

4 - THE WORLD OF THE PLAY

Why did Shakespeare choose Elsinore Castle in Denmark as the setting for this play?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit [this page](#).
- Old newspapers, magazines OR a mood board app such as Mural or Pinterest.

ACTIVITY

- Visit the photo gallery of Settings on the Shakespeare Learning Zone, [here](#). What do these images tell you about the world of the play? What is happening in Elsinore? What is it like? Write down any words or images that come to mind. Look at the words you've written down so far.
- Create a mood board for the world of Elsinore, either digitally using an app or as a collage, using your own drawings or old newspapers and magazines. A mood board can help a designer to think about the overall impression they want the audience to have of a place and can be a collection of colours, textures, fabrics, styles of clothing, buildings, art work and anything else that you see which inspires you. In your mood board, try to label the things you add to help you remember your thought process.
- Ask yourself: What did the world of Elsinore mean to Shakespeare's audience? Where could the modern versions of this world be today?

EXTENSION

- Create your own Model Box for the world of Elsinore. Use drawings or mood boards to start your design so you are happy with it. Where will your audience sit? How will your actors enter and exit? What scenery will you have - if any?
- When your model box is finished, practice explaining how it works to an imaginary director and cast of actors. Where will some of the scenes take place in your model? Where will the ghost appear in the opening scenes? How will you stage the play which the visiting group of actors perform?
- An example of an RSC model box can be found [here](#).