



Lesson: Understanding Context of Theater
Grade 5

STANDARDS: New York: Strand # 3: Making Connections

Responding to and Analyzing Works of Art:

- Students will reflect on, interpret, and evaluate plays and theatrical performances both live and recorded using the language of dramatic criticism.
- Students will analyze the meaning of the role of theater in society.
- Students will respond critically to a variety of works in the theater connecting individual works and other aspects of human endeavor and thought.

Social Studies: Exploring Historical Context of Theater

Motivation: Students will analyze the historical context of Shakespearean theater.

Individual Activity: Have students make a pictorial timeline of Shakespeare's life.

Reflection:

Have students consider the following questions:

- What was the [Elizabethan era](#)?
- Who was William Shakespeare and why is he important to theater?
- Explore and define the [Globe Theater](#)?
- What was the [Great Chain of Being](#) and how did that effect [Elizabethan theater](#)?
- What was the role of women in Elizabethan Theater/society?
- How does Shakespeare's language different from modern day and how did it impact upon the theater?
- What is a [villain](#)?
- Why is [Iago](#) such an excellent example of a villainous character?