

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 the
103 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.



Quick Questions



1. What time of day were the plays staged?



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



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



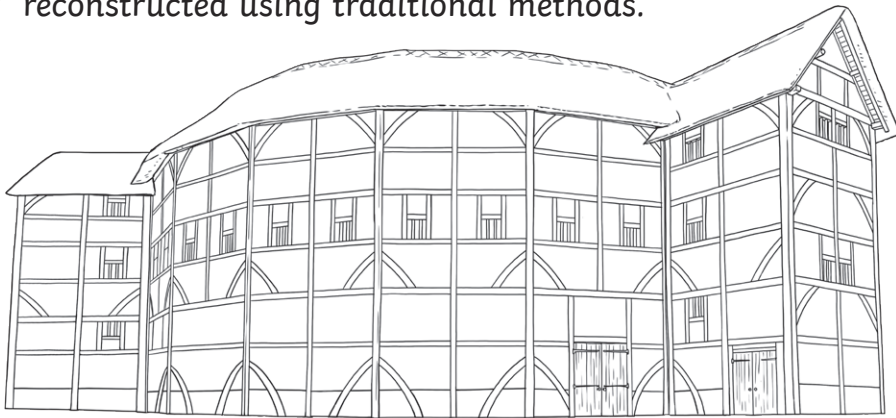
4. What is the purpose of the last paragraph?

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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.