

# The Globe Theatre

**9** The renowned Globe Theatre, which sits on the southern  
**18** banks of the river Thames in London, was originally  
**24** constructed in 1599. Synonymous with Shakespeare  
**32** himself, the Globe was part-owned by the famous  
**40** playwright and showcased many of his most famous  
**41** plays.

**50** Holding around 3,000 people when at full capacity, the  
**60** theatre had no roof so shows relied upon afternoon sun  
**70** and good weather. Poor people, known as 'groundlings',  
**77** bought the cheapest tickets and crowded into the 'pit'  
**89** in front of the stage. The richer you were, the higher up  
**99** you sat in the gallery, where covered booths shielded  
**103** the audience from the elements.

**113** Following a series of fires and closures, it wasn't until  
**123** 1997 that the fourth version of the Globe Theatre was  
**127** reconstructed using traditional methods.



## Questions



1. What time of day were the plays staged?

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2. Which phrase tells us that the covered booths in the theatre were protected from the weather?

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3. Why do you think the poorer audience members were called 'groundlings'?

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4. What is the purpose of the last paragraph?

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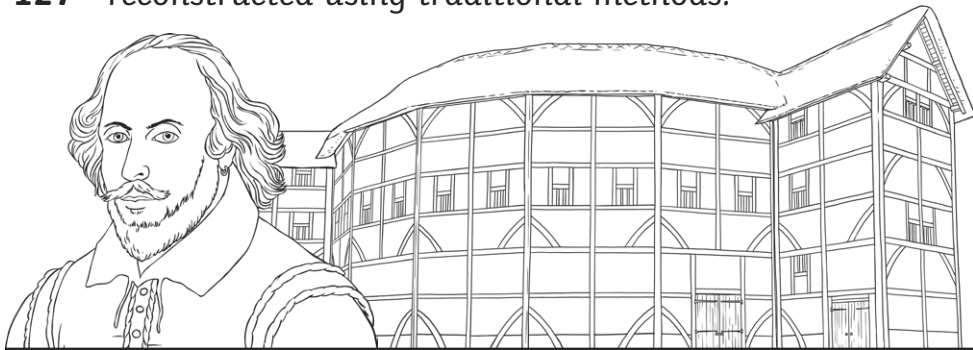
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# Answers



1. What time of day were the plays staged?

**Plays were staged in the afternoon as they 'relied on the afternoon sun' for light.**



2. Which phrase tells us that the covered booths in the theatre were protected from the weather?

**shielded the audience from the elements**



3. Why do you think the poorer audience members were called 'groundlings'?

**Accept any sensible answer, such as: The poorer audience members were called 'groundlings' because they would be stood on the ground.**



4. What is the purpose of the last paragraph?

**Accept any sensible answer, such as: The last paragraph is an update of what has happened to the Globe since the Tudor times.**