



# How did the Elizabethan Era shape the world we live in today?

Elizabethan England c.1568-1603 Life in Elizabethan times

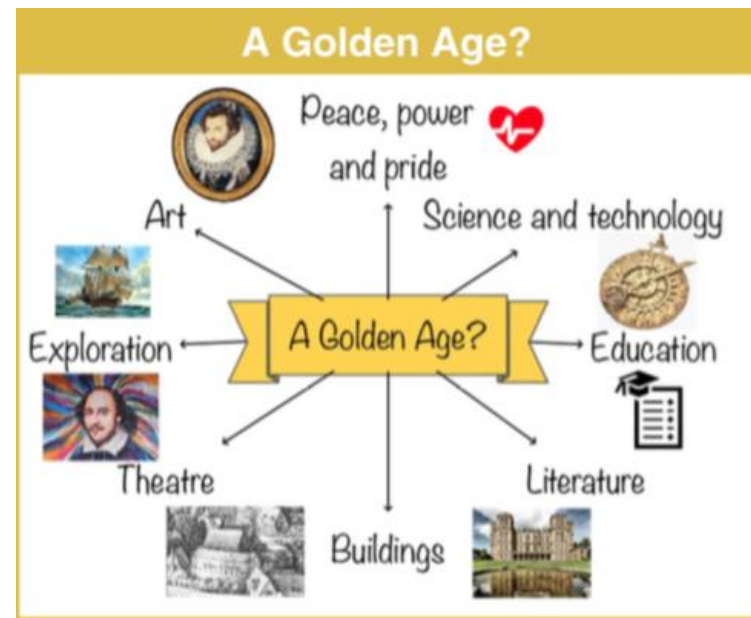
## Summary:

When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, she faced many problems. These included religious instability, weaknesses within the privy council, financial problems, threats from abroad and doubts whether a woman could rule successfully.

It could be argued that she overcame many of these problems by 1569 as she had decided upon a religious settlement which found a 'middle way' between Puritan and Catholics. She shrunk the privy council to include only trusted advisors and started to convince the English population that a Queen could be trusted to rule.

### Key individuals

	<p>John Hawkins was a key figure at court. He was responsible for building up the Royal Navy. Was also involved in the slave trade and introduced tobacco</p>		<p>Sir Walter Raleigh very loyal to Elizabeth and a favourite. Attempted to establish a colony in North America. He was banished for 5 years (secret marriage)</p>
<p>William Shakespeare was the most celebrated playwright of all time with 38 plays. Wrote for the Lord Chamberlain's Men</p>		<p>Francis Drake was English hero but Spanish called pirate. Led defeat of the Was a privateer.</p>	



Topic 1 key events	
1532	Start of the English Reformation
1556-58	Dutch Revolt against the Spanish
1558	Elizabeth's accession
1559	Mary Queen of Scots became queen of France
1559	Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis - England had to return Calais to France
1559	Religious Settlement and visitations commenced.
1559	The Pope issued an instruction that English Catholics should not attend Church of England services.
1560	Elizabeth helped Scotland Protestant lords defeat Mary of Guise. Treaty of Edinburgh.
1562	Religious war in France
1563	Philip II banned import of English cloth into Netherlands
1567	Elizabeth allows Dutch Sea Beggars to shelter in English harbours
1568	Genoese loan
1568	Mary Queen of Scots fled to Scotland and then arrived in England.
1569	Revolt of the Northern Earls

## Religion:

This was important in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Rituals of life (baptism, marriage and death) were marked by religious ceremonies and people lived in constant fear or going to hell. Under the new Elizabethan religious settlement, England was transformed from a Catholic to a Protestant nation. Elizabeth found a 'middle way' to keep Puritans, Protestants and Catholics happy.

## Poverty

Not everyone in Elizabethan England benefited from the increased prosperity and trade. A growing population, bad harvests and enclosure created a very poor group at the bottom of society. The poor were categorised into; the deserving poor who could not help themselves, the undeserving poor who were untrustworthy and did not want honest work, the idle poor seen as lazy and the able poor. Beggars could be whipped, branded, have a hole burned in the ear or hung. Towns such as York, Ipswich and Norwich had their own ways to deal with the poor. The 1601 Poor Law taxed the wealthy to care and support the old, sick and vulnerable. The fit and healthy were to be given work. The idle could be whipped and placed in the house of correction.

## Voyages of exploration

Several European countries were investigating the new world, bringing home treasures and claiming land. Drake circumnavigated the globe from 1577-80. He and his cousin John Hawkins made one of the first voyages to sell slaves. New technology such as the and astrolabe helped make this possible. Spain was often the target of the privateers 'sea dogs'



## Key dates

1576 The Theatre was opened by James Burbage

1587 The Rose opened

1588 The Spanish Armada

1599 The Globe opened

## Elizabethan Era

- ❑ Grammar schools were available to the Middle classes
- ❑ Outbreaks of the plague had reduced the population
- ❑ Changes in agriculture during the Elizabethan period led to people leaving the countryside and their village life to search for employment in the towns.

### Topic 1 key terms

Act of Supremacy	This made Elizabeth supreme governor of the Church of England.
Act of Uniformity	This established the appearance of churches and the form of services they held.
Counter Reformation	the campaign against Protestantism
Divine Right of Kings	the belief that a monarch was chosen to rule by God
Ecclesiastical	an adjective used to describe things to do with the Church
Excommunicated	being expelled from the Catholic Church by the Pope
Gentry	similar to nobility; people of a high social class
Heretics	people who refused to follow the religion of the monarch
Legitimate	Being born in wedlock when the existing king and queen were married.
Martyr	someone who dies for their religious beliefs
Nobility	a member of the aristocracy
Papacy	the system of church government ruled by the Pope
Patronage	to provide someone with an important job or position
Privy Council	Elizabeth's closest body of advisors; Elizabeth's chief advisor was William Cecil.
Puritans	extreme Protestants
Recusants	Catholics who were unwilling to attend church services laid down by the Elizabethan religious settlement
Royal Injunctions	a set of instructions to reinforce the acts of Supremacy and Uniformity
Royal Prerogative	Elizabeth could insist that Parliament did not talk about certain issues
Secretary of State	Elizabeth's most important Privy Councillor
Succession	the issue of who was going to succeed the throne after Elizabeth died
Visitations	inspections of churches and clergy by bishops to ensure that the Act of Supremacy was being followed
Yeomen	men who owned a small amount of land or an estate

