

New Elizabethan Resource 4

Henry VIII, Elizabeth's father, had changed religion in England and this had caused many problems. His son (Elizabeth's brother) Edward VI continued King Henry's changes. Some people even died because of disagreements over religion

Elizabeth's sister, Mary, had burned over 200 people who disagreed with her over religion. She was known as 'Bloody Mary'.

Elizabeth never married or produced an heir.

Elizabeth did her best to stop the different religious groups from fighting each other. She managed to achieve peace between most people in England.

Sir Francis Drake, an English sailor, sailed round the world in his ship called *The Golden Hind*. He was the first Englishman to do this.

In 1588, the King of Spain sent a large fleet of ships called *The Spanish Armada* to invade England. Elizabeth I defeated the *Armada*.

Medicine did not improve as much as other aspects of life.

The English sailor, Sir John Hawkins, captured and transported about 300 Africans as slaves. The slaves were used in the sugar fields.

Actors were treated suspiciously. Some were accused of crimes and, without evidence, received horrible punishments like being branded with red-hot irons. Later in Elizabeth's reign, plays became more popular and actors were treated better.

Begging was a crime. Some beggars were beaten and hanged.

There were a huge amount of plays written during Elizabeth's reign, including the plays of William Shakespeare. England became well known across Europe for literature.

The East India Company brought in goods from India to England. These included cotton, silks and tea. Local Indian rulers let the company run trading posts in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta

The English sailor, Sir Walter Raleigh brought new discoveries to England, such as potatoes, tobacco and coffee. They became very popular.

Trade between England and other countries increased. This brought many new goods into England, such as spices.