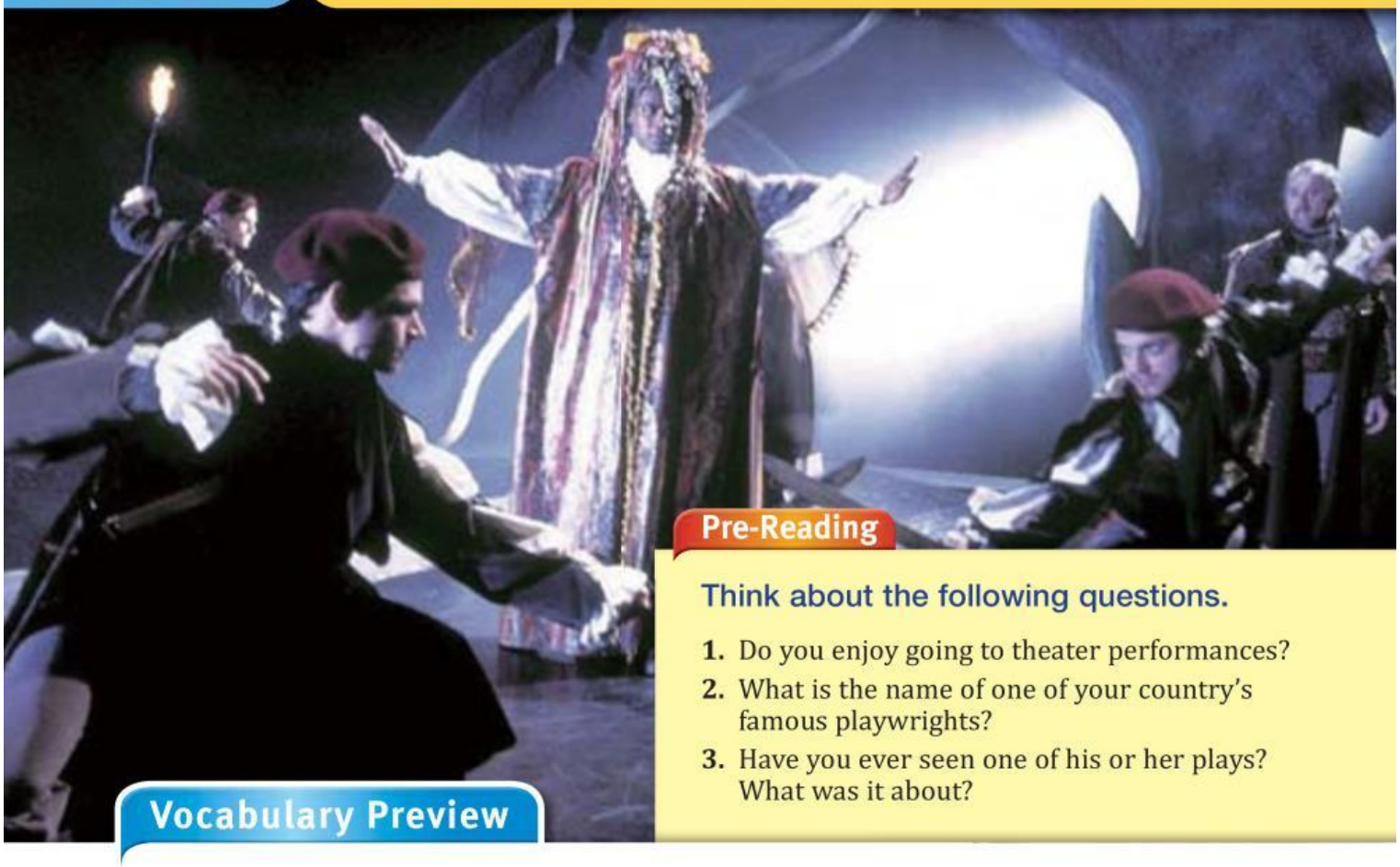
11 Shakespeare, Where Are You Now?



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Do you enjoy going to theater performances?
2. What is the name of one of your country's famous playwrights?
3. Have you ever seen one of his or her plays? What was it about?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word or phrase.

a. go to; be at
b. tear down; get rid of completely
c. place
d. acts, sings, dances, etc.
e. have a good opinion about
f. lived or lasted through a time

1. ___ This old book <u>survived</u> the fire in the library.
2. ___ I like to watch that actress's movies. She always <u>performs</u> well.
3. ___ Nobody uses the building. The city wants to <u>destroy</u> it and build something new.
4. ___ Some parents did not <u>approve of</u> the play because the actors kissed.
5. ___ This is a great <u>location</u> for a theater. I'm sure the theater will do well.
6. ___ We have to reserve tickets early to <u>attend</u> the opening night of the play.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Shakespeare, Where Are You Now?

Track 21

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) wrote many plays and poems which are known the world over. But perhaps you think the works of an **Elizabethan playwright** are not important today. Well, think again. Shakespeare's works have survived the years and then some! For example, *Romeo and Juliet* has not only been performed again and again in theaters around the world, but it has also been made into a very popular movie, twice!

During the late 1500s, however, Shakespeare's plays were often performed at the Globe Theatre in London. The Globe was a large **open-air** theater that used only natural lighting. Shows at the Globe used very few **props**, but performances were always interesting and exciting because the **audience** yelled at, cheered, and talked with the performers. The Globe was a great success. However, in 1613, during a performance of Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*, a **cannon** was **fired** on stage, setting off a fire. The fire completely destroyed the theater. The Globe was fixed a year later, but it did not stay open long. The theater was closed by the **Puritans**, who did not approve of entertainment. The Globe never opened again, and the building was finally **torn down** in 1644.

Theater lovers in England never forgot the Globe, and in 1970, a decision was made to rebuild it as close to the original design as possible. Imagine how people felt when, in 1989, those working on the new Globe came across some of the original building only about 100 meters from the new theater. They were building the new theater almost in the original Globe's location! The new Globe opened in 1999 and has since won many **awards** as one of the best tourist **attractions** in Europe. Since the new theater opened, hundreds of thousands of people have attended Shakespearean performances such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, and *Henry V*. Shakespeare, where are you now? At the Globe, of course!



Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 324 words

2 *Elizabethan*: related to times in England from 1550-1600
3 *playwright*: a person who writes plays
8 *open-air*: without a roof
9 *prop*: a thing actors use during a performance
10 *audience*: a group of people watching a show
12 *cannon*: a big gun on wheels used in war
12 *fire*: to shoot
14 *Puritan*: a person of a group of Protestants in the 1500s and 1600s
15 *tear down*: to remove or take apart
22 *award*: a prize; something granted as for merit
23 *attraction*: a thing to see

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main focus of this reading?

a. Interesting attractions in Europe
b. Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre
c. Shakespeare's plays and poems
d. The first play at the Globe Theatre

2. Which is probably NOT true about plays at the Globe in the 1500s?

a. Actors didn't use very many objects on stage.
b. The shows were very popular.
c. The audience said things to actors on stage.
d. The shows were usually performed at night.

3. Which is true about the new Globe Theatre?

a. It was open from 1500-1616.
b. A fire happened there around 1970.
c. Workers finished it in 1989.
d. People could see plays there in 1999.

4. During what kind of scene did the fire at the Globe start?

a. During a battle scene
b. During a party scene
c. During a scene in which witches cooked something
d. During a scene on a beach after a boat sank

5. What won an award for the best attraction in Europe?

a. *Romeo and Juliet*
b. Shakespeare's plays
c. The Globe Theatre
d. The original performance

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **the world over** [around the world; everywhere]
  Children the world over like Pokemon.
- **and then some** [plus more]
  He completed all of his own work and then some.
- **come across** [to discover; to encounter]
  We came across $50 lying on the street on the way home.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. A smile is understood as a sign of friendship _____.

2. You may _____ a good bargain if you shop at the market.

3. The website has news stories, jokes, games, _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary

Scan the passage and complete the timeline with the correct information.

destroyed the theater	**new theater opened**	**the original building**
were performed	**rebuild the Globe**	**was torn down**

Shakespeare's plays 1 _____ at the Globe Theatre.

The theater was rebuilt, but it was soon closed by the Puritans.

Plans were made to 4 _____.

The 6_____.

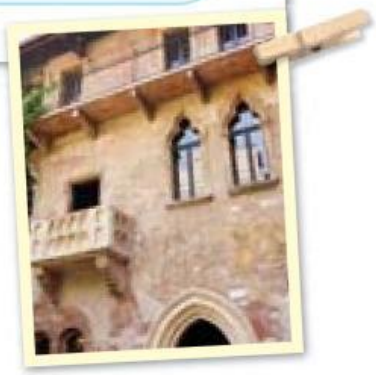
1600 1644 1800 1970 1999

late 1500s 1613 1700 1900 1989

During a performance of *Henry VIII*, a cannon shot set off a fire that 2 _____.

The Globe 3 _____.

Parts of 5_____ were found about 100 meters from the site of the new theater.



Listening

Old and New

Track 22

Listen to the dialog and complete each sentence.

1. Performances at the Globe today are like _____.
2. One difference is that there are _____ now.
3. Today's performances at the Globe don't use _____ or _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. What is something you know about Shakespeare or his work?
2. Which present-day writers do you admire?
3. Which of those writers do you think will still be popular 100 years from now?

Grammar

Present Perfect

Present perfect tense is used to express a past experience or a continuing situation.

Romeo and Juliet *has not only been performed again and again in theaters around the world, but it (was also made / has also been made) into a very popular movie, twice!*

The new Globe opened in 1999 and (has since won / since won) many awards as one of the best tourist attractions in Europe.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

A Great Writer

(1) Who is a great writer from your country? **(2)** What has he or she written? **(3)** When did you read his or her work? **(4)** Why did you read it? **(5)** Has this writer's work been translated into English?

Example

A great writer from Canada is Margaret Atwood. She has written lots of novels. I read her novel The Handmaid's Tale in high school. I read it because I enjoyed the movie. All of her novels are in English, but they have also been translated into other languages.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. Computers are now used _____ for both education and entertainment.
a. and then some b. in the end c. over and over d. the world over

2. I am afraid to speak in front of a large _____.
a. attraction b. audience c. prop d. stage

3. More than 1,000 people _____ the concert.
a. attended b. destroyed c. produced d. survived

4. Please _____ the other people in the audience and don't talk during the show.
a. approve b. attend c. fire d. respect

5. The huge park downtown is one of the city's most popular _____.
a. attractions b. audiences c. plays d. successes

6. The theater does not _____ people to eat or drink during the show.
a. allow b. destroy c. perform d. yell

7. We will have the report finished by five o'clock. You can _____.
a. call us names b. calm us down c. come across us d. count on us

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. He's waiting for the committee's _____ of the plan.
a. approval b. approve c. approved

9. The audience cheered when the _____ walked onto the stage.
a. performer b. perform c. performance

10. They had trouble _____ a place to park near the theater.
a. location b. locating c. local

LIVEWORKSHEETS