

KEY WORDS

Poor Laws: They required each parish to select two Overseers of the Poor. It was the job of the Overseer to set a poor tax for his or her parish based on need and collect money from landowners.

Poverty: The state of being extremely poor.

Taxation: Is when a Government or Monarch makes individuals or groups pay money to them.

Gloriana: The way of presenting the Elizabethan age was known as this. It was achieved through plays and festivals as well as the printing of special pamphlets.

Alchemy: The attempt to turn cheap metal into gold. A seemingly magical process that was very popular, as was astrology (using the planets to predict the future).

Pauper: A very poor person.

Retinue: Someone who advises or supports an important person like a private army.

Reformation: The process of changing an institution or practice. In this case changing England's main practicing religion from Catholicism to Protestantism.

Monastery: A building or buildings occupied by religious people, such as; monks.

Enclosure: An area that is surrounded by a barrier.

Rack renting: Landlords unfairly increasing rent knowing there was limited places to live.

Inflation: An increase in prices and a fall of the value of money.

Urban: Refers to a town or city, usually ever growing and changing.

Deserving poor: Poor that want to help themselves but are unable to.

Almshouse: Provided accommodation and food for those in need.

Undeserving poor: Untrustworthy beggars who had no interest in honest work.

Stocks: Restrained a criminals feet.

Pillory: Restrained a criminals hands.

House of correction: A type of prison were people who refused to work were sent.

Flogged: Beat someone with a whip or a stick as a type of punishment.

Vagrant: A person without a settled home or regular work who wanders from place to place and lives by begging.

Ruff: An elaborate collar that was worn around the neck of both men and women.

Patron: Is the term given to a person who funds a company. The company was usually gets its name from this person.

Circumnavigate: Sail all the way around.

Life in the Elizabethan times

KEY INDIVIDUALS

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. Francis Drakes cousin.

Sir Walter Raleigh: Was very loyal to Elizabeth and a favourite. Attempted to establish a colony in North America. He was banished for 5 years (secret marriage).

Francis Drake: Was an English hero but the Spanish called him a pirate. Led the defeat of the Armada. Was a privateer.

William Shakespeare: Was the most celebrated playwright of all time with 38 plays. Wrote for the Lord Chamberlain's Men, a theatre company.

Richard Burbage: Was one of the most celebrated actors of the Elizabethan period. He was a leading member of the Lord Chamberlain's men. He was also a theatre owner.

The Duke of Medina Sidonia: A Spanish nobleman who was appointed the commander of the Armada.

KEY WORDS

Privateer: Was a private person or private warship authorized by a country's government by letters of marque to attack foreign shipping.

Armada: A fleet of ships.

Lateen: A triangle sail on a ship, they were designed to make ships go faster and make them easier to steer.

Astrolabe: A circular device used for measuring the position of stars and on ships for calculating the ship's position.

Colony: a group of people of one nationality or race living in a foreign place, or a place controlled by a foreign country.

Unemployment was a major cause of poverty. When large landowners changed from arable to sheep farming unemployment increased rapidly. The closing of the monasteries in the 1530s created even more unemployment. As monasteries had also helped provide food for the poor, this created further problems. Unemployed people were sometimes tempted to leave their villages to look for work. This was illegal and people who did this were classed as vagabonds.

Write an account Question

- 1) Write an account of the ways in which Elizabeth's reign could be seen as a 'golden age'
- 3) Write an account of how the Poor Law system changed under Queen Elizabeth I.

Explain Question

- 1) Explain what was important about exploration and trade in Elizabethan England.
- 2) Explain what was important about the voyages of discovery in the reign of Elizabeth I.
- 3) Explain what was important about the navy for Elizabethan England.

Interpretation B: Spartacus Educational, a history education website.

How convincing is the interpretation Question

- 1) How convincing is Interpretation B about the causes of poverty in Elizabethan England? Explain your answer using Interpretation B and your contextual knowledge.

Key Events Timeline

KEY:

Poverty

Exploration

The Arts

Beggars were publically whipped (1531 onward)
If they were caught a second time a hole was burnt through their ear.

Beggars were punished with the stocks and pillories (1495 onward)

York appointed a master beggar to check on other beggars (1528 onward)

York issued begging licenses in 16 years before any other city (1515 onward)

Flu Outbreak (1556)
A terrible outbreak of flu killed around 200,000 people including many workers who were involved in producing food.

Act for setting the poor on work (1576)
The responsibility of finding the poor work was placed in the hands of the local authorities so national focus could be on punishments.

Thomas Harman published his book (1567)
His book drew attention to conmen and women's scams and tricks. It was very popular and hardened some attitudes towards the poor.

Ipswich introduced a licensing system for beggars and increased support for the poor (1569)

The Levant company were given the monopoly of trade in Turkey and the Middle East (1580)

Francis Drake circumnavigated the world (1577-1580)

Francis Drake and John Hawkins took control of many Spanish ships and raided the ports in Cadiz (1587)

The Spanish Armada (1588)
The British were led by Lord Howard and the Spanish were led by the Duke of Medina Sidonia.

The Rose Theatre opened (1587)
The Rose Theater was the first theatre to house William Shakespeare's plays. It was built near the River Thames.

First ever Poor Law (1601)
Elizabeth and her government introduced the first ever poor law, which saw the rich in each area of the country taxed to pay for care and support of the vulnerable, including the old and the sick.

Bad Harvests and Food Shortages (1594 -1598)
Because of bad harvests and food shortages meant that people died of starvation . As well as this landowners were not renting their land for farmers to grow crops, because of these more farmers jobless and homeless so went to the cities to look for work.

1540

1560

1580

1600

1550

1570

1590

The Debasing of coins (1542)
Henry VIII saw economic problems in England and the cost of war was great. So to produce coins more cheaply he started mixing other metals with gold and silver.

Norwich authorities conducted a survey which found that 80% of the population lived in poverty (1570)

Closing of the Monasteries (1536-1540)
When Henry VIII reformed England he made himself head of the church meaning he now had control of the churches. Many of the religious people working and living there were evicted. In addition to unemployment, the poor and sick who were being looked after by the monks and nuns at the Monasteries were also evicted. This continued until the Elizabethan times.

The Muscovy Company was created (1555)
They were given the monopoly of trade with the city of Moscow in Russia. No other company could trade in the area.

John Hawkins got involved in the African slave trade, first seizing slaves from the Portuguese and then capturing them himself. (1562)

The population was 2.8 million (1558) and increased to 4 million in 1603.

James Burbage opened his theater (1576)
The famous actor of the Lord Chamberlain's men opened his theater 'Blackfriars indoor playhouse.' It was built in Surrey.

The Great Chain of Being (1579)
Elizabethan society was based on this. In the Great Chain of Being God was at the top , followed by his angels and other residents of heaven. Human beings and animals were beneath. The Elizabethans broke this down further into subdivisions based on class with the Monarch at the top and the peasants at the bottom. It was pretty much impossible to move between subdivisions.

The Eastland Company were given the monopoly of trade in Scandinavia. (1579)

Elizabeth gave Walter Raleigh permission to colonise and rule any land not ruled by a Christian. (1584)
He tried to colonise America but failed the first time. The second time in 1587 was more successful but still ended badly.

Francis Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth (1581)
This angered Philip of Spain and was said to be exactly why Elizabeth did it!

The Globe Theatre opened (1599)
Was a theatre built in London by Shakespeare's playing company, the Lord Chamberlains men. It was destroyed by fire in 1613 and rebuilt several times after that.

William Shakespeare created his first play Henry VI (1589 -1590)