

Knowledge Organiser: Elizabethan Society and the Age of Exploration 1558-1588

| | | Who were these people? | | Vocabulary: define these words. | |
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| <p>Elizabeth's reign is often said to be a "Golden Age", a time where people were more prosperous and important changes were taking place which led to England rising to prominence. Opportunities in education and leisure grew; fewer people were generally poor and attitudes towards the poor changed. During Elizabeth's reign, English sailors were exploring the world. Whilst this was seen as a challenge to Spain's power, England was also keen to find new trade routes, markets and boost its reputation as an emerging European power.</p> | | <p>Sir Walter Raleigh</p> | <p>Planned and organised two voyages to establish English colonies in the New World (the Americas).</p> | <p>Vagabonds</p> | <p>Wandering beggars who often turned to crime to survive.</p> |
| | | <p>Francis Drake</p> | <p>First Englishman to circumnavigate the globe.</p> | <p>Black comedy</p> | <p>Comedy used to poke fun on subjects which are delicate or taboo.</p> |
| | | <p>John Hawkins</p> | <p>He made 3 voyages, sailing to the West Indies, Central America and west Africa.</p> | <p>Inflation</p> | <p>The general increase in prices corresponding to a fall in the purchasing value of money.</p> |
| Summarise your learning | | Chronology: what happened? | | | |
| <p>Topic 1: Leisure and Education</p> | <p>Opportunities for leisure were dictated by social class, with entertainment ranging from hunting deer, tennis and household musicians, to wrestling, gambling on sports and singing ballads in taverns. All social classes could go to the theatre where their entrance fee dictated where they could sit. Education opportunities increased on the whole but it was mainly boys from well-off families who benefitted the most. There were petty, grammar, independent, public schools, and universities (the nobility or gentry made up 30% of attendees).</p> | <p>Vagabonds Act 1572</p> | <p>To be found guilty of being a 'vagabond' would be punished with whippings, prison or placed in domestic service.</p> | <p>Idle Poor</p> | <p>People who were able-bodied but refused work and were poor. Also known as "sturdy beggars".</p> |
| | | <p>Act for the Relief of the Poor 1576</p> | <p>Towns and local parishes were required to find work for able-bodied poor and to send refusers to houses of correction.</p> | <p>Legislation</p> | <p>The process of making and enacting laws.</p> |
| <p>Topic 2: The problems and categories of the poor</p> | <p>Increase in poverty: The population increased from 3 to 4.2 million by 1600. This led to increased workers and decrease in wages. There was an increase in demand for food so food prices increased. There were two bad harvests in 1573 and 1586 which reduced income for farmers and the decrease in food led to a hike in prices, which is called inflation. The wool trade suffered a slump in the 1580s which caused further unemployment. The Elizabethans divided the poor into 2 categories: the deserving poor were those who 'wanted' to work but could not find employment, whereas the idle poor were able bodied and 'did not want' to work. There were other categories such as a doxy, a clapper dudgeon and counterfeit cranks. Elizabeth's government took a varied approach to the poor, accepting some responsibility (Acts & Justices of the Peace) but also carrying out punishments (whippings, prison, correction houses).</p> | <p>The "Theatre" 1576</p> | <p>London's first theatre since the Roman times. It was built by James Burbage, an actor and builder at the time.</p> | <p>Harvests</p> | <p>The process or period of gathering in crops. 85% of the English population still lived in the countryside, where the main occupation was farming.</p> |
| | | <p>1577-80 Drake's travels</p> | <p>First Englishman to sail around the world: South America, Mexico, west coast of Africa and Indian Oceans.</p> | | |
| | | <p>1585-1587 Voyages</p> | <p>Two voyages organised by Walter Raleigh to establish English colonies in America.</p> | <p>Petty/Parish Schools</p> | <p>Local schools for ages 4-7 as preparation to enter grammar schools. Mostly boys with a small number of upper-class girls.</p> |
| | | <p>'Roanoke' the Lost Colony 1587</p> | <p>A failed attempt by the English (planned by Walter Raleigh) to form the first permanent English settlement in North America.</p> | <p>Masques</p> | <p>Lavish court entertainments of dance and mime.</p> |
| | | | | <p>Cloth trade</p> | <p>England's main export was woollen cloth to Europe, which provided thousands of jobs e.g. spinners, weavers, menders.</p> |
| <p>Topic 3: Exploration and Voyages of Discovery</p> | <p>Whilst Spanish rivalry played a role in encouraging English sailors to explore, they were also keen to open up new markets (to diversify away from relying on wool) and to give Elizabeth's England a fierce reputation. New technology like the Mercator maps and compasses allowed sailors to explore the world. Raleigh's voyages were significant because they were designed to increase England's power, access valuable minerals and launch raids on the Spanish. The 2 Voyages failed due to: lack of food, poor leadership, hostility with the Native Americans and lack of survival skills from the settlers. The colony was not visited again until 1590 when it was found to have disappeared.</p> | | | | <p>The explorations of Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh established the English as successful sailors, raiders and soon-to-be settlers. The most important consequences were the increase in trading and establishing England as a growing power.</p> |

