**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE **

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-on-Avon, in the centre of England. When he was eighteen years old, he married Anne and they had a daughter the following year. Shakespeare became an actor and went to London. He started writing plays and by the age of thirty he was famous. In 1595 Anne had twins, a boy and a girl. The boy died at the age of eleven. Shakespeare spent the last four years of his life in Stratford and dies on April 23rd 1616, a day after the death of the famous Spanish writer Cervantes.

Although he is so famous, we know very little about his life. We know that he wrote 37 plays: tragedies like *Romeo and Juliet* or *Hamlet;* historical plays like *Julius Caesar;* and comedies like *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* or *The Merchant of Venice.* Most of his plays were performed at his famous theatre in London,*The Globe.*  He also wrote many beautiful poems called sonnets.

The theatre was very important in Shakespeare’s time. There were no newspapers, magazines, cinemas or TV. Small theatre companies travelled all over the country to present plays in hotels called *inns.*

**1.Read the text and answer the following questions in complete answers.**

1.Where was Shakespeare born?

2.Who did he marry?

3. Did he have any children?

4. What did he write?

5. Why was the theatre important in his time?

6. What famous Spanish writer died a day before Shakespeare?

**SHAKESPEARE’S TIME PROJECT.**

Shakespeare lived most of his life during Queen Elizabeth I’s reign. Find out about her and her reign. In groups of five make a poster or power point presentation including at least the following topics:

1. Queen Elizabeth I’s life.
2. The Spanish Armada and England’s relationship with Spain.
3. The different social classes.
4. The theatre.
5. Clothing: how women and men dressed.
6. Additional curious or interesting facts about Elizabethan London.

**PROCEDURE:**

Divide your work into parts. Each one of you will be responsible for a section. You will be given a group mark and an individual mark for your individual contribution to the project.

**RESOURCES:**

You will find the information you need to complete your project on the following websites:

[www.folger.edu](http://www.folger.edu/) (click on students and families)

[www.ac-nancy-metz.fr/enseign/anglais/Henry/shak.htm](http://www.ac-nancy-metz.fr/enseign/anglais/Henry/shak.htm) (click on social classes)

Additionally you can use the teacher’s handouts**.**