The most beautiful house in England

Chatsworth is/was situated in the hills of Derbyshire, in the Midlands. Many people say it is the most beautiful house in England. It has/had nearly 300 rooms (with 17 staircases and 26 baths) and is set in 35,000 acres of land. It has needed/needs 300 staff to run. The art collection includes/included paintings Raphael, van Dyck, and Rembrandt. The whole estate is worth about £500 million.
It costs approximately £5m a year to run Chatsworth, so the house was opened/ has been to the paying public since 1949, and in 2010 there were around 600,000 visitors. There are often art exhibitions, flower shows, horse trials, and sometimes concerts in the grounds.

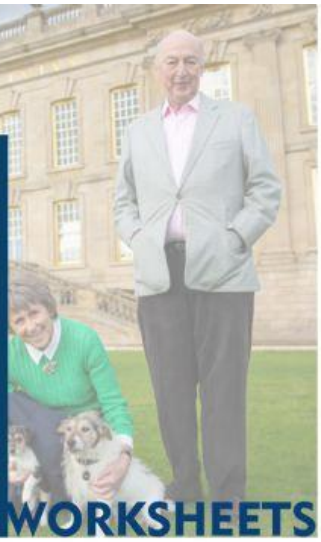
The house also earns/earned money from the film industry. It is a favourite location for period films. Chatsworth is used/ was used as Mr Darcy's house in the 2005 film of Jane Aussten's Pride and Predice, and Keira Knightley also starred in The Duchess here in 2008

£5M A YEAR TO RUN

A house fit for a king!

Most English country houses were built/have built during the17th and 18th centuries by the aristocracy. The Duke likes to explain the historical background to Chatsworth. Visitors arrived/arrive, see this huge building in this vast parkland, and wonder why it is so big. "The reason is that my ancestors built/builts a house fit for a king. It was designed to impress, and to persuade royalty to visit."

In 1686 the first Duke built/has built a magnificent suite for a roval visit from King William and Queen Mary. Unfortunately they haven't come/ didn't come. However, much later Edward VII was/is a frequent visitor between 1901 and 1910. George V and Queen Mary have visited/ visited in 1913.
Many of the Cavendish family were politicians. One William Cavendish, was Prime Minister from 1756-1757. Today, families like the Cavendish's no longer have the same political influe t t'h ir estates are still huge.



WORKSHEETS