

Interactive Research on William Shakespeare

Creating a Visual Biography

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South Salem Elementary School, Salem, VA

Grade Level: 8-12

Time Allotment: 90 min

Overview:

Factual information is a concept needed and wanted by students in today's society. Students want to know the facts. William Shakespeare is a mystery to students because of misconceptions given to students by classmates, media, and lack of knowledge. The inability to gather facts and use factual information for well known authors hinders student learning and achievement. The videos in the Famous Author Series are a valuable resource to students and teachers because students are able to learn facts and information through video. Students are able to pause and replay information on a specific author.

Students will view a video about the life of William Shakespeare. Students will answer questions to assist in comprehension of the video. After the video, the students will develop a presentation on a particular author, given by the teacher, using a variety of multimedia resources. The information collected for the research will be done on a template, created by the teacher, to help students stay on task with the assignment. The fact sheet will then be presented to the class in the form of a multimedia presentation or other creative tool.

Subject Matter: English

Learning Objectives:

- To use technology in a presentation
- To research using media and video

Standards:

The objective will in part meet the Virginia Standards of Learning for English, which can be found at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us>

- 8.2 The student will develop and deliver oral presentations in groups and individually.
- 8.6 The student will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of informational sources.

- 9.2 The student will make planned oral presentations.
- 9.4 The student will read and analyze a variety of informational materials
- 9.9 The student will use print, electronic databases, and online resources to access information.
- 10.11 The student will collect, evaluate, organize, and present information.
- 11.1 The student will make informative and persuasive presentations.
- 11.4 The student will read and analyze a variety of informational materials.
- 11.10 The student will analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and organize information from a variety of sources to produce a research product.
- 12.1 The student will make a 5 to 10 minute formal oral presentation.

Media Components:

PowerPoint

- Used to help present information and guidelines

United Streaming or Video from Blue Ridge Public Television

- Famous Authors: "William Shakespeare" (#119 of Famous Authors Series at BRPTV)

The Education and Young Adulthood of William Shakespeare
The Family and Childhood of William Shakespeare

Windows Media Player

- Used to present United Streaming Videos

Materials:

For Teacher:

LCD Projector
Computer Lab / Laptop cart
Windows Media Player
Internet
Fact templates

For Students:

Computer Lab / Laptop Cart

Prep for Teachers:

Preview the video about Shakespeare in the Famous Author Series
Create passwords for students to use United Streaming
Have knowledge of PowerPoint and inserting media
Create examples of Multimedia Biography Presentations
Create Fact Templates (see attached)

Introductory Activity:

Step one: **Say:** “I would like you to list ten facts about a close family member on paper. You can put this information into your journal.” (teacher will give students writing time to answer the question) **Say:** “Would anyone like to share their answers?” (teacher will give students time to share answers) **Say:** “How could you present this information about your family member in a multimedia presentation?” (possible answers: PowerPoint, video, music, pictures, or a combination of all) **Say:** “How can a person research more information about a family member?” (possible answers: other family members, photo album, or interviews)

Step two: **Provide a Focus for Media Interaction** and **say:** “Today, we are going to view a biography. A biography is a story about a person’s life. After we view the biography, we are going to create a multimedia presentation about a famous author using United Streaming.” (the word and definition of biography should be in view for students from the LCD projector or on the board)

Learning Activity:

Step one: **Provide a Focus for Media Interaction** and **say:** “I want you to answer the following questions in groups of three.” (questions should be in view for students from the LCD projector or on the board)

- What do you know about William Shakespeare? (possible answers: play titles, languages, death, love, and old)
- How did you get this information about Shakespeare? (possible answers: brother / sister, movies, parents, reading, and other students)
- How much of your information is true? (possible answers: not sure, probably none of it, I don’t know)

(teacher should allow time to discuss and share answers)

Step two: **Say:** “I would like you to use this Fact Template to answer questions about Shakespeare as we watch this video.” (see attached sheet) **Provide a Focus for Media Interaction** and **say:** “Please look at the screen and we will start the video. I want you to write two facts about Shakespeare’s father.” **Start** the video (Family and Life of Shakespeare) at 2:24 and **pause** at 2:43. **Say:** “What are two facts about Shakespeare’s father?” (possible answers: glove maker and held an important position in the town)

Step three: **Say:** “I would like you to continue to use this Fact Template to answer questions about Shakespeare.” (see attached sheet) **Provide a Focus for Media Interaction** and **say:** “Please look at the screen and we will start the video. I want you to write two facts about Shakespeare’s family.” **Start** the video

(Family and Life of Shakespeare) at 2:43 and **pause** at 2:55. **Say:** “What are two facts about Shakespeare’s family?” (possible answers: eight children, three died as infants, and only one lived to old age)

Step four: **Say:** “I would like you to continue to use this Fact Template to answer questions about Shakespeare.” (see attached sheet) **Provide a Focus for Media Interaction** and **say:** “Please look at the screen and we will start the video. I want you to write two facts about Shakespeare’s education.” **Start** the video (Education and Young Adulthood) at 00:57 and **pause** at 1:08. **Say:** “What are two facts about Shakespeare’s education?” (possible answers: studied Latin, Grammar, Ovid, and Seneca)

Step five: **Say:** “I would like you to continue to use this Fact Template to answer questions about Shakespeare.” (see attached sheet) **Provide a Focus for Media Interaction** and **say:** “Please look at the screen and we will start the video. I want you to write two facts about Shakespeare’s and the theater.” **Start** the video (Education and Young Adulthood) at 1:17 and **pause** at 1:27. **Say:** “How did Shakespeare get involved in the theater?” (possible answers: traveling players who visited The Guild)

Step six: **Say:** “I would like you to continue to use this Fact Template to answer questions about Shakespeare.” (see attached sheet) **Provide a Focus for Media Interaction** and **say:** “Please look at the screen and we will start the video. I want you to write two facts about Shakespeare’s employment.” **Start** the video (Education and Young Adulthood) at 1:45 and **pause** at 1:53. **Say:** “How may Shakespeare have been employed?” (possible answers: farm, father’s workshop, or lawyer’s clerk)

Step seven: The teacher should collect the fact sheets and **say:** “Now, we are going to create our own biography presentations.”

Culmination Activity:

Step one: **Provide a Focus for Media Interaction** and **say:** “Please look at the screen. This is an example of another biography using video. You are going to complete your own presentation using United Streaming and a Fact Template. (teacher should show students the examples of the presentations)

Step two: **Say:** “You should follow the steps below to complete your assignment.”

1. Logon to United Streaming (www.unitedstreaming.com)
2. Get a Fact Template
3. Type “Famous Authors” in the *search field*
4. Search for an author

5. Write the name of the author on your Fact Template
6. Write the facts you will be presenting on the fact sheet
7. Create your PowerPoint with the facts on separate slides and the videos on separate slides
8. Use the example to help guide you through the activity

Step three: Students will begin researching information about particular authors using the computers in the classroom. Students should work the remaining time to complete the assignment.

Cross – Curricular Extensions:

Technology – Students can link all of the final projects together and complete a web site.

Geography and History – Students can create a timeline of their author.

Community Connections:

Have a famous author visit class and share life experiences.

Visit a museum about people or culture.

Have family members visit and speak on their life experiences.

Fact Template

Author: _____

Facts of Interests

Fact 5

Fact 6

Facts of Interests

Fact 1

Fact 2

Facts of Interests

Fact 7

Fact 8

Facts of Interests

Fact 3

Fact 4

Facts of Interests

Fact 9

Fact 10