Before we start reading Romeo and Juliet, I want you to understand a little more about Shakespeare’s life and the time period in which he lived. Answer the following questions on a separate document. Use the following links to answer each question. If you are having trouble finding an answer, do your own Google search.

**Shakespeare’s Life**

[**http://www.bardweb.net/man.html**](http://www.bardweb.net/man.html)

1. How much do we know about Shakespeare's life? Why?
2. Did Shakespeare ever get married? If so, to whom?
3. Shakespeare established himself as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. What day did he die? What is unusual about this date?
5. What did he leave his wife in his will?

**Religion**

[**http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/religion-elizabethan-england.htm**](http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/religion-elizabethan-england.htm)

1. What were the two major religions in Elizabethan England?
2. Who dictated the favored religion?
3. Which Monarchs reigned during this time? When?
4. Which religion did each Monarch believe in?
5. How did each Monarch treat those who did not follow their favored religion?
6. Why did Queen Elizabeth I ban all performances of religious plays and stories?[**http://www.musesrealm.net/writings/shakespeareengland.html**](http://www.musesrealm.net/writings/shakespeareengland.html)

**Elizabethan Period**

[**http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/elizabethan-period.htm**](http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/elizabethan-period.htm)

1. What was the Elizabethan Period?
2. When was this period?
3. What was the most significant invention of this time and why?
4. What did this lead to a renewed interest in?
5. During this period, what were unexplained events blamed on?
6. Why were people of this period superstitious?
7. What was the Bubonic Plague and how did it affect society during Shakespeare's time?

[**http://www.william-shakespeare.info/william-shakespeare-bubonic-plague-black-death.htm**](http://www.william-shakespeare.info/william-shakespeare-bubonic-plague-black-death.htm)

**Education**

[**http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/ideas/education/boys.html;jsessionid=106CFDAF4FDF022253688717F50D6155**](http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/ideas/education/boys.html;jsessionid=106CFDAF4FDF022253688717F50D6155)

1. What did education depend on?
2. What was the main purpose of schooling?
3. Why were students taught Latin?
4. What were girls from wealthy families educated in? [**http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/ideas/education/girls.html**](http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/ideas/education/girls.html)

**Elizabethan Theater**

[**http://www.britainexpress.com/History/elizabethan-theatre.htm**](http://www.britainexpress.com/History/elizabethan-theatre.htm)

1. What was the general feeling towards plays during this period in time?
2. Where did people sit or not sit?
3. When did they have performances? Why?
4. How many women performed in these plays?
5. What did the audience do if they didn't like the performance?

**Shakespeare's Influence**

[**http://www.shakespeare-online.com/faq/influencefaq.html**](http://www.shakespeare-online.com/faq/influencefaq.html)

1. How many words did Shakespeare invent?
2. Give an example of a word or phrase we have gotten from Shakespeare.

**Elizabethan Marriage Customs**

[**http://elizabethan.org/compendium/9.html**](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/9.html)

[**http://www.renaissance-weddings.net/wedding\_feasts.htm**](http://www.renaissance-weddings.net/wedding_feasts.htm)

[**http://elizabethan.org/compendium/10.html**](http://elizabethan.org/compendium/10.html)

Why were marriage contracts arranged?

What was the common age for marriage?

Where did marriages take place during the Middle Ages?

32. What was the goal of a Renaissance wedding?