

Shakespeare and the Globe

Retrieval:

This extract is made up of facts and opinions. Find two examples of each.

Facts:

1. _____

2. _____

Opinions:

1. _____

2. _____

Draw a picture of The Globe using the description to help.

Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre

Some of Shakespeare's most famous plays were first performed at the Globe Theatre, which was built on the South Bank of the River Thames in 1599.

Going to the Globe was a different experience from going to the theatre today. The building was roughly circular in shape, but with flat sides: a little like a doughnut crossed with a fifty-pence piece. Because the Globe was an open-air theatre, plays were only put on during daylight hours in spring and summer. People paid a penny to stand in the central space and watch a play, and this part of the audience became known as 'the groundlings' because they stood on the ground. A place in the tiers of seating beneath the thatched roof, where there was a slightly better view and less chance of being rained on, cost extra.

The Elizabethans did not bath very often and the audiences at the Globe were extremely smelly! Fine ladies and gentlemen in the more expensive seats sniffed perfume and bags of sweetly-scented herbs to cover the stink rising from the groundlings.

There were no actresses on the stage; all the female characters in Shakespeare's plays would have been acted by boys, wearing wigs and make-up. Audiences were not well-behaved. People clapped and cheered when their favourite actors came on stage; bad actors were jeered at and sometimes pelted with whatever came to hand.

Most Londoners worked hard to make a living and in their precious free time they like to be entertained. Shakespeare understood the magic of the theatre so well that today, almost four hundred years after his death, his plays still cast a spell over the thousands of people that go to see them.

Evaluative:

Where would you expect to find this text?

Tick one:

- On the front page of a newspaper
- In an advertising leaflet for the Globe Theatre
- In one of Shakespeare's plays
- In a biography of Shakespeare's life

Why do you think this text would appear here? Explain using evidence from the text.

Summarising: Each paragraph in the text is about a different aspect of Shakespeare or the Globe Theatre. Briefly explain the focus for each paragraph:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____





Shakespeare and the Globe

For these questions, circle the correct answer:

1. In which year was the Globe built? (1 mark)

1959

1559

1599

1595

2. Where is the Globe located? (1 mark)

South Bank of
the River Thames

Portsmouth

Southampton

North Bank of
the River Thames

3. Was visiting the Globe the same to our experience of the theatre today? Why? (2 marks)

Same

Different

4. How much did the groundlings pay? (1 mark)

5. Where would you rather sit? Why? (2 marks)

With the groundings

On the tiered seating





6. Which word in the text means 'a little'? (1 mark)

7. What did the Elizabethan's do to stop the smell at the theatre? (2 marks)

8. Were all of the characters played by girls? (1 mark)

9. How did the audience treat the bad actors? Why? (2 marks)

10. How do we know that Shakespeare plays are still popular today? Circle two. (2 marks)

People still go to see Shakespeare plays today.	People have precious free time.	Shakespeare plays are still performed today.	Londoners worked hard to make a living.
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11. Order the statements detailing the focus of each paragraph. (1 to 5)

Actors and how the audience behaved.

Introduction to the Globe Theatre and its location.

Shakespeare's plays in the modern day.

How the audience smelt.

Different seating in the Globe Theatre.





For these questions, circle the correct answer:

1. In which year was the Globe built? (1 mark)

1959 1559 1599 1595

2. Where is the Globe located? (1 mark)

South Bank of the River Thames Portsmouth Southampton North Bank of the River Thames

3. Was visiting the Globe the same to our experience of the theatre today? Why? (2 marks)

Same

Different

Same = sat in tiers, watch plays as a past time, different prices dependent on where you sit.

Different = standing section which is uncommon in today's theatres, throwing food at the actresses, the Globe was partially open-air, there were no actresses.

4. How much did the groundlings pay? (1 mark)

a penny

5. Where would you rather sit? Why? (2 marks)

With the groundings

On the tiered seating

Covered by a roof so less likely to get rained on.

Sat with less smelly people.

Less likely to have food thrown at you.

Seating instead of having to stand.





6. Which word in the text means 'a little'? (1 mark)

slightly

7. What did the Elizabethan's do to stop the smell at the theatre? (2 marks)

they sniffed perfume and bags of sweetly-scented herbs

8. Were all of the characters played by girls? (1 mark)

No, they were all played by boys

9. How did the audience treat the bad actors? Why? (2 marks)

They jeered at them and sometimes pelted them with whatever came to hand in order to show them that they were not happy with their performance.

10. How do we know that Shakespeare plays are still popular today? Circle two. (2 marks)

People still go to see Shakespeare plays today.	People have precious free time.	Shakespeare plays are still performed today.	Londoners worked hard to make a living.
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Shakespeare and the Globe

1. What word suggests that not all of Shakespeare's plays were performed at the Globe? (1 mark)

first

performed

which

some

2. What simile is used to describe the theatre (1 mark)

3. Was visiting the Globe the same to our experience of the theatre today? Why? (3 marks)

Same

Different

4. Why might the theatre have only put on plays during spring and summer months (2 marks)

5. Look at the third paragraph. Which words make the text more colloquial? Choose one and explain why? (3 marks)

With the groundings

On the tiered seating





6. Why did some of the actors have to wear wigs and make-up? (2 marks)

7. What does it mean by the term 'pelted'? What does this suggest about the people doing this? (2 marks)

8. Why might the Elizabethan's free time be 'precious'? (2 marks)

9. How do we know that Shakespeare plays are still popular today? Circle two. (2 marks)

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1. What word suggests that not all of Shakespeare's plays were performed at the Globe? (1 mark)

first

performed

which

some

2. What simile is used to describe the theatre (1 mark)

a little like a doughnut crossed with a fifty-pence piece

3. Was visiting the Globe the same to our experience of the theatre today? Why? (3 marks)

Same

Different

Same = sat in tiers, watch plays as a past time, different prices dependent on where you sit.

Different = standing section which is uncommon in today's theatres, throwing food at the actresses, the Globe was partially open-air, there were no actresses.

4. Why might the theatre have only put on plays during spring and summer months (2 marks)

The Globe Theatre was partially open-roofed and so if the plays were put on during autumn or winter it might be more likely to rain or snow and therefore the performers and audience would get wet. Also there was not electricity and so they would need to natural light from the sun so that the performance could be viewed.

5. Look at the third paragraph. Which words make the text more colloquial? Choose one and explain why? (3 marks)

Sweetly-scented

stink

expensive

Stink is a more colloquial term for bad smell.

Stink suggests that these audience members did not bathe very often and therefore had a very bad body odour.





6. Why did some of the actors have to wear wigs and make-up? (2 marks)

There were no female performers and so any boys who were acting as girls would have had to wear a wig and make up to disguise themselves as a girl.

7. What does it mean by the term 'pelted'? What does this suggest about the people doing this? (2 marks)

It means to hurl or throw. This suggests that the audience were extremely rude and ill-mannered as nowadays we would not throw anything at someone else, let alone a performer in a play.

8. Why might the Elizabethan's free time be 'precious'? (2 marks)

Elizabethans might not get much free time due to having to work long hours. Therefore, when they do have free time, it would be precious and important to them as it would be rare.

9. How do we know that Shakespeare plays are still popular today? Circle two. (2 marks)

People still go to see Shakespeare plays today.	People have precious free time.	Shakespeare plays are still performed today.	Londoners worked hard to make a living.
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10. Order the statements detailing the focus of each paragraph. (1 to 5)

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Shakespeare and the Globe

1. 'a little like a doughnut crossed with a fifty-pence piece'. Why do you think that the author chose to include this particular description? (2 mark)

2. Why might a place in the tiers cost more? Circle two. (2 marks)

It was covered over and so the audience would not get wet.	There were more comfortable, padded seats.	There was food on sale in the tiers.	There was a better view of the stage.
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3. What does the term 'tiers of seating' imply about the number of seats? Why? (2 marks)

not many seats

lots of seats

4. Why might there be a worse smell from the groundlings? (3 marks)

5. Who is most likely to have pelted the actors? Why? (3 marks)

The rich people

Other actors

The groundlings





6. What does it mean by the 'magic of the theatre'? (3 marks)

7. Why do you think that the theatre was so important to the Elizabethans? (3 marks)

8. How does the author extend the metaphor of the theatre being magical? Why do you think that he does this? (2 marks)

9. How do we know that Shakespeare plays are still popular today? Circle two. (2 marks)

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1. 'a little like a doughnut crossed with a fifty-pence piece'. Why do you think that the author chose to include this particular description? (2 mark)

Doughnuts and fifty-pence pieces are both familiar objects. The author has selected these objects as the reader will be able to picture them/ visualise them in their minds.

2. Why might a place in the tiers cost more? Circle two. (2 marks)

<p>It was covered over and so the audience would not get wet.</p>	<p>There were more comfortable, padded seats.</p>	<p>There was food on sale in the tiers.</p>	<p>There was a better view of the stage.</p>
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3. What does the term 'tiers of seating' imply about the number of seats? Why? (2 marks)

not many seats

lots of seats

The word 'tiers' suggests rows or levels. For there to be rows or levels, there must be more than one level of seating and therefore lots of seats.

4. Why might there be a worse smell from the groundlings? (3 marks)

It only cost a penny to obtain a seat in the groundlings section of the theatre. This suggests that these seats were for the poorer audience members. These people might not have access to washing facilities and might work in jobs which meant that they smelt more. In the text, it also says that 'fine ladies and gentlemen' sat in the more expensive seats, suggesting that the groundlings were poorer and the ones creating the smell.

5. Who is most likely to have pelted the actors? Why? (3 marks)

The rich people

Other actors

The groundlings

Rich people = would have had more money to spare on wasting food to throw at the actors.

The groundlings = closer to the performers so easily able to throw items at the actors.

The groundlings might be more poorly behaved as the rich people were described as 'fine ladies and gentlemen' and so were therefore less likely to throw things at the actors.

6. What does it mean by the 'magic of the theatre'? (3 marks)

The theatre was an incredible experience for the people who visited. The term 'magic' suggests that it was mysterious and exciting and therefore very different to day-to-day life in Elizabethan England which might have been quite dull in comparison as they would not have had access to a wide-range of entertainment like modern audiences do.

7. Why do you think that the theatre was so important to the Elizabethans? (3 marks)

There were limited forms of entertainment during the Elizabethan times. Therefore, the theatre would have been an escape from reality which was otherwise rarely possible. The theatre also offered the Elizabethans access to the wider world which they otherwise would not be able to.

8. How does the author extend the metaphor of the theatre being magical? Why do you think that he does this? (2 marks)

In the final paragraph, it says, "his plays still cast a spell over the thousands of people that go to see them". The author has extended the metaphor of the theatre being magical by saying that the plays still 'cast a spell'. A spell is often linked to the idea of magic.

9. How do we know that Shakespeare plays are still popular today? Circle two. (2 marks)

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