

# Lesson ideas and materials

## William Shakespeare

### The stage

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### Teaching aims

Students work on building context around Shakespeare's plays by engaging with a text about playhouses in London during Shakespeare's time. They identify the differences to modern theatre design. Several reading comprehension tasks help to foster the students' reading, text and media literacy competences.

### Description of materials

The following material consists of:

- images to compare playhouse and modern theater (Material 1)
- Input on playhouses (Material 2, "Fact Sheet: Playhouses" by Globe Education:  
<https://teach.shakespearesglobe.com/fact-sheet-playhouses?previous=/library/category/reading-148%3Fkeyword%3Dthe%2520stage>)
- Reading quiz and diagram of a playhouse (Material 3)

### Overview of lesson design:

Phase / Teaching activity / Impulse	Material
<b>Activity 1 [plenary discussion]</b> Teacher: <i>Please look at these two pictures and describe what you can see. What are the most striking differences? What is similar?</i> Students describe differences and similarities between two different kinds of theatres portrayed on the pictures.	<i>Material 1 (two images: Shakespearean theatre and contemporary theatre)</i>
<b>Activity 2 [individual work]</b> Teacher hands out Material 2. Students read the text about playhouses.	<i>Material 2: Playhouses (Globe Education)</i>



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Phase / Teaching activity / Impulse	Material
<p><b>Activity 3 [individual work]</b></p> <p>Teacher hands out Material 3. Students work on the reading comprehension quiz.</p> <p>Students who finish early can research the question from the text: <i>Can you find out what happened to the first Globe theatre in 1613?</i></p>	<p><i>Material 3: Quiz</i></p>
<p><b>Activity 4 [plenary discussion]</b></p> <p>Teacher: <i>Let's compare the answers. ... Please summarise the information on the worksheet to have an overview that you can return to.</i></p> <p>The information from the text is secured in a brief info sheet.</p>	<p><i>Material 3: Diagram</i></p>
<p><i>Discussion prompt:</i></p> <p>Why do you think city officials were against playhouses? Do you think their concerns were valid?</p> <p><i>Creative writing prompt:</i></p> <p>Imagine you are a visitor to London during Shakespeare's time, attending a play at the Theatre or the Globe. Write a letter to a friend describing the atmosphere, the design of the playhouse, and your experience as part of the audience.</p>	

