



English 12

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark by William Shakespeare

WebQuest

Introduction: This webquest was created to help students gain a better understanding of the historical context for the play, as well as to gain some insight into the author's background.

Task: Students will explore various pre-selected websites to answer questions in a worksheet packet. Students will discover and learn about William Shakespeare, the Globe Theatre, and the play, *Hamlet*.

Process: Use the resources listed below to complete the webquest worksheet assignment.

1. Use these resources:

"The Shakespeare Resource Center" at <http://www.bardweb.net/index.html>

"Shakespeare's Life & Times" at <http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/life.htm>

"The Literature Network" at <http://www.online-literature.com/shakespeare/>

"Shakespeare Online" at <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/>

to complete **Part A** of your worksheet.

2. Use the resources above, in addition to:

"The Globe Theater: An Overview" at <http://shakespearestudyguide.com/Globe.html>

to complete **Part B** of your worksheet.

3. Use the resources:

"The Shakespeare Resource Center" at <http://www.bardweb.net/plays/hamlet.html>

"About Shakespeare" at <http://absoluteshakespeare.com/guides/hamlet/characters/characters.htm>

to complete **Part C** of your worksheet.

4. Use the resource "The Phrase Finder" at <http://www.phrases.org.uk/search.html> and search on "Hamlet" to complete **Part D** of your worksheet.

Evaluation: Students will turn in the entire worksheet packet to be corrected for an assessment grade.

Conclusion: William Shakespeare's works are the most widely read, quoted, taught, and performed in the history of literature. In this assignment you were able to explore a variety of resources about this important author and his works. You should have gained some insight and important background information about this influential playwright, who has influenced both theater and education for centuries.



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WebQuest Assignment

Part A – Shakespeare: The Man and his Works

1. Where and when was Shakespeare born?
2. How many siblings did Shakespeare have?
3. What did Shakespeare's father do for a living?
4. Identify and give a brief description of Shakespeare's wife.
5. How many children did Shakespeare have?
6. What traumatic event occurred in August of 1596?
7. What does the term "the lost years" refer to in Shakespeare's biographies?
8. Where did Shakespeare get his material for his plays?
9. Define "bard":
10. How many plays did Shakespeare author? What categories are Shakespeare's plays divided into?
11. What odd item did Shakespeare bequeath to his wife in his will?
12. What words are printed on Shakespeare's grave stone?
13. What is the "authorship problem" referred to in Shakespeare's biographies?
14. What is Shakespeare's longest play? His shortest?
15. What is the First Folio? Describe and explain its significance.
16. Illustrate a timeline of Shakespeare's life in the space provided below:

Part B – The Globe Theatre

1. Who constructed the Globe Theatre? When was it constructed?
2. What were the names of the other prominent theaters at the time?
3. What is the name of the acting company who performed at the Globe?
4. What are the term(s) used to refer to the audience members who stood on the floor (in front of the stage) to watch performances at the Globe?
5. What religious sect worked diligently to close the Globe Theatre? What was their motivation for doing so?
6. Describe the unique construction history of the Globe Theatre and illustrate a timeline in the space provided below:

Part C – *The Tragedy of Hamlet*

1. When was the play written? Performed?
2. Where does *Hamlet* fall in the chronology of the production of all of Shakespeare's play?
3. Who first played the role of Hamlet?
4. What association does the character of Hamlet have to Shakespeare's own son?
5. What problems does the central character, Hamlet, face in the play?
6. What unique information did you learn about the play, *Hamlet*?

Part D – Famous Lines from *Hamlet*

Interpret and explain one of the following famous quotes from the play:

1. "To be or not to be..."
2. "the pen is mightier than the sword"
3. "shuffle off this mortal coil"
4. "brevity is the soul of wit"
5. "neither a borrower nor a lender be"