disliked playhouses and restricted their construction within the city.
- d) The south bank of the Thames was safer for audiences.

5. What was the primary reason City officials were against playhouses?

- a) They thought playhouses were a waste of money.
- b) They believed they attracted thieves and undesirable people.
- c) They didn't like the type of plays being performed.
- d) They were too expensive to maintain.

6. What type of entertainment could be found near the playhouses on the south bank of the Thames?

- a) Schools and libraries
- b) Animal baiting arenas, brothels, and taverns
- c) Royal court performances
- d) Sports arenas and gardens

7. Which playhouse was Shakespeare's company not associated with?

- a) The Globe
- b) The Curtain
- c) The Swan
- d) The Blackfriars indoor theatre
- e) The Theatre

8. Who typically built the playhouses in Shakespeare's time?

- a) The acting companies
- b) Wealthy businessmen
- c) City officials
- d) Royal patrons

9. What were the main building materials used for playhouses?

- a) Stone and marble
- b) Brick, timber, sticks, hair, and plaster
- c) Clay and straw
- d) Wood and glass

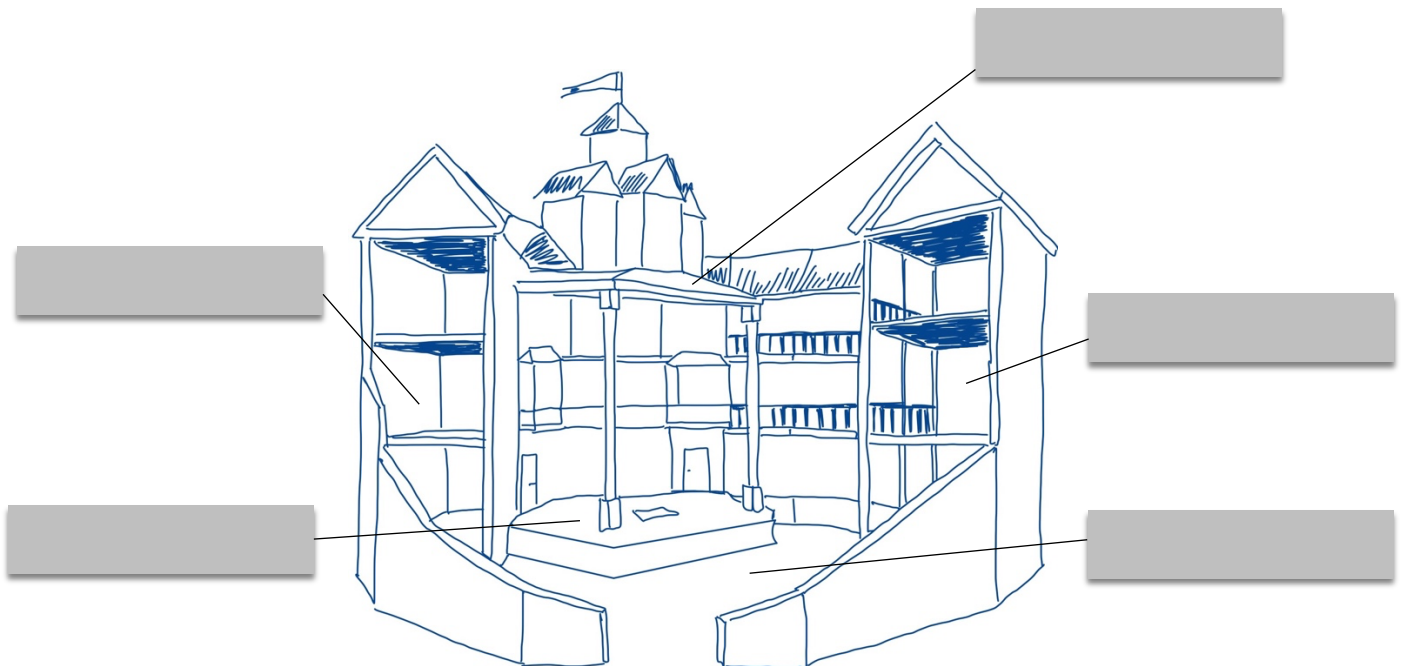
10. Which of the following is true about outdoor playhouses?

- a) They only hosted plays and no other forms of entertainment.
- b) They were made entirely of stone.
- c) They had roofed galleried seating around an open yard.
- d) They were all built south of the River Thames.

11. Matching activity: Match the terms to their correct descriptions

The heavens	a) Open area in the center of the playhouse for standing audience members
Central yard	b) Raised platform where performances took place
Tiring house	c) Roof over the stage, sometimes used for special effects
Raised stage	d) Backstage area for actors to dress and prepare
Galleries	e) Three seating sections for audience members which are roofed

2. Label the diagram of the outdoor playhouse with the correct terms:



3. State three facts you think are most interesting about the playhouses in Shakespeare's time: