



Teacher Resource

Shakespeare Day

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Why was William Shakespeare's earlier life referred to as the "lost years"?
2. What is the name of the theatre in London associated with William Shakespeare?
 - a. The Sphere
 - b. The Globe
 - c. The Orb
3. Give three examples of words or phrases that Shakespeare invented.
4. Name a film that is an adaptation of Shakespeare's work.
5. Do you think Shakespeare's work is still relevant today? Give reasons for your answer.

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Shakespeare Day story as a class. Students will then respond to the following:

- What is one thing you learnt about William Shakespeare?
- What is one thing you found interesting about him?
- What is one question you still have about Shakespeare?



Activity: Fun Facts!

After watching the BTN story students will write down their top 5 most fun facts about William Shakespeare. Students will share and compare their facts with the class.

Students will expand on their learning by finding 5 additional fun facts about William Shakespeare that aren't included in the BTN story. They will compile their list of fun facts in an interesting way. Visit [National Geographic Kids](#) to learn all about William Shakespeare.

EPISODE 10

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about William Shakespeare's life, work and legacy. Students will experiment with language by creating new words.

CURRICULUM

English – Year 5

Understand how to use knowledge of known words, base words, prefixes and suffixes, word origins, letter patterns and spelling generalisations to spell new words.

Explore less common plurals and understand how a suffix changes the meaning or grammatical form of a word.

English – Year 6

Understand how to use knowledge of known words, word origins including some Latin and Greek roots, base words, prefixes, suffixes, letter patterns and spelling generalisations to spell new words including technical words.

Identify the relationship between words, sounds, imagery and language patterns in narratives and poetry such as ballads, limericks and free verse.

English – Year 7

Understand how to use spelling rules and word origins, for example Greek and Latin roots, base words, suffixes, prefixes, spelling patterns and generalisations to learn new words and how to spell them.

Activity: Shakespeare's life, work and legacy

Piecing together Shakespeare's life

Students will work in small groups to put together a timeline of important events in William Shakespeare's life. Provide cards with the following important events for students to create a timeline:

- Born in Stafford-Upon-Avon
- Marriage to Anne Hathaway
- Published poems with the Lord Chamberlain's Men
- The mystery of "The Lost Years"
- Acting and writing in London
- Performing at the Globe Theatre

An excerpt from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

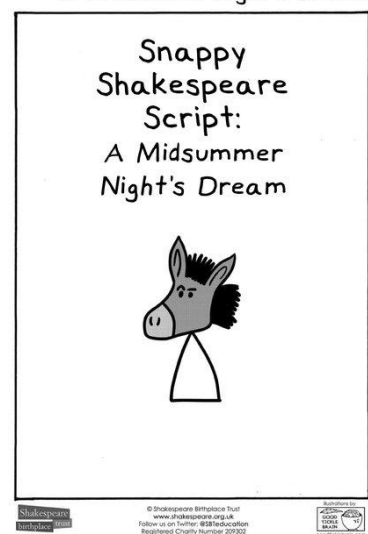
As a class read a short excerpt from one of Shakespeare's plays. 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is the most popular of Shakespeare's plays with primary students. Download a copy of this [reduced script](#) from the *Shakespeare Birthplace Trust*.

Select a short passage to read aloud with your class. Students may want to take it in turns reading lines from the script. Encourage students to use emotion, actions or gestures as they read their lines.

Facilitate a class discussion after reading the script, using one or more of the following questions to guide the discussion:

- What is happening in the scene? Can you summarise it using your own words?
- Who are the main characters?
- Where is the scene set?
- What themes do you notice in the story?
- What part of the story did you enjoy the most? Why?
- Which character did you like the most? Why?
- How is the language different to how we speak today?
- Were there any words or phrases you didn't understand? What do you think they mean?

A Midsummer Night's Dream



Source: Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Shakespeare today

As a class discuss how Shakespeare's work still influences the world today. Explain to students what the word LEGACY means, and that Shakespeare's legacy includes:

- Shakespeare's stories – famous plays like Romeo and Juliet. Themes from his plays are still used today, like love, jealousy, power and revenge.
- The English Language – Shakespeare invented many words and phrases which are still used today. For example, "break the ice", "wild goose chase" and "heart of gold".
- His influence on entertainment – Many movies and songs have been inspired by his plays. For example, The Lion King and Gnomeo and Juliet.

Students will then design and create a poster that illustrates William Shakespeare's legacy.

Activity: Playing with Language

This activity focuses on word-building and William Shakespeare’s creative use of language. Students will understand what prefixes, suffixes, compound words and verbification are and explore how William Shakespeare used these language features. Students will experiment with language and create their own new words.

Introduce the activity

Briefly explain to your students that Shakespeare experimented with language in creative ways.

He used prefixes like “un-” and suffixes such as “-ful” and “-less” to form new adjectives and nouns. He also created compound words by combining two words into one and often changed nouns into verbs (and vice-versa). In addition, he borrowed words from other languages, especially Italian, and modified existing English words by shortening or lengthening them.

Group activity

In small groups, present your students with a list of words that were invented by Shakespeare. Each of the words below are examples of prefixes and suffixes, compound words or verbification.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <i>eyeball</i> | <i>foul-mouthed</i> | <i>uncomfortable</i> | <i>misthink</i> |
| <i>eyelid</i> | <i>watchdog</i> | <i>uneducated</i> | <i>frightful</i> |
| <i>lacklustre</i> | <i>cold-hearted</i> | <i>misquote</i> | <i>fashionable</i> |
| <i>bittersweet</i> | <i>tongue-tied</i> | <i>overblown</i> | <i>childish</i> |
| <i>hotblooded</i> | <i>bloodsucking</i> | <i>exhale</i> | <i>gloomy</i> |
| <i>bloodthirsty</i> | <i>reword</i> | <i>unreal</i> | <i>noiseless</i> |
| <i>to shoulder</i> | <i>to gossip</i> | <i>to elbow</i> | <i>to table</i> |

Students will organise the words into the following columns deciding whether they are a prefix, suffix, compound or verbification. Ask students to find meanings for 5 of the words, use each word in a sentence and then share with the class.

| Prefixes and suffixes | Compound words | Verbification |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
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Become a wordsmith

Challenge students to invent their own words which they would like introduced into the English language. Encourage students to have fun inventing their new words!

Students will create:


- 1 word using a prefix
- 1 word using a suffix
- 1 compound word
- 1 verbified word

Choose a project

Students will find a creative way to use as many of the new words as they can.

- Write a short mini-Shakespeare style paragraph using your invented words.
- Create word search.
- Write a rap using your new words.
- Create an illustrated dictionary of your invented words.

BTN English collection

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on English. Look for BTN stories with the pencil icon  to find supporting teacher resources all linked to the Australian Curriculum.

[BTN – English Collection](#)



Useful Websites

- [William Shakespeare](#) – BTN
- [Shakespeare](#) – BTN
- [Modern Shakespeare](#) – BTN
- [Shakespeare in School](#) – BTN
- [Globe Theatre](#) – BTN
- [The History of English Shakespeare](#) – YouTube
- [Playground \(interactive\)](#) – Shakespeare's Globe
- [Shakespeare's words and inventions](#) – Bell Shakespeare
- [New Words](#) – BTN
- [Shakespeare's Words](#) – Shakespeare Birthplace Trust