

**Where and when:**

**Date:** Monday 21 March

**Time:** 11:00am

**Duration:** 30 minutes

**Location:** [bbc.co.uk/livelessons](https://bbc.co.uk/livelessons)



*This programme is available to view from home or school, and no sign-up is required. Simply visit the website on the day and follow the instructions on the page to watch.*

**Curriculum links:**

This Live Lesson for [Shakespeare Week](#), in partnership with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, is aimed at children between the ages of 7 and 11 across the UK, with content drawn from:

- Key Stage 2 History in the National Curriculum for England
- Second Level Social Studies on Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence
- Progression Step 2 in Humanities in the Curriculum for Wales
- Key Stage 2 The World Around Us (Change Over Time) on the Northern Ireland Curriculum

**Learning objectives include:**

- A study of an aspect or theme in history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge
- Considering the chronology of the period that Shakespeare lived
- I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past
- I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence
- I can use evidence to explain how aspects of the past have been represented and interpreted in different ways
- I can recognise, describe and explain similarities and differences between people's lives, both in the past and present
- How people and places have changed over time
- How the world has changed over time

## **Setup:**

This Live Lesson will be broadcast live on the CBBC channel and simultaneously on the BBC Teach website at 11:00. We will be running a live commentary page on BBC Teach during the broadcast to reflect contributions from children watching from home and school.

## **How much space and equipment is needed?**

The lesson can be viewed in a classroom or at home with a device (computer, tablet or mobile phone) linked to a reliable broadband connection or watched on a television on the CBBC channel. We will be asking children to get involved in activities throughout the lesson and have provided downloadable [activity sheets](#) to help guide them through this. You may wish to hand these out in advance, along with stationery such as pens and pencils. Pupils will still be able to follow the activities if they don't have printed activity sheets to hand.

## **Lesson content:**

### **Section 1 – Introduction**

This history Live Lesson will explore the early life of Shakespeare and how his childhood inspired him to write! Throughout the programme we'll check in with the 'Shakespeare Sleuths' as they investigate the playwright's childhood in Stratford-upon-Avon. As the team find clues about his life, we will learn about primary and secondary sources.

The presenter will introduce the programme by welcoming special guest William Shakespeare, from CBBC's Horrible Histories, and ask him to tell us more about what the Tudor times were like.

Shakespeare will explain by playing a game called 'Two Doors.' Behind each door is the name of a subject, and how much time he has to explain all he knows about the subject. Subjects covered will be the plague, differences between the lives of rich and poor people, and Tudor food.

### **Section 2 – The Shakespeare Sleuths find the parish register**

In this section we will look at what we can find out about Shakespeare's childhood from primary and secondary sources. The presenter will explain that a primary source is evidence from the time in history that we are looking at, and a secondary source is something created after it happened.

We will see a short film of the Shakespeare Sleuths searching for clues at the playwright's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon. During the film, the Shakespeare Sleuths will examine the local parish register in which Shakespeare's baptism is recorded.

The presenter will ask the audience to see if they can spot the year Shakespeare was born and what language the parish register records were written in. To help pupils join in, we have provided a [downloadable activity sheet](#) with an image of the parish register featured in the film. The presenters will reveal the answers after the film:

- **In which year was Shakespeare born?**  
*Answer: Shakespeare's birth year is 1564. 26 April 1564, which was a Wednesday, is recorded as the date of Shakespeare's baptism. In those days, baptisms usually took place a few days after birth, so most people celebrate Shakespeare's birthday on 23 April, but we don't know his exact date of birth.*
- **In which language were the baptism records written?**  
*This record was written in Latin. When Shakespeare was born, Latin was still often used for church and legal records.*

We have added two extra questions on the activity sheet:

- **What date was Shakespeare baptised on, according to the parish register?**  
*Answer: 26 April 1564, which can be seen on the close-up image of the entry.*
- **Shakespeare's burial is also recorded in the parish register on 25 April 1616. How old is he thought to have been when he died?**  
*Answer: 52 years old (1564-1616).*

Download activity sheet 1 [here](#).

You can find more information about the parish register [here](#).

### Section 3 – Shakespeare's family

In this 'chat show' section the presenter interviews Shakespeare about his life. We learn the following information:

- Shakespeare grew up in a busy market town. There was no TV or radio back then, so his influences came from everything that was immediately around him.
- There is evidence that suggests his father John Shakespeare was happy and supportive for town funds to be put towards performances, and there were travelling players in the community which may have inspired Shakespeare's interest in acting.
- Shakespeare had seven brothers and sisters, got married when he was 18 and had three of his own children including twins.
- It is believed Shakespeare named one of his most famous characters Hamlet, after his son, Hamnet, who passed away at a young age.

We will then see another short film with the Shakespeare Sleuths as they explore sources that tell us about the playwright's family. During the film the audience will be quizzed on what Shakespeare's father did for a living (glove maker) and the name of Shakespeare's wife (Anne Hathaway).

### Section 4 – The Shakespeare Sleuths and the First Folio

In this section, the audience will be asked to shout out the names of as many different plays as they can think of. It could be anything from Shakespeare plays such as *Romeo and Juliet* to musicals like *Wicked*!

Shakespeare will then explain that he mainly wrote three types of plays. He will act out each type of play challenging the presenter to guess what they are. Your pupils may wish to play along with the presenter as he tries to guess these. The three types of play are tragedy, comedy and history.

We will then go to the Shakespeare Sleuths as they continue to explore the vaults at Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon. In this film they will look at the First Folio, published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death. While they are watching the audience will be asked to make a note of the following:

- **How did Shakespeare's friends save some of his plays?**  
*Answer: Shakespeare's friends collected his plays together and published them, otherwise we might have lost some of them.*
- **How many languages have the plays been translated into?**  
*Answer: Shakespeare's plays have been translated into 85 different languages.*

To help pupils join in we have provided a downloadable activity sheet with images of the First Folio featured in the film.

We have provided two extra questions on the activity sheet as a possible follow up activity:

- **What are the three main categories of plays in the First Folio?**  
*Answer: Comedies, tragedies, histories. These can be seen listed on the close up image of the page from the First Folio.*
- **Can you give the name of one of Shakespeare's plays for each category?**  
*The full list can be seen listed on the close up image of the page from the First Folio.*  
*The examples our guest William Shakespeare gives during the Live Lesson are:*
  - *Comedy – A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Tempest*
  - *Tragedy – Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth*
  - *History – Henry V and The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*

Download activity sheet 2 [here](#).

You can find out more about the First Folio [here](#) on the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust website.

## **Section 5 – 'Ye Olde Words' quiz.**

Shakespeare developed many of the words we still use today in the English language, so to end the show we will play 'Ye Olde Words' quiz. Shakespeare will read out a list of words and the presenter will try to work out which words he invented, and which he didn't. Pupils may wish to play along!

### **Contact us:**

If your children or pupils are planning on watching the Live Lesson in school or at home, let us know.

Email us before and during the programme with your school name or the names of your children to [live.lessons@bbc.co.uk](mailto:live.lessons@bbc.co.uk) or get in touch using the hashtag **#bbclivelessons** and they could be featured on our live commentary page.

*If you are sending in any images or videos that feature children, please ensure that you have parental or guardian permission, as they may be shown on our website. Please be aware that the BBC may ask you to demonstrate that you have received verifiable parental consent. In the email, please confirm your official relationship to the child/children featured, e.g. teacher, Brownie group leader, sports coach etc. and confirm that you have sought prior parental consent. Please also ensure the material is not sensitive or controversial. Read our terms and conditions at [bbc.co.uk/usingthebbc](http://bbc.co.uk/usingthebbc) for more information.*