

ACTIVITY!

Inquire &
Investigate

VOCAB LAB



Write down what you think each word means: **contemporary, money-lending, groundling, patronage, First Folio,** and **iambic pentameter.**

Compare your definitions with those of your friends or classmates. Did you all come up with the same meanings? Turn to the text and glossary if you need help.

CREATE A SHAKESPEAREAN
TIMELINE

Every writer, artist, musician, or other cultural visionary is at least partly a product of their time. What might the history of Shakespeare's era have contributed to the poems and plays he wrote that we enjoy today?

- **Use the timeline on this website to research milestones in Shakespeare's life.** Choose 10 major dates in Shakespeare's life and do some research into the events that happened around the world while Shakespeare was alive. Pay close attention to the events that happened during the years his plays were thought to have first been produced. You can try these websites for ideas.

 absolute Shakespeare timeline



 one day history



 on this day history



- **Create a timeline showing those 10 major milestones and world events that happened at the same time.** Can you find events in both British history and American history to include? What about other parts of the world?

To investigate more, and as you become more familiar with the plays discussed in this book, refer back to your timeline and look for historic events that appear in his writing. Are there major historical figures that might have influenced his thoughts and ideas? Can you find similarities between any of Shakespeare's characters and the world leaders of the time? How does this change your reading of his plays?