****Golden knowledge: Elizabethan Age**

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| **Topic** | **Golden knowledge** | **Know it?** |
| **Elizabeth’s early life** | Elizabeth Tudor was born in 1533 to Henry VIII and his second wife Anne Boleyn. She became queen after the death of Mary I and ruled from 1558 until her death in 1603. |  |
| She had two siblings, a sister Mary (later Mary I 1553-1558) and brother Edward (later Edward VI 1547-1553) |  |
| Religion was a key issue for Tudor Monarch after Henry VIII broke from Rome in 1534 and started the English reformation. This led to huge shifts in religion from different Tudor monarch, Henry VIII (Catholic, changed religion to Protestant), Edward VI (Protestant), Mary I (Catholic), Elizabeth I (Protestant). This caused huge religious divide and instability across England and Wales |  |
| Elizabeth was accused of taking part in the Wyatt Rebellion against Mary, she was arrested and sent to the Tower of London in 1554. She was released but kept under house arrest until Mary’s death in 1558. |  |
| **Elizabeth’s support and popularity** | Elizabeth was highly educated, she spoke several languages, study theology and was good with finances. |  |
| Elizabeth inherited a divided nation which was in religious turmoil so it was vital for her to increase her support and popularity |  |
| She was coronated in Jan 1559 in a 4-day celebration ending in her coronation in Westminster Abbey and a formal banquet with nobility |  |
| Royal progresses were an annual, 10-week tour of the Midlands and Southern England. |  |
| Royal progresses were a good way for people to see Elizabeth and increase her popularity and she also used them to check up on her nobles to ensure their loyalty. |  |
| Elizabeth commissioned many portraits of her during her reign and they were used as propaganda |  |
| **Elizabeth’s government** | The Royal Court was the name for all the people in power in Elizabethan England. It was made up of politicians, courtiers, household staff and religious leaders. |  |
| Elizabeth used patronage and factions within her Royal Court to keep people loyal to her. |  |
| The Privy Council was made up of Elizabeth’s most trusted advisors. They meet a few times a week and made decisions which helped rule the country. Elizabeth rarely attended. She didn’t have to take the advice of the Privy Council. |  |
| Some roles in the Council included the Secretary of State, Household Chamberlain and Treasurer. Some important councillors included William Cecil, Francis Walsingham and Robert Dudley |  |
| Local level government was very important to ensuring Elizabeth’s laws were followed. The five roles which helped this were the Lord Lieutenant, the Justice of the Peace, the Parish (or Town) Constable, the Night Watchman and the Overseer of the Poor. |  |
| Parliament was made up of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Parliament wasn’t called often during Elizabeth’s reign, she did need their permission to increase taxes or release money to pay for the running of the country. |  |
| MPs were voted for by the wealthy and they were there to advise Elizabeth, they in theory had freedom of speech but Elizabeth jailed several MPs for speaking about religion and her marriage which she has forbidden. |  |
| **Elizabethan society** | Elizabethan Society was made up of a strict social structure with Elizabeth and her nobility at the top and the lower classes at the bottom. |  |
| During Elizabethan times the wealthy became richer and they started to spend their money remodelling their homes from defence structures to mansions. This also reflects the times was much more peaceful than previously. |  |
| Fashion was very important in Elizabeth England and it was used to show your wealth and importance. The nobility spent lavishly on their clothing and tended to copy the popular fashions of the Royal Court. The Gentry would copy the style of the nobility but with less fine textiles. The lower classes didn’t have the money to spend on clothes so their wardrobes were modest with most people only having two sets of clothes. |  |
| The nobility and gentry were well educated, boys went to school or had private tutors. Girls had a governess to teach them about how to act in society, run a household and make a suitable match (husband). Some lower-class boys had a basic education provided by the local church but this wasn’t common. Most lower-class children had to work with their family to ensure they had enough money to survive. |  |
| Poverty increased in Elizabethan England due to an increase in the population, inflation, rising food prices, rack renting, poor harvests and costly foreign wars. There was also high unemployment, due to; a change in farming from crop to sheep which reduced the amount of farm labourers required, ex-soldiers needing work and changes to cloth industry. |  |
| Vagrants emerged during this period, homeless people wandering from parish to parish looking for work which was at the time illegal. These people were often blamed for all crime in the area and there were many harsh punishments for committing vagrancy. At times were there were more social issues the punishment for vagrancy was worse, so responses to vagrancy really show how attitudes to the poor and law and order were changing during the Elizabethan period. |  |
| In order to deal with the increasing poverty Elizabeth introduced the Elizabethan Poor Law in 1601 which became the cornerstone for supporting poor people for over two hundred years. |  |
| **Entertainment** | More people have free time and spent this time being entertained. More entertainment was available to the wealthy as they had more time and more money but there were types of entertainment available to all classes. The rich took part in hunting, dancing, playing and listening to music, ball games and hawking. |  |
| Cruel sports were really popular, people could place bets on the outcome. Bear and bull baiting were held in big areas. Most towns had their own cock fighting pit. |  |
| Theatre grew massively in popularity. Initially there were bands of strolling players who toured around the country performing their plays. There were concerns their plays were not regulated and could cause rebellions so they were banned. Theatres were built in London and other major towns. Plays would be put on in the afternoon. Different price tickets were available so all members of society could go. Plays written by Shakespeare and Marlowe were performed. Only men could act on stage. Elizabeth was a big fan and it was seen a huge social event to go to the theatre. Theatres were a good way to spread propaganda e.g. showing the authority and supremacy of the monarch through the story. Puritans opposed the theatre as it was seen as sinful. |  |
| **Religious problems** | England and Wales were Christian countries, it was divided between Catholic and Protestant and this was leading to instability and religious tension. Religion was massively important to everyone, people truly believed in heaven and hell. |  |
| Tudor Monarchs had kept changing the official religion for the country and this led to different groups being persecuted at different times |  |
| The majority of population were still Catholic but many of the ruling elite were Protestant; including Elizabeth. |  |
| Elizabeth wanted to increase her power and new she needed to attempt to unify the country, so she introduced the Middle Way (Via Media) in 1559 which was creating a new Protestant national church with elements of both Catholicism and Protestantism. She hoped this compromise would bring everyone together and stop further rebellions. |  |
| To ensure the Middle Way was applied across England and Wales she passed the Act of Supremacy (to say she in charge of the church) and Act of Uniformity (to ensure each church and priest followed her rules). To make sure the Act of Uniformity was followed she introduced visitations, 39 articles and the priests had to swear an oath of loyalty to her. |  |
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| Initially the population followed her settlement and most were happy but after ten years the Catholic threat increased and in the later part of her reign there was a threat from Puritans (extreme Protestants) who wanted her to remove any part of the Catholic faith from the Church. |  |
| The Pope, the Spanish and the French criticised the settlement but didn’t start to actively support opposition against Elizabeth until the 1570s. |  |
|  | Elizabeth was very tolerant of Catholics in her first ten year as queen. She only fined them a small amount for refusing to attend church and there was little revolt against the settlement but that changed after 1569 |  |
| Jesuits and Seminary priests came to England and Wales to try to convert people back to the Catholic faith and they were often involved in plots against Elizabeth. |  |
| In 1568 Mary Queen of Scots fled Scotland and was imprisoned by Elizabeth. Many of plots centred on freeing her and placing her on the throne as a Catholic alternative to Elizabeth. |  |
| In 1569 the Rebellion of the Northern Earls took place, where they attempted to raise an army, take York and free Mary Queen of Scots. The place was to seize London and replace Elizabeth with Mary. The rebellion failed and the earls fled |  |
| In 1570 the Pope excommunicated (removed Elizabeth from the Church and said she would go to hell) and this gave Catholics the confidence they could go against Elizabeth without fear. |  |
| 1571 the Ridolfi Plot was uncovered which had planned with backing of Spain to overthrow Elizabeth and place Mary on the throne. 1583-1584 the Throckmorton plot was uncovered which had also sort to remove Elizabeth. |  |
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| 1586 the Babington Plot was uncovered, Walsingham convinced Elizabeth Mary Queen of Scots had been involved and she was found guilty of treason and executed in 1587. |  |
| **Spanish Armada** | In 1586 Phillip II Spain start to plan an invasion of England with the Spanish Armada |  |
| He was angry because he didn’t like that England was run by Protestant Monarch and he was it as his duty to restore the Catholic Faith. English privateers had been attacking Spanish treasure ships in the Spanish main, stealing a significant amount of money. They had also attacked Spanish colonies in America. England had also been supporting the Protestants in the Dutch Revolt (The Netherlands were ruled by Spain at this time). Phillip was also allied to Mary Queen of Scots so her execution in 1587 made him more determined to launch the Armada. |  |
| In 1587 Sir Francis Drake attacked Cadiz harbour and destroyed some boats and supplies which were being built ready for the Armada, this attack delayed the attack and caused the Spanish serious problems during the actual voyage as unseasoned wood was used for food and drinks barrels, this led to food going to rotten and sailors getting ill. |  |
| The Armada set sail in May 1588, it docked in Corunna after a storm hit and caused damage to the fleet, it set sail again in July 1588 and head for the channel. It was spotted at Lizard’s point in Cornwall and the beacons were lit to alert the leaders. The navy followed the Armada up the channel but were unable to pick off many ships due to the Spanish sailing in a crescent formation. The fleet docked as planned in Calais ready to pick up their land forces (who were travelling from Holland) but they were delayed. Drake set fire ships towards to docked fleet, who in panic cut their anchors and headed of in different directions. On 8 August the Battle of Gravelines saw many Spanish ships destroyed or forced to go north past Scotland, many ships were lost on the coat due to poor weather. The Armada retreated and returned with just 67 ships. Philip II planned to attack again but never did. |  |
| The Armada increased Elizabeth’s popularity and saw the end to any more serious Catholic Plots for the remained of her reign. |  |
| **Puritan threat** | Puritans are extreme Protestants who believe in a strict interpretation of the Bible. There were three main types of Puritans during Elizabeth’s reign: Moderate Puritans, Presbyterians and Separatists. Puritains wanted bishops abolished and most wanted churches to be run by committees and didn’t believe the monarch should have any control over the Church. |  |
| There were many different challenges from Puritans such as the Marplete tracts, the pamphlet by John Stubbs and challenge from within parliament form MPs such as Peter Wentworth and Anthony Cope. There were also challenges with the church from things such as the Vestment Controversy and the development of Prophesyings. |  |
| Elizabeth reacted to these threats with the removal of Archbishop Grindal from his post, the introduction of the 3 Articles by Whitgift which ensured loyalty from all religious leaders, the introduction of law against puritans called the seditious secretaries which made it a treasonable offense to partake in certain puritan practices and the execution of separatists such as John Penry. |  |