



**Shakespeare's birthplace**

**Stratford-upon-Avon**

## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1564. In 1582 he married Anne Hathaway and had 3 children : two daughters and a son. When he was about 23, William went to London to begin a career in the theatre. He soon became a successful actor and playwright. He created an actors' company : The King's Men , and with an associate, he built his own theatre : The Globe. Between 1586 and 1613, he wrote 37 plays (comedies, tragedies and historical plays) as well as beautiful sonnets (150). Queen Elizabeth 1, then King James 1 often went to the theatre to see his plays. Shakespeare lived in London, but continued to go to Stratford-upon-Avon where he bought a magnificent house called « New Place ». He retired there in 1612 and died on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1616, aged 52.

**Read the text about William Shakespeare then complete the chart :**

### PERSONAL DATA

Place of birth :

Date of birth :

Date of marriage :

Number of children :

Date of death :

Wife's name :

### HIS CAREER

Departure for London : age

Name of theatre :

Number of plays :

Occupation :

Name of company :

Other works :

Can you give the titles of some of his plays ?

COMEDIES

TRAGEDIES

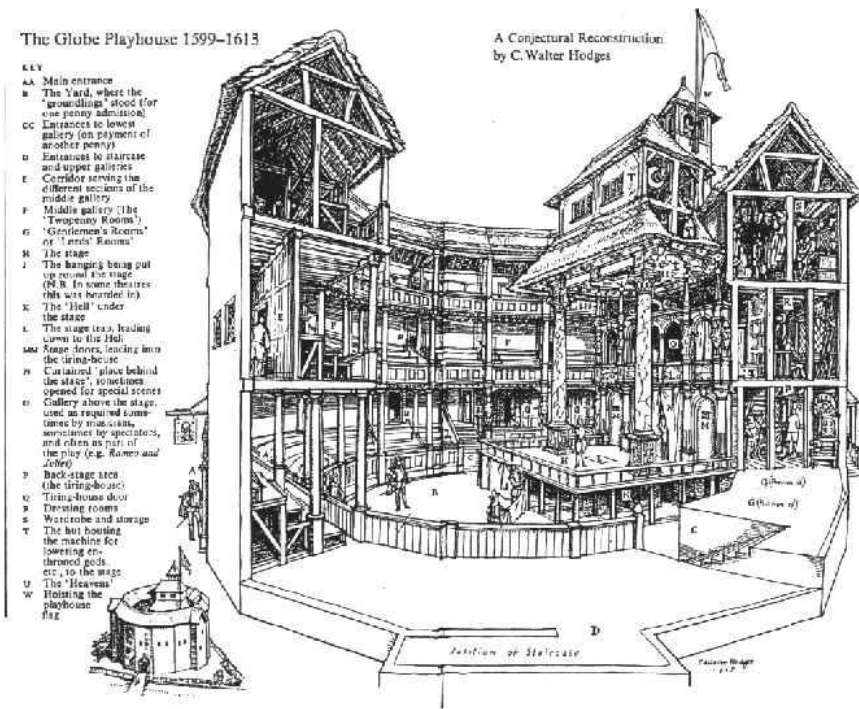
HISTORICAL PLAYS

Can you quote a sentence by William Shakespeare ?

## THE GLOBE

In those times, the theatre was a very popular entertainment. The poorer people stood in the central uncovered pit since theatre buildings had no roof. Only the richer ones could sit in the roofed galleries. That's why they only played there during the summer and in daylight, as there was no means of lighting the house. There was no front curtain. On the stage there were very few props, but the actors always had very elaborate costumes. There were no actresses so women's parts were played by boys. There were no microphones either, and as the crowds shouted and drank, it became very noisy. The actors had to repeat their lines in different places on the stage so that everyone could hear them. There were always some funny scenes with clowns and songs, even in tragedies, to please the varied audience.

You can now have an idea of what it was like if you go to London because Shakespeare's theatre, the Globe, has been rebuilt exactly as it was at the time.



Cherchez dans ce texte 9 mots de liaison différents et reportez-les dans le tableau selon ce qu'ils expriment.

LE BUT			
LA CAUSE			
LA CONDITION			
LA CONSEQUENCE			
L'OPPOSITION			
LE TEMPS			

Voici quelques définitions qui correspondent à des mots du texte. Retrouvez de quels mots il s'agit en vous aidant du contexte (c'est-à-dire des mots qui l'entourent).

- 1- The people who come and see a play form the .....
- 2- It is usually red and someone opens it before the play begins. It's the .....
- 3- The place where actors stand and play is called the .....
- 4- If the actors' company is small, one actor can play different .....in the same play.
- 5- The place in the centre of a theatre where there are no seats is the .....
- 6- A theatrical synonym for « text », « words » = the .....
- 7- The clothes worn by an actor = a .....
- 8- A play which has a very sad ending is a .....
- 9- A man whose part consists in making people laugh = a .....
- 10- The objects used in a play or a film other than the painted scenery or the costumes = the .....

Toutes ces définitions ont un point en commun. Lequel ?