

Shakespeare's English

Middle English to Early Modern English



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Instructions

Listen to an example of Shakespeare's English at *BBC History: Ages of English Timeline*
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/timelines/language_timeline/index_embed.shtml

Then read the *Great Vowel Shift* (and listen to the sound clips) at http://www.thehistoryofenglish.com/history_early_modern.html and answer the questions below. Questions

1. Give one example of **language change** from Chaucer's English to Shakespeare's English.
2. Give three examples of how Early Modern English (Shakespeare's English) is different from Modern English.
3. Give at least five examples of words or phrases coined by Shakespeare.
4. What was the background for the enormous increase in vocabulary in the English Language between 1530-1660

Links

Great Vowel Shift

http://www.thehistoryofenglish.com/history_early_modern.html

BBC History: Ages of English Timeline

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/timelines/language_timeline/index_embed.shtml

Pieter Bruegel the Elder - *The Tower of Babel*

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pieter_Bruegel_the_Elder_-_The_Tower_of_Babel_%28Vienna%29_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg