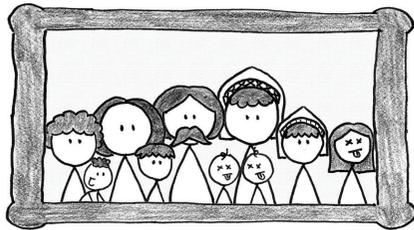


Anne Hathaway's Cottage

Teacher's Booklet

Answers



The Shakespeare family: William with his parents, brothers and sisters.



Be part of Shakespeare Week and register at
www.shakespeareweek.org



Registered Charity Number 209302



Let your pupils be detectives and learn what life would have been like for the people who lived in this house.

www.shakespeare.org.uk



The Parlour

Amazing Fact! – Men, women and children in Tudor England drank beer, wine, sherry (or sack), mead and cider. People hardly ever drank water because the water in rivers and streams was often contaminated and could not be used unless it had been boiled.

The slatted frame that is attached to the ceiling in front of the fire was used to store cold cooked meat. Why do you think the Tudors kept their meat in something like this?

It kept the meat safe from creatures, like rats, as they could not climb the walls and walk across the ceiling to eat the meat.

Why was a lot of furniture in Tudor times made from oak?

Oak is a very strong wood so it is good for furniture.

It is not known for certain why Tudor settles had such high backs. What possible reasons do you think there could be? (There must be a good reason because the higher the back, the more wood would be needed so the more it would cost.)

Nobody knows for sure but possible reasons could include: the high, solid back kept any draughts away from the sitter; it was good for people's posture.

On the dresser there is a wooden trencher (a type of Tudor plate). What do you think the small dip in the corner would be used for?

The small dip was used to keep the salt in.

The Kitchen

Amazing Fact! – The stone floor that you are standing on is the same one that William and Anne walked on when William came to visit her!

Why is there a small wooden door to the left of the fireplace? Why was it needed?

It is the door to the bread oven that would be placed over the opening to help keep the heat in to cook the bread more quickly and evenly.

Why does the pan hanging on the right side of the fireplace have such a long handle?

The long handles meant that the cook did not have to get too close to the fire (which could be very hot). It also meant that they did not have to bend down so far when they were cooking.

In the fireplace there is a spit. What would it have been used for and how did it work?

The spit would be used for roasting large joints of meat. The meat would be placed on the large pole or spit in front of the fire. This spit would then be rotated slowly. This turned the meat around and allowed it to be cooked on all sides.

Crouch down carefully in front of the fireplace and look up the chimney. What is the black substance on the side of the chimney and where do you think it came from? (Be careful when you stand up again).

The inside of the chimney is covered in soot, which is a black powder made from the incomplete burning of wood, coal or other organic matter.

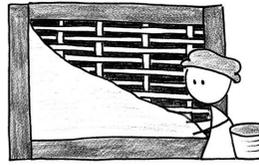
The Bedchamber

This bedchamber, above the kitchen, is probably where servants would have slept after Anne's brother added the first floor. Originally it was probably reached using a ladder.

Wattle and Daub panel

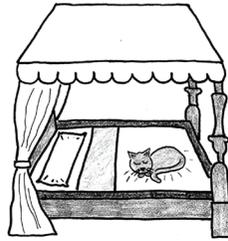
Look at the swirl marks in the daub. It is thought that these are the finger marks of the builders. Why do you think they might have used their hands instead of tools to put the daub into the frame?

It was probably easier to push the daub into the wattle frame using hands and fingers. Fingers would be easily able to make sure the daub was pushed into all of the small crevices making sure there were not gaps.



Bedchamber (over the Parlour)

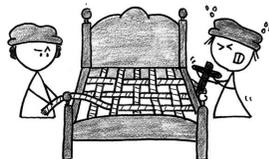
Amazing Fact! – It was VERY unusual in Tudor times to have a bedroom to yourself! You would share a room (and sometimes a bed) with other members of your family and servants (if you had any).



Tudor bed frames had a rope base and these ropes had to be tightened regularly to stop them sagging. A rope key was used to do this but how many people do you think it took to do the job?

The ropes used to loosen or sag because of the weight on them. This meant that your bed was very soft and you would not sleep well – tight bed ropes made for a better night's sleep. At least two people would be needed to do the job as you would need one on each side of the bed to keep the rope tight whilst the next section of rope was pulled taut.

Pull it tighter!



Bedchamber

The Hathaway Bed – why did beds of this type often have a wood or fabric canopy at the top?

The canopy or 'tester' over the top of the bed stopped anything from the thatched roof (insects, mouse droppings, bits of straw) dropping onto the occupant while they slept.

Look for the candleholder on the table. Why do you think it is designed in that way?

The handle allowed the candle to be carried safely around the house and the depression safely collected wax.

Bedchamber

On the bed is an old style hot water bottle (except it did not have water in it!). What might the family have put in it to get the heat and how did it warm the bed?

Hot coals or wood embers would be put inside. The warming pan would then be placed under the covers and could be moved around to warm up all parts of the bed.

The Cold Store/Storeroom (now a washing room)

Can you see an old linen press. What job is it doing and how did it work? Which object do we have at home that would do the same job today?

The screw top linen press was used for keeping linen smooth and neatly folded. It could be used for newly washed linen or linen that had been used but was still clean. The linen would be folded and put on the press and then the screw would be turned lowering the top plate. Pressed linen would have a slight sheen and the fold lines would be visible. An iron could be used to do the same job today.

The Dairy / Buttery

Find the yoke hanging on the wall. What do you think this would have been used for? Carrying buckets or pails around the farm e.g. pails full of milk after cows had been milked.

Look for the barrel standing in a frame. What job do you think this was used for and can you find anything else in the room that might have done the same thing?

The barrel is a butter churn.