

Timeline Biography for William Shakespeare (as preparation for reading *The Tempest*)

In the past I have had students make their own timelines, but I've found that having too many people on one spreadsheet is a disaster. This time, I entered their data in Timeline JS and shared the versions with them for a peer review. They actually spent more time working on collecting the information and were thoughtful about revisions that needed to be made to the final version. We also had a good discussion about what events were most relevant for our purpose. By having them work in groups and share their work, they were more engaged with the entire process.

Outline:

- Day 1: Break students up into groups and assign them various articles on Shakespeare's life. Every student read the following: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/shakespeare-uncovered/timeline/> <https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/shakespeares-life> and <https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/shakespeares-childhood-and-education>

I then assigned each group an additional reading from this British Library collection, <https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/themes/context> about the larger context.

Classwork/Homework for Day 1: Shakespeare's Life: Timeline Prep

As you read the sources, complete the following worksheet. We'll use this information to create a timeline of Shakespeare's life.

Citation hint: use in-text form and include the author's last name when possible or an abbreviated title of the website

For example, Shakespeare's childhood and education is written by Simon Callow, so you would make your in-text citation be (Callow).

For the links be sure they are to image and not a google search!

Event 1

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 2

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 3

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 4

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 5

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 6

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 7

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 8

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 9

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 10

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 11

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

Event 12

Date:

Description (1-2 sentences) with a citation:

Link to an image related to the event

- Days 2-3: They had time in class to work on the timelines and compare events with group mates and then the whole class. One we had decided on approximately 12 events, each group sent me their events with images, dates, and description. I took the events and put them in the Google spreadsheet for TimelineJS.
- Day 4: Review the timeline in class and groups had a chance to make any final changes, for example maybe an image didn't load or they missed a citation. They also had to complete this short exercise.

Timeline Review

Please review your class's timeline and answer the following questions.

Here is the timeline link

https://cdn.knightlab.com/libs/timeline3/latest/embed/index.html?source=17cmEU7rxE8GpmG4sQd-xyYp91XcWCEruUd8aK25fvfI&font=Default&lang=en&initial_zoom=2&height=650

Questions:

1. What did you learn about Shakespeare's life from the timeline?
2. What did you learn about historical events happening in Shakespeare's life?
3. How might these historical events have influenced Shakespeare's writing? Do you see any specific examples (include page number) from *The Tempest*?
4. Was it useful to make a timeline to understand Shakespeare's life and times?