

Library of Congress LIVE, The Folger Theater,
and The Washington Revels present:

An Invitation to the goode peoples of our cite TO A Mid-Summer Celebration



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CELEBRATE AT THE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS!

Cultures from all over the world and throughout time have celebrated the Earth's renewal in the Spring and early Summer months. Join us at the Library of Congress to learn about and participate in some of these celebrations with the Folger Theatre and the Washington Revels.

Program Goals

Students will create and participate in a large-scale outdoor seasonal procession celebrating the coming of the growing season. Students will learn about these celebrations, customs and manners during the time of William Shakespeare and the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England.

Education Standards:

LANGUAGE ARTS (National Council of Teachers of English)

Standard 4 - Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.

Standard 9 - Students develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns, and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions, and social roles.

Standard 12 - Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

THEATER (Consortium of National Arts Education Associations)

Standard 5 - Researching by using cultural and historical information to support improvised and scripted scenes.

SOCIAL STUDIES (National Council of Social Studies)

Strand I - Culture

- How people create and nurture diverse cultures throughout the world

Strand V - Individuals, Groups & Institutions

- How people interact with individuals and institutions

Strand VI - Power, Authority & Governance

- How people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance

Good Morrow and Welcome to the Celebration!

The seasons have turned and it's time to celebrate the return of warm weather. Please join us to process from the Library of Congress to the Folger Theatre, where we may be able to catch a glimpse of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the First.

People all over the world celebrate the longest day of the year, the Summer Solstice. This is the day when the sun is so close to directly overhead that it seems to stand still. (In Latin "sol" means sun, and "sistere" means to make stand still.)

Our procession and celebration will integrate poetry, music, and dance with a goal of creating a visceral ownership of the topic by participants.



Signature of Queen Elizabeth I. "R" stands for Regina – Latin for Queen.

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Between 1590 and 1611, Shakespeare composed a group of plays that have been produced continually in theaters around the world ever since. His theater troop, The Chamberlain's Men, performed these comedies, histories and tragedies in London's famous Globe Theater.

www.shakespeare.org.uk

Queen Elizabeth I

During her reign, 1558-1603, Queen Elizabeth I laid the foundations for the modern British Empire. During this age of discovery, Britain established trade routes throughout the world and vastly increased its ability to produce goods.

englishhistory.net/tudor/monarchs/eliz1.html

The Merry Makers on the cover. . . date from the 15th century. Performers such as these entertained in the days of Queen Elizabeth I and William Shakespeare.

Author Francis Douce described the Betley Window in his *Illustrations of Shakespeare, and of ancient manners: with dissertations on the clowns and fools of Shakespeare; . . .*

"The painted glass window belonging to George Tollett, Esq., at Betley, in Staffordshire, exhibits, in all probability, the most curious as well as the oldest representation of an English May game and morris dance, that is any where to be found."

The figures include dancers, Fools, a Maiden, a Pipe & Tabor player, and in the center a May Pole with the words, "A MERY [sic] MAY."

Read More About It!

Queen Elizabeth I:

Kathryn Lasky, *Elizabeth I: Red Rose of the House of Tudor, England, 1544* (The Royal Diaries). New York: Scholastic, 1999. An imagined autobiography of the young queen. Ages 9-12.

Celeste Davidson Mannis, *The Queen's Progress*. Viking Press, 2003. Illustrated, rhyming description of the annual Summer procession of the Queen. Grades 2-4.

Jane Resh Thomas, *Behind the Mask: The Life of Queen Elizabeth I*. Clarion Books, 1998. Heavily illustrated biography of the queen. Ages 9-12.

William Shakespeare:

Aliki, *William Shakespeare & the Globe*. HarperCollins, 1999. Introduction to Shakespeare and his age, arranged in the

form of a play with illustrations. Ages 4-8.

Lois Burdett, *A Child's Portrait of Shakespeare*



(Shakespeare Can Be Fun series). Firefly Books, 1995. Children's drawings and writings on Shakespeare. Grades 1-3.

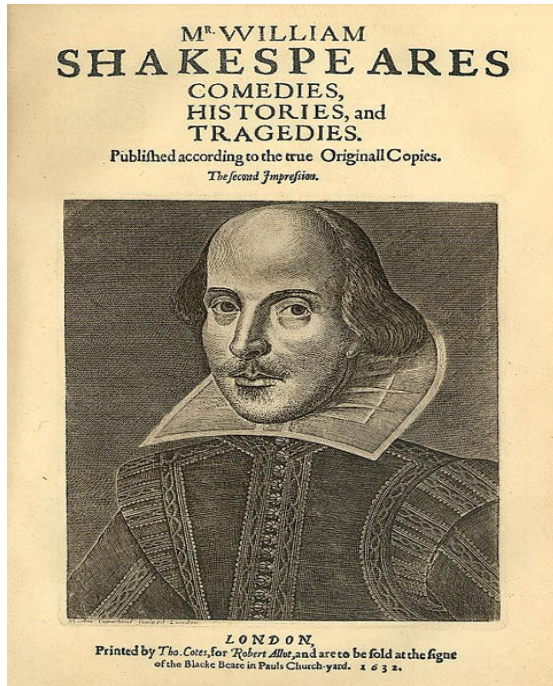
Peter Crisp, *Eyewitness: Shakespeare* (Eyewitness Books). DK Publishing, 2002. Illustrated history of the Elizabethan Age and Shakespeare's theater. Grades 5-10.

Andrew Langley, *Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Age* (Treasure Chests). Running Press, 2000. Interactive kit that encourages students to produce their own Shakespearean plays. Ages 8-13.

Dominic Shellard, *William Shakespeare*. Oxford University Press Children's Books, 2000. Biography and description of Elizabethan England. Grades 8 and up.

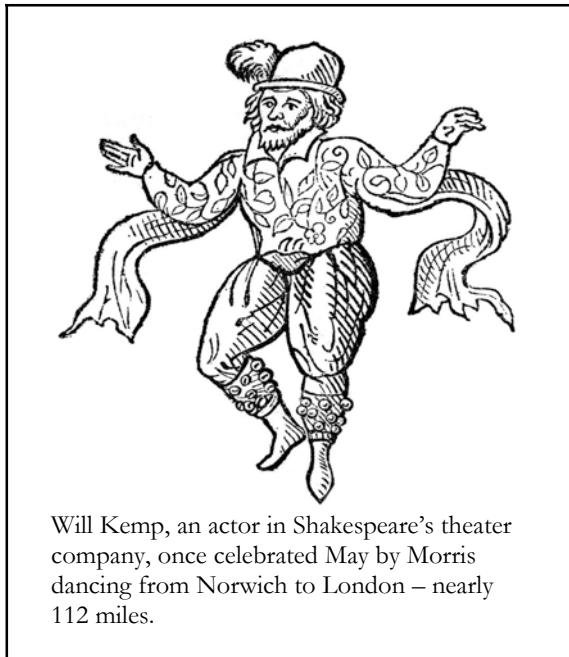
Marcia Williams, *Bravo, Mr. William Shakespeare!*. Candlewick Press, 2000. Retelling with illustration of *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Grades 3-6.

May and Summer Celebrations:



Bud Davidge, *The Mummer's Song*. Groundwood Books, 2002. Rhyming story about a troop of masked performers. Ages 4-8.

Ellen B. Jackson, *The Spring Equinox*. Millbook Press Trade, 2001. Festivals from around the world that celebrate this



special day. Grade 1-3.

_____, *The Summer Solstice*. Millbook Press Trade, 2001. Beliefs, customs and celebrations from around the world. Grades 3-6.

Lynda Jones, *Kids Around the World Celebrate! The Best Feasts and Festivals from Many Lands*. John Wiley & Sons, 1999. Introduction to customs and cultures from around the world. Ages 9-12.

Clare Walker Leslie, *The Ancient Celtic Festivals And How We Celebrate Them Today*. Inner Traditions International, Ltd., 2000. Origins of many of our holidays and celebrations. Ages 9-12.

Ellyn Sanna, *Folk Festivals* (North American Folklore). Mason Crest Publishers, 2002. Folk festivals celebrated in the winter, spring, summer and fall. Ages 9-12.

Erica Silverman, *On the Morn of Mayfest*. Simon & Schuster, 1998. Stories of May festivities. Ages 4-8.

On-Line Sources from the Library of Congress:

Looking Into Holidays Past Through Primary Sources - Holiday-related primary source links to the collections of the Library of Congress. Students can listen to sound files of songs and celebrations, view images, and read documents about celebrations of each season as they learn about using primary source materials.

memory.loc.gov/learn/features/doc_analysis/introduction.html

On-Line Sources from The Folger Library:

Lesson Plan Archive. Dozens of lesson plans at all levels from general information on Shakespeare to the specific plays.

www.folger.edu/education/getarchive.cfm

Queen Elizabeth I, part of Shakespeare for Kids activities for children and families sites. Information and activities related to the queen and her times.

www.folger.edu/education/kids/queenelizabeth.asp

Other Internet Sources:

More information on the wide range of Mid-Summer celebrations can be found at

www.religioustolerance.org/summer_solstice.htm

The Meaning Behind the Mask,

Edsitement Lesson Plan. Younger students can learn about the significance of masks in various cultures and how culture is related to society.

www.edsiteмент.neh.gov/lesson_index.asp

Additional on-line resources at Elizabethan England Teacher Resources by the Internet School Library Media Center at

falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/england.htm

A guide to the proper Elizabethan accent is available from the Renaissance Faire Homepage at

www.renfaire.com/Language/index.html

To Learn More

about

Library of Congress LIVE

visit: www.loc.gov/kidslc



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Classroom Activities:

Your class may enjoy making decorations to bring to the procession.

Make a fire stick - Celebrate with fire as the ancient Celts did. Attach red, yellow, and orange streamers (about 18" long) to rulers, pencils, chopsticks or another "handle." For other activities and information on May Day celebrations see 'Round the Maypole: Celebrating May Day,' from University of Missouri Kansas City, at:

www.umkc.edu/imc/mayday.htm

Dress up like royalty - Students can make and decorate hats to wear in the procession. Make a simple crown or cone-shaped hat; use sequins, tissue paper, paint or magic marker to decorate.

Bring a herald - Design a crest or herald to represent your school or neighborhood. Transfer design to a piece of fabric (felt, muslin, etc.) or even a t-shirt, and suspend from a pole to carry in the procession.

From Houghton Mifflin Education Place,
www.eduplace.com/rdg/gen_act/family/f_cr_est.html

