<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/woottonhs/academics/mediacenter/MuchAdoWebquest.html>

Google Search: Much Ado About Nothing Webquest or Shakespeare Webquest.

Group 1: Historical and Social Context

1. Who was Queen of England during the time Shakespeare began to write?  Who ruled after her?
2. Give the approximate dates of the Elizabethan period.
3. Identify the social classes during Shakespeare's time.
4. Describe the status of women.  How would a young woman respond to a request from her father?
5. What is primogeniture?
6. What was the Bubonic Plague and how did it affect society during Shakespeare's time?
7. Describe these aspects of Elizabethan life:
   * food
   * socialization
   * city life, hygiene, crime
   * homes
   * clothing

Group 2: Intellectual and Religious Life

1. Describe the four elements thought to compose the universe.
2. Describe the four humours and their relationship to personality.
3. What was the relationships between humours and illnesses.
4. What type of medicine was administered and by whom was it dispensed during this time period?
5. Describe the religious climate during this time.
6. What was considered to be the center of the universe at this time?  Who controlled it?
7. Describe the hierarchy of beings or "chain of beings"  believed in by Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

Group 3: Elizabethan Marriage Customs

1. Where did marriages take place during the Middle Ages?
2. Why were marriage contracts arranged?
3. Who performed the marriage ceremony?
4. What was the common age for marriage?
5. What is a betrothal?
6. What was the goal of a Renaissance wedding?
7. Describe the common wedding attire during this period.
8. Describe what foods might be served at a wedding feast.

Group 4: The Elizabethan Theater

1. Where were most theaters built? (in or out of the city)?  Why?  Why is the Globe Theater so famous?
2. What time of day did performances take place?  How was the public notified about performances?
3. Who played the female roles and why?
4. What type of scenery and props were used?
5. What were the costumes like?
6. What other skills did actors need besides acting ability?
7. What was the cost of standing room at the Globe?
8. Who was Richard Burbage?
9. Who were the King's Men or Chamberlain's Men?
10. Identify:
    * Pit
    * Groundling
    * Heavens
    * Trap door
    * Tiring house

Group 5: Shakespeare's Life

1. When and where was Shakespeare born?
2. Describe his upbringing and education.
3. What were the four types of plays he wrote?
4. Where were his plays performed and by whom?
5. Besides writing plays, what other skills made Shakespeare a "jack of all trades?"
6. When and where did Shakespeare die?
7. Why do we still read his works today?  (Hint: think of theme)
8. Find several famous quotations that originated in Shakespeare's works.  Mention the works  from which they come.

Group 6: Shakespearean Authorship Debate

1. What is the authorship debate?
2. What evidence supports that Shakespeare did not write the plays?
3. Who were other playwrights during Shakespeare’s time that might be attributed for doing the works of Shakespeare?
4. What evidence exists to support other playwrights being the actual authors?
5. Who are the Stratfordians?
6. Who are the Oxfordians?
7. What is the generally accepted opinion about whether or not Shakespeare wrote these works?

Group 7: Queen Elizabeth

1. Who was Queen Elizabeth and for how long did she rule?
2. Who ruled England before and after Queen Elizabeth?
3. What was the general opinion of Queen Elizabeth during the times?
4. What did Queen Elizabeth do in order to get the opinion of her from the above question?
5. What kind of education did Queen Elizabeth have?
6. For what reason is it likely that Queen Elizabeth did not marry?
7. How did Queen Elizabeth help or hinder theater during her reign?

**Group 8: Literary Terms Relating to Shakespeare**

**Define** and **give an example** of each.

* sonnet (Elizabethan)
* iambic pentameter
* blank verse
* soliloquy
* foreshadowing
* apostrophe
* oxymoron
* hyperbole
* irony (dramatic)
* irony (verbal)
* allusion
* motif
* pun
* personification
* couplet
* Double Entendre