

History Knowledge Organiser: Elizabethan England

1. England in 1558:

- Elizabeth I became queen at the age of 25. She was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.
- She was raised as a Protestant and was a pragmatic and cautious ruler.
- Elizabeth ruled for 45 years and is arguably one of the country's greatest rulers.
- The country was made up of England, Wales and Ireland but not Scotland.
- Elizabeth was the Governor of the Church of England.



England had massive debts, high inflation, widespread poverty and a huge gap between the rich and the poor.



There was still a religious divide between Catholics and Protestants. England had been Catholic under Mary I, but Elizabeth would restore Protestantism to England. Religious division would lead to many plots against Elizabeth and threaten the country's stability.



England's population would grow by 30 per cent during Elizabeth's reign from around 3 million people to around 4 million people. This rise would put a strain on the economy and lead to increasing poverty and unrest.



Most people lived and worked in the countryside. There were very few towns at the start of Elizabeth's reign. Agricultural changes and poor harvests would lead many people to move from the countryside into towns.

England had been allies with Spain, but these countries would become bitter enemies during the course of Elizabeth's reign. Spain controlled the Netherlands which was an important trading partner with England. Rebellions in the Netherlands threatened peace and disrupted England's economy.

Keywords:

Inflation:

rising prices and the cost of living

Industry:

ways of making money connected with making things using raw materials

Export:

a product which is sent to another country for sale

economy:

the state of a country's production of goods and supply of money

Pragmatic:

dealing with things in a sensible realistic way

Privy Council:

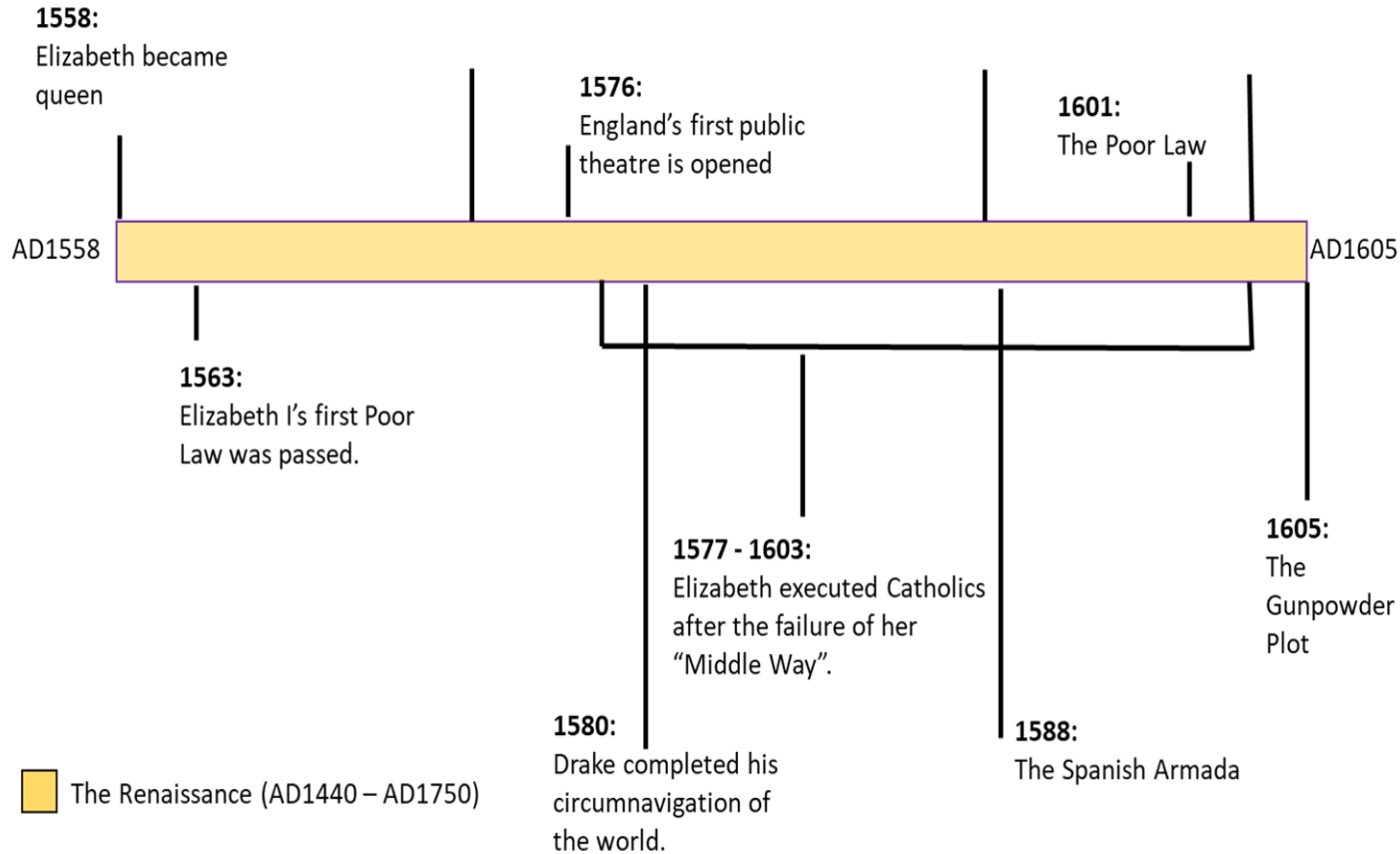
a committee of advisors appointed to advise the monarch

Justice of the Peace:

person appointed to counties responsible for keeping and enforcing law and order

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2: Timeline



Keywords:

Glory:

renowned for its success, courage and ground-breaking achievements

Privy Council:

a committee of advisors appointed to advise the monarch

Justice of the Peace:

person appointed to counties responsible for keeping and enforcing law and order

The Gunpowder Plot:

a Catholic plot to blow up Parliament and kill the king

to excommunicate:

to officially remove someone from the Catholic church and the sacraments

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3. A Glorious age of Culture:

- Elizabethan England (1558 – 1603) is often described as a Golden Age due to the explosion in the Arts such as theatre, literature and poetry.



The Renaissance, a period of renewed interest in learning.



Discovery and learning and a questioning of authority.



1450 The invention of the printing press.



The rise of the gentry. A new wealthy class keen to show their new status in society.



Elizabethan Golden Age of culture.



Popular pastimes included cock fighting, bear baiting and dog fighting.



- Growth of theatres
- 1576, The Theatre opened. It was the first purpose-built theatre.
- By 1603 there were 7 major London theatres and 40 companies of actors.



- William Shakespeare** wrote 37 plays and 100s of sonnets. His style had a lasting effect on the English language.
- Christopher Marlowe**, was a playwright and poet. He was a major influence on Shakespeare.
- Edmund Spenser**, was considered one of the greatest poets. He wrote *Fairie Queene*.



- There was a rise in the popularity of secular and instrumental music.
- Music was composed for the lute and virginal
- Vocal composition became popular
- Thomas Tallis** (1505-1585) and **William Byrd** (1540-1623) were renowned Elizabethan composers.

Keywords:

Culture:

refinement of tastes and styles particularly in the arts

Disposable income:

money leftover once all living expenses are paid

Propaganda:

misleading information used to promote a cause

Gentry:

wealthy landowners and people who had made money through trade; held important positions such as Justices of the Peace

Secular:

not connected with religious or spiritual matters

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4. Age of Exploration:

- Elizabethan period (1558-1603) was a time of great exploration and discovery.
- World trade expanded and brought great wealth to European countries.
- It made heroes of the explorers such as John Hawkins, Walter Rayleigh and Francis Drake.



Muslim dominance of territories around the Mediterranean.



Spanish and Portuguese explorers discovered new territories in 1400s.



Spain and Portugal dominated New World and established colonies and trading partners.



English exploration and discovery of new routes.



Walter Rayleigh's circumnavigation of the world.



Establishment of new trading companies and brought huge wealth to England.



English 'sea dogs' attacked Spanish treasure ships.



Colonialisation of Virginia in America by Rayleigh.



Beginnings of participation in the Slave Trade by many Elizabethans including the queen.

Keywords:

Astrolabe:

an instrument used by sailors to calculate latitude

licence:

formal authority (to trade with an area)

monopoly:

exclusive trading right

sea dog:

pirates licensed by the government to attack and steal from enemy ships

colony:

a country which is ruled by another country

patent:

a government licence giving the sole right to make, or sell something

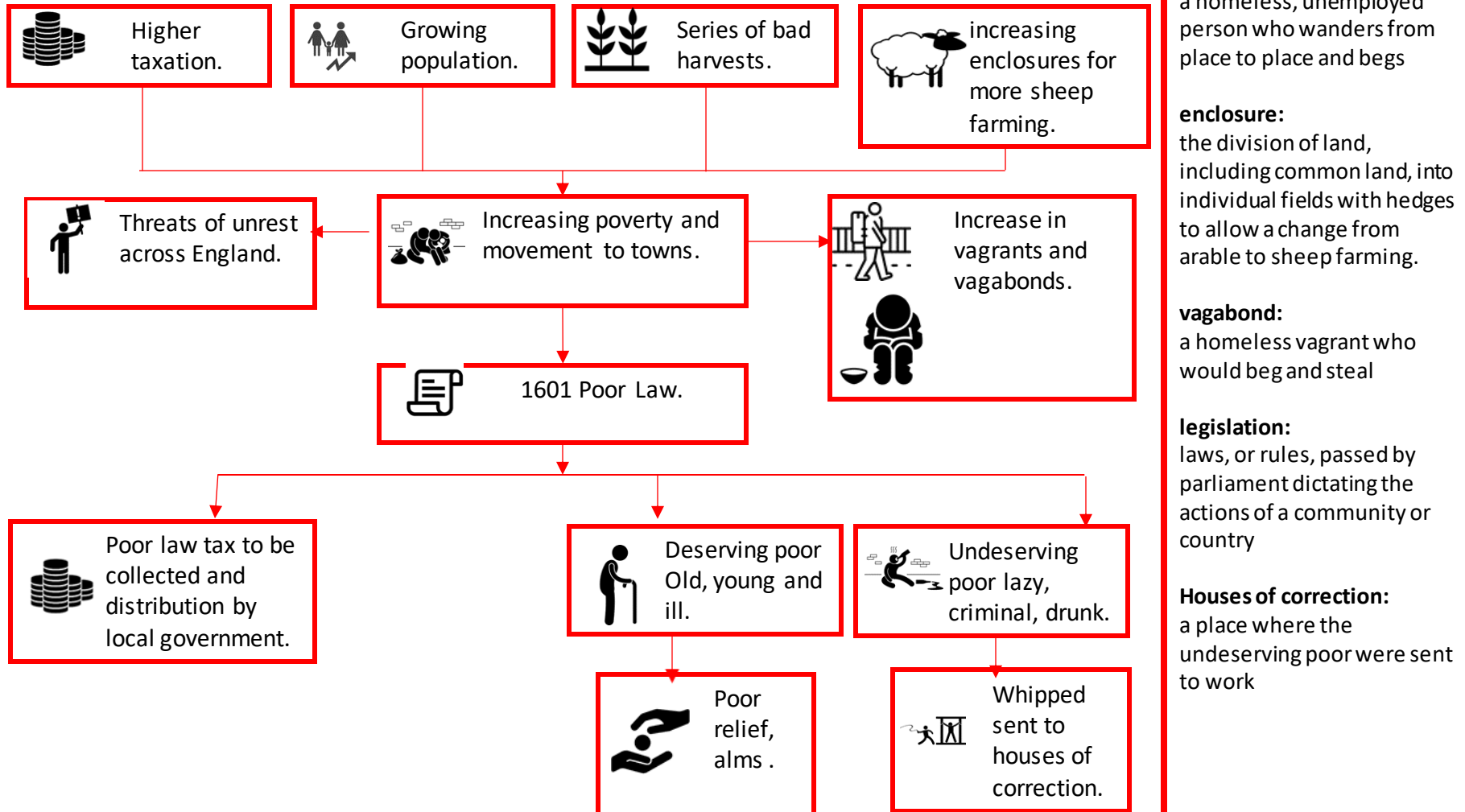
circumnavigation:

sailing or travelling all the way around something especially the world

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5. 1601 Poor Law:

- The last five years of the sixteenth century (1500s) saw a series of bad harvests which led to rapid inflation.
- Wages fell dramatically and many people could not afford to feed themselves or their families.
- There was increasing and widespread poverty which caused a sense of unrest and discontent. This worried the Government and led to reform.
- 1601 Poor Law was a national code improving and extending previous poor relief legislation.



Keywords:

inflation:

rise in prices and the cost of living

vagrant:

a homeless, unemployed person who wanders from place to place and begs

enclosure:

the division of land, including common land, into individual fields with hedges to allow a change from arable to sheep farming.

vagabond:

a homeless vagrant who would beg and steal

legislation:

laws, or rules, passed by parliament dictating the actions of a community or country

Houses of correction:

a place where the undeserving poor were sent to work

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6. Mary, Queen of Scots:

- She was the great grand daughter of Henry VII and Elizabeth I's cousin.
- She became Queen of Scotland aged six but grew up in France and was raised a Catholic.
- Mary returned to Scotland in 1561 aged 19 but a series of events led to her abdication six years later and her fleeing to England for safety.



Elizabethan religious settlement confirmed England as a Protestant country but angered Catholics



Mary, Queen of Scots abdicated the Scottish Throne and fled to England



Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned by Elizabeth I



1569 Northern Rebellion
It aimed to free Mary and make her queen and return England to Catholicism.



1571 Ridolfi Plot
Catholic plot to assassinate Elizabeth and make Mary queen. It was backed by Spain and the Pope. Mary agreed to it.



1583 Throckmorton Plot
It was a Catholic plot to kill Elizabeth and make Mary queen. It was backed by Spain, France and the Pope. Mary was involved.



1586 Babington Plot
A plot to A assassinate Elizabeth, make Mary queen and return England to Catholicism. It was backed by Spanish troops. Mary approved and agreed to it.



Elizabeth I reluctantly signed Mary Queen of Scots death warrant but ordered that it was not carried out.



Privy Council ignored Elizabeth's orders .



Mary, Queen of Scots executed 8th February 1587 at Fotheringhay Castle.

Keywords:

to abdicate:

to give up power (as a king or queen)

to excommunicate:

to officially remove someone from the Catholic church and the sacraments

to assassinate:

to kill someone for a religious or political reason

treasonous:

an act which threatens the monarch or the state

Recusants:

Catholics who refuse to attend Church of England services

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7. Spain and England:

- Spain was a wealthy and powerful country in the sixteenth century (1500s) with a large empire including The Netherlands.
- It was a strongly Catholic country ruled over by Philip II, Elizabeth I's brother-in-law.
- Spain was traditionally an ally of England but during Elizabeth's reign the countries became bitter enemies.



Trade

Spain introduced trade restriction in the Netherlands during the civil war which affected English business and trade



Religion

Philip II had been married to Mary I. He wanted to maintain influence in England. He proposed marriage to Elizabeth, but she refused. As a Catholic, he felt it was his duty to overthrow Elizabeth as she was a heretic



Mary, Queen of Scots was executed 8th February **1587** at Fotheringhay Castle



1566 Dutch Rebellion. Dutch wanted to independence from Spain. England offered unofficial support to the rebels. English trade was damaged by the Dutch fight with Spain .

1585 Treaty of Nonsuch was signed by England and Dutch rebels. This led to war between England and Spain.



English 'sea dogs' attack Spanish treasure ships.



Philip II's 'Enterprise of England'
His plan was to invade England to seize the English throne for himself.



Keywords:

suitor:

someone who is a potential husband or wife

ally:

a supporting or friendly country or state

accession:

The process of becoming the king or queen of a country

heretic:

someone who rejects the established religion of the country

Dutch:

someone who was born in the Netherlands

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8. The Spanish Armada:

- By the mid 1580s, the tension between England and Spain broke into war
- In 1588, a huge fleet of Spanish ships—an armada – was launched against England
- This Catholic assault was the most serious threat posed to English national security in the entire Tudor period.



Mary, Queen of Scots execution was the final push for Philip II to launch enterprise of England



1588 The Spanish Armada sailed up English Channel to The Netherlands to collect Spanish troops



The Armada was spotted in the channel and followed by English Fleet



The English Fleet pushed Armada to Calais. It had wanted to shelter in Channel to await news of Troops



Spanish panicked and cut anchor, and fled breaking defensive crescent formation



Drake sent fireships drifting into Armada



The wind got stronger forcing Armada to drop anchor in Calais



Battle of Gravelines

The English had the advantage as Spanish crescent formation was broken. Spanish were forced to sail into the wind.

English ships were faster with long-range guns
The English fired repeated broadsides against Spanish.
The Spanish lost ships and ships were damaged
The wind changed direction so cannot meet Spanish Army
The Spanish Armada defeated sails for Spain



England's independence was assured

Elizabeth's reputation was enhanced.

There was no invasion.
Wind changes were seen as God's approval for Protestantism
It was an humiliating defeat for Philip II

Keywords:

Armada:

A fleet of Spanish ships

skirmish:

small, unplanned battles or fights

broadside:

a firing of all guns at the same time from one side of a warship

fireship:

Old ships filled with oil and tar and set alight