Fencing moves

SPORTS, GAMES AND PASTIMES

Fencing most likely originated in Spain, and started to gain popularity in England in the 1530s. Fencing during Shakespeare's lifetime was about preparing for combat and learning self-defence with a sword, rather than being a leisure pursuit or sport like today.

Fencing today is actually an Olympic sport and requires strength and skill. There are a lot of unusual words that you would have to learn to take part in or watch fencing. Here are some of them with descriptions of the moves. You can play a fun active game by choosing a friend to call out the words while you and a group of others make the actions. The caller checks your moves and based on the quality and accuracy of your moves decides who is the Olympic champion at the end of the game!



Fencing moves

Advance

Step forward.

Avoidance

Ducking or moving sideways.

Balestra

A short, sharp jump forwards

Circular Parry

Deflection of the opponent's blade by making a circle with the sword point.

On guard

Get into position to fight

Shakespeare birthplace trust

For our full range of resources, visit
shakespeareweek.org.uk

SHAKESPEARE WEEK
Join our national celebration

© 2021 Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Registered Charity Number 209302