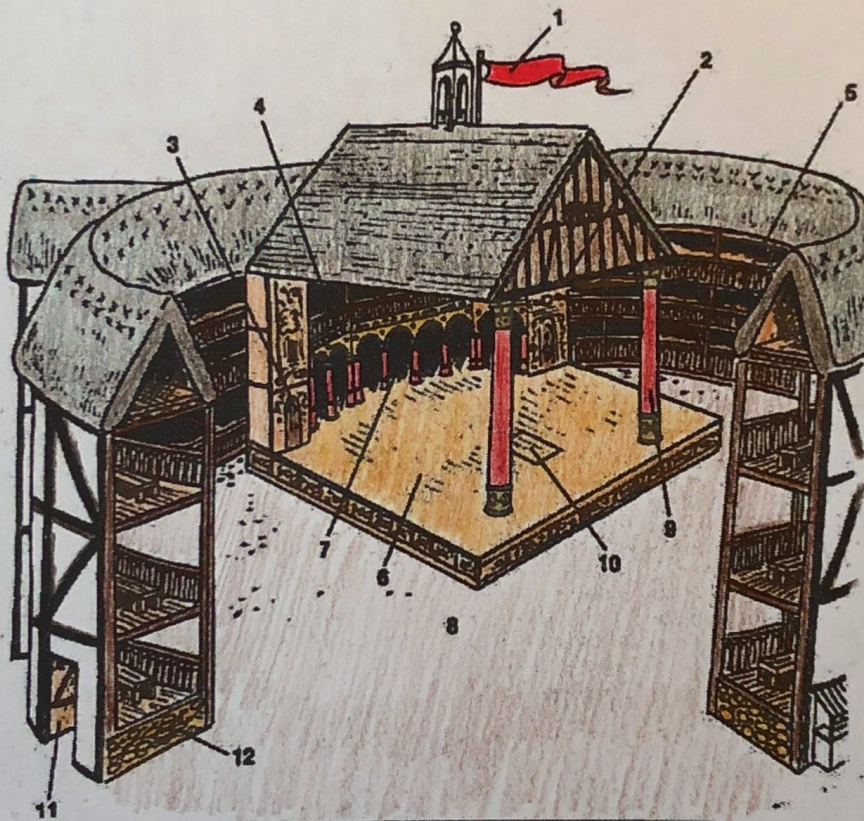


The Globe Theatre

The famous Globe Theatre was built in 1599. Referred to by Shakespeare as a "wooden O," the Globe could hold up to 3,000 spectators, and had as many as 20 sides. It was a unique theatre with its tiered stages, hidden doors, and unusual construction. The Globe burned down during a production of Henry VIII in 1613, and reconstruction began that same year. In 1644, the Globe was finally torn down.

Label the features of the Globe Theatre.



1. FLAG - Signified which type of play was being performed. Black for tragedy, white for comedy, and red for history. The flag was flown high enough so most of London could see it waving from the top of the Globe. This was important because the theatre was located on the outskirts of the city across the Thames River.
2. The "HEAVENS" - the ceiling over the stage that protected actors from too much sun or rain. It also represented the sky and was painted blue

Unit Two- The English Renaissance (1485-1625)

with golden stars. Actors who played angels or spirits descended from the hut on top of this roof to the main stage. The hut was also used for storage and additional sound effects such as alarm bells, cannon fire, and thunder.

3. TIRING HOUSE - dressing and storage rooms. Actors rested here between scenes and changed into lavish costumes. All large props were stored here. The doors also served as actors' main entrances and exits.
4. UPPER STAGE - this "chamber" was used for most bedroom and balcony scenes.
5. GALLERIES - three covered seating sections. Audiences paid more to sit on these tiered wooden benches under a thatched roof to keep out the sun and rain. For an additional penny, a patron could borrow a cushion to sit on.
6. MAIN STAGE - where the main action of the play took place, especially the outdoor scenes of battlefields, forests, or cityscapes. It was often called an apron stage because audiences could sit around all three sides. The stage was intentionally built 4-5 feet high so the audience could not jump up and into the action. For a larger fee, patrons could sometimes sit up on the stage next to the actors.
7. INNER STAGE - this stage was mostly used for indoor scenes. It had a curtain that could be opened or closed for scene changes.
8. OPEN YARD - audiences paid 1 penny to stand here and watch the performance, rain or shine. Often these patrons, called groundlings, would participate in the play by cheering, shouting, or throwing snacks at the actors.
9. SUPPORT PILLARS - these wooden pillars supported the roof and were painted to look like marble. Actors used these pillars to hide on the main stage and observe other characters while speaking asides to the audience.
10. TRAP DOOR - actors playing ghosts or witches could rise or descend through this door built into the main stage. The cellarge underneath was referred to as Hell.
11. ENTRANCE - "Gatherers" stood at the single entrance to collect one penny from each patron per performance. Patrons put their pennies into a box, hence the term "box office." It took audiences at least half an hour to file into the theatre.
12. BRICK FOUNDATION - the Globe's foundation needed to be constructed of brick, as it was built on the wet, marshy land close to the Thames.