

# Why don't we celebrate Shakespeare's birthday?



# Who was William Shakespeare?

- **William Shakespeare was the world's greatest writer.**
- **He introduced nearly 2000 words into English.**
- **His works were translated into more than 100 languages.**
- **His plays are still performed worldwide in every country of the world.**
- **He is also studied at nearly every school, college and university.**
- **Shakespeare's face is one of the most recognized images in the world.**

Read the text and find 6  
interesting facts about his life  
and family. You can make notes  
and then share the information  
with your partner

## What are these numbers refer to?

15

8

26

1585

1597

37

3

154

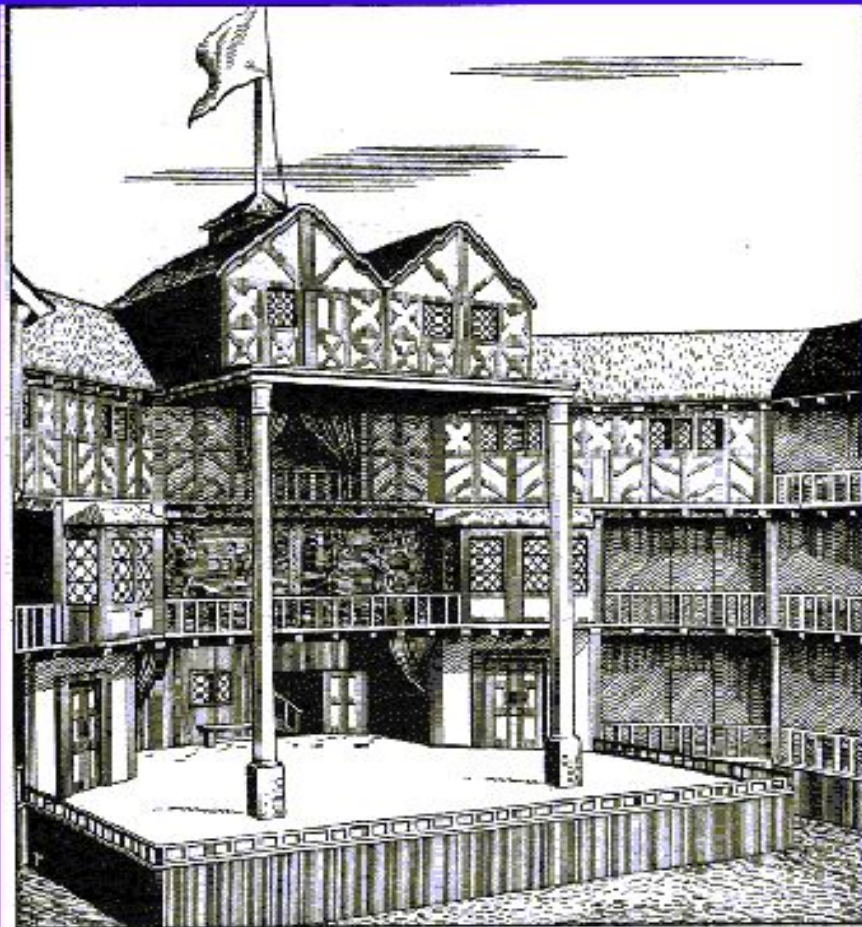
23

52

1564

Shakespeare in numbers

# What was Shakespeare's Theater Like?



The Stage of the Globe (drawn from the model made by Dr. J. C. Adams)

- In 1598, they built a new *theatre*. It was round. They called it the Globe.
- The Globe was open to the sky. A flag was raised to show a play was about to begin. Plays began at 2.00 in the afternoon.

## **Read about Shakespeare's theatre and choose the picture that describes it best.**

- The poor people stood up and the rich people sat on the wooden seats that formed the large round theatre.
- Unlike today, the audience were never quiet – they shouted, booed and cheered all the way.
- There were no lights, so plays were performed in daytime only, normally just after lunch.
- Girls were not allowed to act on stage, so even the female roles were played by boys in dresses.
- Actors wore the clothes of the day, with wigs and make up.
- Plays had exciting special effects. There were ghosts, witches, loud bangs, flames and smoke, drums, and even cannons.
- In 1613, during Shakespeare's play Henry VIII, a cannon set fire to the straw in the roof. The Globe burned down.

# Picture A or Picture B



**Read the sentences about The Globe theatre again and say if they are true or false**

- **1. All people could sit at the theatre.**
- **2. Women played female roles.**
- **3. People were very quiet, they were not allowed to shout and talk during the plays.**
- **4. The plays were only in the afternoon.**
- **5. There were exciting special effects.**
- **6. There wasn't any make up at that time.**



# The new Globe

- The modern Globe Theatre in London is a replica (copy) of Shakespeare's Globe.
- People can watch plays just as people did in Shakespeare's days.
- The new Globe was opened in 1997.



# Shakespeare's plays

- Shakespeare wrote **comedies**, stories with a happy ending. These plays often have people falling in love. A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy with fairies and humans.
- He wrote **tragedies**, stories with a sad ending. Romeo and Juliet is a tragedy, because the young lovers, Romeo and Juliet, both die.
- Shakespeare's **history plays** are about real people, such as Julius Caesar, the Roman general, or the English kings Henry V and Richard III.

# The most popular plays

What Shakespeare's plays do you know?

Look at the names of some famous plays and give Russian equivalents.

1. All is well that ends well.
2. A midsummer night's dream.
3. Much ado about nothing.
4. Merchant of Venice.
5. Twelfth night.
6. The merry wives of Windsor.
7. As you like it.

# What are Shakespeare's Most Famous Plays?

- **Romeo and Juliet**

- After the death of his father, Prince finds his life hard. One night, the ghost of the father appears and tells him that he was murdered by Claudius ... who killed him to become King! Prince is unsure what to do, but he thinks a plan to prove that Claudius is guilty and kill him ... but it all goes wrong and EVERYONE ends up dead!

- **Hamlet**

- This play is about a Scottish soldier who visits three witches. They tell him that he will become king. With the help of his wife, the soldier kills King Duncan (and many others) and becomes King. It doesn't last long though, when an army arrives to kill the evil soldier!

- **Macbeth**

- This is a love story. Set in Italy, the story follows a boy and a girl who fall in love. However, they are from two families that hate each other! So they decide to get married in secret. It all goes wrong when Romeo and Juliet die, and the families are forced to make friends.

**What do you think what his  
plays are like?**

**Fantastic**

**difficult**

**boring**

**interesting**

**Funny**

**full of love**

**exciting**

**end badly**

**never heard about**

**Listen to three interviews about Shakespeare's plays. Match the speakers with the plays.**

- |          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| 1. Andy  | a) Julius Caesar    |
| 2. Sarah | b) Romeo and Juliet |
| 3. Mike. | c) Hamlet           |

**Whose opinions are these? Andy's, Sarah's or Mike's?**

The stories are fantastic.

Shakespeare is too difficult.

Shakespeare's plays should be seen at the theatre.

Shakespeare is old-fashioned.

The characters in the plays are interesting.

Shakespeare writes about important things.

# Fun with Shakespeare



- Shakespeare plays crosswords
- Shakespeare plays word search
- The Shakespeare code

# Idioms and phrases in a chest

- Round 1 - phrases

- Round 2 - idioms





How did you find Shakespeare's party?



## **Home task 1**

**Design a theatre poster advertising one of the plays. The poster should include:**

- The name of the play**
- Actors and actresses**
- The name of the theatre**
- Days/times of the show etc.**

## Hometask 2

make an illustration to any of the  
Shakespeare's plays