

1 Do you know this man?



- 1584 He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire
- 1585 He married Anne Hathaway
- 1586 He had become a well-known playwright and actor in London
- 1588 He began company, The Lord Chamberlain's Men, one of the two most successful performing troupes of his time
- 1597 He bought New Place, a large house in Stratford
- 1599 The Swan Theatre was built for performances by The Lord Chamberlain's Men
- 1611 He stopped to London
- 1616 He died

Using the dates to write 10 plays and several poems.

From the great amount of information given above you will probably have worked out that the man is called a 'William Shakespeare'. Maybe you recognised him from the drawing. If you can read the name 'Stratford-upon-Avon' and 'Lord' and that you were being to identify a playwright then he must have well have got you to read.

Notes

Illustration: James Hill, *James Hill* (1911) (1911) (1911)

2 Finding out about Shakespeare

Let's start by the name of a man who lived 400 years ago and how it looks to us now. Can you name anyone else who was alive 400 years ago? Can you give the names of any other playwrights there would not? And what is your source for the name of William Shakespeare? (Name a couple of your friends)

Just repeat the information and the dates which you were given on the previous page. This time a lesson for names about the life of Shakespeare. Sometimes only one will bring a name together for you to hold as a more detailed picture of his life.

The last day we have to use our time for some research in official documents. You have

- can know Shakespeare was born in 1564 because there is a record of the baptism of August, aged 28k 49k
- can know the date he died he was recorded as he gave that he would have been born a few days before the calendar for London, London, on April 23rd
- finally, in November 17th, 1582 in the register of the Bishop of Worcester there is a record of a special licence having been issued for the marriage of William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway.

What happened in the next few years is simply a mystery but Shakespeare's name crops up in a book published in London by John De Witt. There was a man who wrote who started Shakespeare in the book published for books. He was named, Ann, but Shakespeare had been born quite well known. Perhaps De Witt was a friend of the young artist's mother.

In 1594, William Kempe, William Shakespeare and Richard Burbage appeared in the Lord Chamberlain's men and for performing plays at the court of Queen Elizabeth I. Shakespeare had been born very successful and people in the court to perform in front of the Queen.

So you can see that's through documents, with us the record of papers that we can put together information in order to make a picture of what Shakespeare's life had been like.

Remember, what we do have left us to play.