

### Knowledge Organiser

Year Group	Subject	Topic
6	English	Introduction to Shakespeare

#### The Big Picture

In this unit the children will learn about the playwright William Shakespeare and the period of history when he lived. This gives the children a historical context for his plays and helps them understand his language and characters better. They are going to be given an overview of two of his plays: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'The Tempest.' The children will create pieces of work based on the plot lines of the plays. They will also complete activities based on Shakespearean language.

#### Enquiry Question

<p>What kinds of poems did Shakespeare write?          What kind of playwright was he?          Was Shakespeare popular while he was alive?          What was Shakespeare's most popular play?          Did he base his play's on real life?</p>	<p>Why is he so important today?          What were the main themes of his plays?</p>
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#### Key Vocabulary

<b>Actor</b>	A person who portrays a character in a performance.
<b>Bard</b>	This originally meant a friend who likes writing poetry. This name has since become Shakespeare's nickname.
<b>Chamberlain's Men</b>	A theatrical company with which William Shakespeare was connected for most of his professional career as a dramatist.
<b>Comedy</b>	Comedy is a literary genre and a type of dramatic work that is amusing and satirical in its tone, mostly having a cheerful ending.
<b>Playwright</b>	A person who writes plays.
<b>Poet</b>	A person who writes poems.
<b>Rhyming Couplet</b>	A Rhyming Couplet is two lines of the same length that rhyme and complete one thought.

#### Key Vocabulary

<b>Sonnet</b>	A poem of fourteen lines using any of several formal rhyme schemes, in English typically having ten syllables per line.
<b>Theatre</b>	A venue where a play is performed to an audience.
<b>The Globe</b>	Shakespeare's Globe is a world-renowned theatre, education centre, and cultural landmark, located on the bank of the River Thames in London, UK
<b>Tragedy</b>	Tragedy is a serious play or drama typically dealing with the problems of a central character, leading to an unhappy or disastrous ending

Timeline of Shakespeare's life	
1564	Shakespeare is born in Stratford – Upon-Avon
1582	Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway
1592	The earliest record of Shakespeare in London
1593	Shakespeare's first poems were published.
1594	Shakespeare's first plays were performed by Chamberlain's Men
1599	The Globe Theatre was built in London
1603	James I became King. Shakespeare's theatre group was renamed 'The King's Men.'
1609	Shakespeare's sonnets were published
1611	He retired in Stratford – Upon – Avon
1616	William Shakespeare died.

### Top Ten Facts About William Shakespeare

1. Shakespeare's three children were called Susanna, Hamnet and Judith
2. In total Shakespeare wrote around 154 sonnets and 40 plays
3. He was sometimes called 'The Bard of Avon.' A Bard is another word for a poet.
4. The Globe Theatre was shaped like an octagon with eight sides.
5. Not many people could read during Shakespeare's time. He used to display different coloured flags so people knew what type of play was going to be performed.
6. Shakespeare's first play was called 'Henry VI'
7. Another theatre where Shakespeare's plays were performed was called Blackfriars Theatre.
8. Some of Shakespeare's phrases are still used today. These are: 'wild goose chase,' 'green eyed monster' and 'neither here nor there.'
9. 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is one of Shakespeare's most performed plays.
10. Some people believed that Shakespeare never existed and that it was a different writer using a pen name!



