

Key Terms
 Patronage - system of employment based on knowing people personally.
 Parliament - law makers made up of Commons and Lords
 House of Commons - made up of gentry chosen by nobles
 House of Lords - made up of nobles and Bishops
 Government - group of people running the country
 Divine Right - the monarch's power comes from God.

Nobles - people of aristocratic or high birth
 Gentry - land owning people who generally didn't have titles.
 Courtier - member of the court

Policies - a course of action
 Privy Council - small group of advisors close to the Queen
 Privy Chamber - Queen's personal rooms
 Heir - next in line to the throne
 Rebellion - attempt to remove the ruler/monarch

Proclamation - official announcement
 Succession - arrangement of who takes the throne after the Queen's death
 Foreign Policy - dealing with other nations
 Monopolies - rights to import and sell certain goods
 Propaganda - spreading a one sided message widely
 Censorship - preventing people from saying or publishing whatever they like

Government through patronage

- Power came from the top down- God appointed the Queen and she chose nobles to help her rule. They appointed gentry to help them locally.
- Patronage meant that friendship and favour mattered more than talent.

The Court

- Nobles and higher gentry favoured by the Queen - met at Whitehall.
- Mary I had been criticised for isolating herself so Elizabeth liked to be seen in public and use her court.
- Court was a spectacle, it had; dances, plays, feasts, open-air sermons etc.
- The Queen relied on her nobles to keep the peace and let her know the mood of the people but they relied on her for power.
- Elizabeth offered patronage to a wide range of noble families in the form of titles, jobs, grants and pensions to make sure they were loyal to only her.
- Although Elizabeth was a Protestant, she gave some power to Catholic noble families to keep their loyalty.

The Privy Chamber

- Elizabeth spent most of her day here - reading, talking, playing music.. Ladies in waiting looked after her, they came from noble families. They kept her informed of conversations at court. Only most trusted courtiers were allowed to discuss business in her rooms.

The Privy Council

- Met almost every day and advised on finance, trade, law, defence. Enacted her policies.
- Privy Councillors were selected directly by the Queen.
- Elizabeth appointed councillors with different view points; she used her temper; she dismissed those who offended her; she encouraged rewarded ones she liked.

Secretaries of State

- **Sir Francis Walsingham (SoS 1572-90)** strong Puritan, cold and distant, she once threw a slipper at him, he wanted to repress Catholics in 1580s, had a fit and was made to continue working and died 4 days later. Elizabeth didn't grieve.
- **Sir William Cecil, Lord Burghley (SoS 1558-72 and 1590-98)** moderate Protestant, more ready to repress Catholics than Elizabeth, thoughtful and charming, well trusted by the Queen, he persuaded her to execute Mary Queen of Scots. Died of exhaustion and Elizabeth was very sad.

The rebellion of the Earl of Essex

- Robert Devereux was good friends with the Queen in the mid 1580s, he angered the Queen a number of times, once by marrying without her permission. He was on the Privy Council from 1593. Devereux clashed with Cecil, leading to a crisis when he led an expedition to put down a rebellion in Ireland in 1599 and awarded rewards without Elizabeth's permission. He tried to help James VI of Scotland plot to help him as the heir. Essex rode through London with 300 supporters thinking he could rebel but it collapsed. He was executed in 1601.

Parliament had less power than now. In 45 years of Elizabeth's reign they met for only 35 months overall. Parliament had three elements
 1. The monarch (rarely at meetings) 2. The House of Lords - nobles and bishops 3. The House of Commons - gentry selected by other
 The Queen ruled mostly by Proclamations, but she needed Parliament's approval for big changes to the law or to raise new taxes.

Controlling Parliament - Elizabeth kept control in various ways:

- Elizabeth set strict limits on what they could discuss - they could not talk about their own views on her marriage, religion or the succession.
- MPs were not really elected; they were selected by Lords; The Privy Council organised daily business in Parliament.
- The Queen could reject laws by closing parliament but she did often compromise.

Puritan Opposition - despite her control critics in Parliament who were Puritans did speak out;

- Puritans wanted more; for Elizabeth to marry a Protestant prince and have a Protestant successor; To allow local churches to choose their leaders.
- They also criticised her in writing; Nov 1579 John Stubbes wrote a pamphlet criticising her. These were destroyed and Stubbes arrested; his hand was cut off and he was imprisoned. On his release in 1581 he carried on writing and became an MP in 1589 and continued to criticise the Queen in the House of Commons!

The business of Parliament - they were called more often 1580-1603 because of the Catholic threat but she faced opposition over;

Religion - When a Puritan encouraged her to name a Protestant heir she imprisoned him in the tower of London
Money - Elizabeth granted 'monopolies' which forced prices up so in 1601 after criticism she cancelled some and made the 'Golden Speech' to flatter MPs.

Elizabeth and her Court

Elizabeth and her Parliaments

Elizabeth and People

Local Government:
 Lord Lieutenant
 • Queen chose most powerful noblemen in each area.
 • He had to ensure his county could provide well trained part time soldiers to the Queen.
Justices of the Peace
 • 40 in each county. Gentry.
 • Appointed by Queen on advice of trusted courtiers.
 • Not paid so needed to be wealthy.
 • Enforced Poor Laws, collected taxes
 • Judged crimes at Quarter Sessions.
 • Some JPs were lazy and turned a blind eye to Catholics not attending church. Could be dismissed by Queen.

Progress and Pageants
 • Progresses in Summer - Elizabeth would leave London and tour the country.
 • Made sure she was seen by lots of people and often chatted to people she passed.
 • Expected comfortable accommodation and entertainment. Few subjects attended these pageants though.
 • Elizabeth saw advance plans for plays and cut anything that criticized her.

Publications and Plays
 • Not more than 60 printing presses during Elizabeth's reign so it was easy to censor publications.
 • Privy Council published their own books to defend policies such as executions of Catholics.
 • They also spread favourable views of the Queen such as the poem *The Faerie Queene*.
 • Plays she liked would often be printed
 • Briefly shut down London theatres in 1597 when a play criticizing the queen was on.

Portraits and pennies
 • Coins were the main way most people saw the Queen (not a flattering picture)
 • 135 paintings of the Queen survive but there must have been more.
 • Privy Council and Elizabeth controlled her image; 1596 burnt paintings that offended her (ie where she looked old); 1596 new pattern of her face was issued to hide her age - all portraits had to conform to it.
 • Most images were made by and for the wealthy - she expected all courtiers to have a miniature portrait of her at court.

Prayers and Preaching
 • The law required everyone to attend church on Sunday and use the same Prayer Book. At every service they said a prayer for the Queen.
 • A service of thanksgiving was held every Accession Day (to remember when she became Queen) and the Queen picked church leaders to write special sermons for these. They thanked God for providing a strong Protestant Queen.

Why were there so few Catholics in England by 1603?

In total Elizabeth ordered the execution of 200 Catholics during her reign. In 1558 there were 3 million people in England and almost all were Catholic. By 1603 there was a bigger population but only 40,000 Catholics.

EARLY YEARS: 1558-1580

Laws:

- Act of Uniformity 1559** - all worship the same way, everyone follow English prayer book, non-attenders fined
- Act of Supremacy 1559** - Elizabeth head of church in England, any insisting the Pope to be the head a traitor for challenging the Queen

EARLY YEARS: 1558-1580

Decline of Catholicism:

- most priests accepted Elizabeth's changes
- weekly Protestant sermons slowly made people conform = conformers
- few people could afford non-attendance fines
- With few priests ordinary people didn't follow the Pope's instructions.

EARLY YEARS: 1558-1580

International Threat

- Pope excommunicated Elizabeth from the Roman Catholic church in 1570 and told English Catholics that Elizabeth was not the rightful queen.
- Little threat from Mary/Philip: Mary was Catholic and next in line to the throne. She was not in England until 1568 then was kept in prison.

KEY TERMS

- Protestant** - believe in the Bible being in English, churches being simple. Queen Head of Church.
- Catholic** - believe in the Bible being in Latin, churches fancy and decorated. Pope Head of Church.
- Mass** - Catholic church service
- Excommunicate** - officially thrown out of the Catholic faith
- Monarch** - King or Queen
- Rebellion** - rising up against the monarch/govt
- Supremacy** - above all others
- Treason** - betraying the country
- Recusancy** - remaining loyal to the Pope and not attending English church services.
- Papist** - someone who still follows the Pope at the head of the Church and is Catholic at heart but might attend English Church services.
- Conformer** - Catholic who goes to Protestant church and stops being Catholic.
- Jesuit Priests** - specially trained to persuade people to become Catholic. Directly loyal to the Pope. E.g. Robert Persons and Edmund Campion.
- Seminary Priest** - young English Catholics who trained abroad then came to England to support Catholics not to try to convert anyone.

RISING THREAT: 1580-1588

Laws:

- Act of Persuasions 1581** - raised fine for recusancy by 10,000% to £20/month (roughly the income of most landowning gentry families)
- extra £200/year fine or imprisonment for constant recusants
- death penalty for persuading a Protestant to become Catholic (treason)

- Act Against Priests 1585** - Priest under the authority of the Pope was guilty of treason.
- Death penalty for anyone sheltering a priest
- soldiers might appear at Catholic houses at any time to search it.

- Recusancy Act 1587** - government allowed to take 2/3 land owned by a recusant behind on fines, even the wealthiest Catholic being driven into debt

SECURING PROTESTANTISM: 1588-1603

Laws:

- Act Restraining Recusants 1593** - all recusants over 16 to remain within 5 miles of home at all times

Elizabeth never made it illegal to hold Catholic beliefs but by enforcing Protestant worship and fining money and isolating Catholics she did her best to crush the Catholic community.

RISING THREAT: 1580-1588

Increase of recusancy and papism:

- Only most wealthy Catholics could afford the fines from 1581 onwards.
- Church papists attending Protestant services might read old Latin prayer books to themselves and some refused the Holy Communion
- Rise in recusancy from 1580 - they were loyal to the Pope and held Mass in their own homes; in 1582 four priests even broke into York prison to say mass to the Catholic prisoners - one was captured.
- some recusants planned to overthrow Elizabeth and return England to Catholic ways.
- Thomas Tresham was arrested a number of times between 1581-1605 for recusancy

Priest hunting/propaganda/punishment:

- 1586 Margaret Clitherow, York, arrested for sheltering priests, 'pressed' to encourage her to plead guilty so but died from the pressure
- The Pope ordered Seminary and Jesuit Priests to concentrate on wealthy Catholic gentry who could influence other Catholics.
- local Justices of Peace searched gentry houses for hiding priests
- Walsingham's spy network learnt about plans and movements of Catholic priests through a variety of informers e.g. Catholic family servants (Charles Sledd), those in debt (William Parry)
- Edmund Campion: He published a pamphlet in Aug 1580. Was captured 1581 by George Eliot - found in a priest hole in the wall of a gentry home. He was tortured, tried and executed for treason on 1 December 1581.
- Elizabeth's government countered Catholic propaganda by publishing their own viewpoint including a pamphlet justifying torture of the Priests -Over 1580 - 1587 over 50 priests were executed then in 1588 alone over 20 were executed (link to Armada being launched)

SECURING PROTESTANTISM: 1588-1603

- By 1599 Thomas Tresham was actually in prison for debt because of all of the fines!
- Priests failed to take advantage of Elizabeth's ailing age:**
- they didn't concentrate their work in the north and west where recusancy was strongest - spent too much time in London.
- they concentrated on the gentry and not the lower-classes
- the priests spent too long squabbling over what to do - the Seminary and Jesuits disagreed over sustaining or converting.

RISING THREAT: 1580-1588

International Threat

- Rising threat from Mary in plots followed by her execution:*
- Pope declared killing a Elizabeth not sin in 1580,
- the **Throckmorton plot (1583)** revealed plans of an invasion from a powerful French Catholic to put Mary on the throne (though no involvement from Mary) - Throckmorton executed
- Bond of Association** passed - anyone plotting to kill Elizabeth could be executed and anyone in whose name it was done i.e. Mary could be executed if a plot was made in her name.
- 1585 Elizabeth sent aid to Protestant Dutch rebels.
- Babington plot (1586)** planning to replace Elizabeth with Mary - Walsingham cracked coded letters to discover Mary had agreed to the plot - Babington and co-conspirator executed.
- Oct 1586 Mary tried, defended herself, found guilty and eventually executed - 1587.
- Took Elizabeth several weeks to sign her death warrant. She wasn't happy when Mary was actually killed.

SECURING PROTESTANTISM: 1588-1603

Defeat of the Spanish Armada:

- 1588 Philip II wanted defeat Protestant Elizabeth. Armada led by Duke of Medina Sidonia (no sailing experience) and an army of 20,000 troops.
- July 1588 launched 130 ships
- Armada failed due to bad planning, bad lunch and skilful English tactics:**
- Dutch ships blocked the Armada from joining with the army, English Fire Ships, Spanish guns were unreliable and a ship sank, the wind was against them and only 80 ships returned to Spain.
- England formed an alliance with France and Netherlands against Spain, Phillip's 2nd two armadas were both wrecked in storms.

Daily Life in Elizabethan England

SOCIETY

- Gentry** - 2% of the population
- Houses** - had glazed windows, chimneys & tens of rooms
- Land** - they earned rent from their estates, Dukes/barons might own tens of thousands of acres, minor gentleman might have a few hundred acres, land = power as Justices of Peace and MPs
- Food** - plenty of it. Rich and varied diets, lots of different meats (eg venison) and fish (eg pike), had feasts with servants carrying food on silver platters in procession and fine French wines → they could last for two hours, after feasts there were banquets with sugar sweets.

MIDDLING SORT

- Houses** - more comfortable during Elizabeth's reign → could have two floors, big chimneys allowing smoke to escape, glass windows, 5-10 rooms
 - rooms: hall (living/dining room & kitchen with wooden chairs/stools benches), parlour (living and sleeping room for man and wife), chambers (2nd floor bedroom for children and servants), service rooms (kitchen/bake-house/dairy)
- Food** - could afford to eat well, didn't have ceremony, served their own food, servants ate with them, basic meat (e.g. pork), made bread from wheat flour with some bran left in, had fruit and veg from their gardens, drank beer and mead but couldn't afford fine wine.
- Work** - independent traders/craftsmen in towns, husbandmen (rented 5 to 50 acres) & yeomen (owned more than 50 acres and employed labourers) in the countryside, could work as churchwardens or overseers of the poor

LABOURING POOR

- Houses** - small, no upper floor, no chimney, small windows with no glass, often only 2 rooms with bare floors, a hall (with a table/bench), a chamber (might have a wooden bed with straw mattress), could own up to 2 acres of land but most just had a garden plot
- Food** - bread made from cheap rye or barley, pottage with veg from the garden, sometimes had eggs/cheese/bacon/beer, poor harvest meant expensive bread and starvation (e.g. wet summer of 1594 made grain too expensive-some starved to death)
- Work** - most worked on yeoman/husbandmen farms, worked from first light 'til dusk, most only employed part of the year & struggled to pay rent/eat at other times

SOCIETY

MARRIAGE

FAMILY

- Age** - men: late 20s, women: mid-20s
- Sex** - forbidden outside marriage by the church, illegitimate babies uncommon, up to 30% of brides married while pregnant (either they had sex once they knew they were marrying or got married when they got pregnant)
- Choice** - gentry families influenced their children's marriages to keep/gain status and property but didn't usually arrange marriage, most middling & labouring children were free to marry whoever (of the opposite gender)
- Equality** - wives obeyed husbands, husbands were advised to respect wives, violent husbands were frowned upon as were domineering wives
- Separation** - divorce very unlikely & required a private Act of Parliament, marriage breakdowns could lead to informal separation, early deaths commonly broke down families, people remarried quickly.

FAMILIES

- Size** - usually nobility/gentry had large families, many children were born but many died → about $\frac{1}{4}$ of children died at younger than 10
- Young children** - some gentry had 'wet nurses', most women looked after their own children, parents had strong emotional bonds with children even though many died young.
- Older children** - parents with enough money sent children of 7+ to school, poor parents put them to work at home/on the farm/minding babies/helping with harvest, boys age 12 or 13 left home for apprenticeships or to work as servants, girls left to be servants → up to 1/3 of families had young (under age 20) servants.
- Parenting** - children were expected to obey parents but arguments between father and son were common, physical punishment did happen & beatings in grammar schools was common, but cruelty towards children was no more widespread than today.
- Wider family** - most households were just parents and children, some big gentry houses had wider family, wider families rarely lived in the same village, most young teens left to work, people married and settled in different places, most people's relatives were nearby, few people moved abroad, wider family mattered more in northern England where communities were scattered. Neighbours mattered more than distant family → these they went to church with/played football with/borrowed money from.

FAMILY

CAUSES

LONG TERM - Wars: Expensive wars so the government demanded high taxes. War affected the woollen industry = lost jobs.

Closing of the monasteries: Henry VIII sold all the monasteries to fund wars. So less support for the poor, who would have gone to the monasteries for help.

Birth rate and death rate: Apart from Plague, there were fewer epidemics so the death rate *decreased*. At the same time the birth rate was *increasing* which overall led to... **Population growth:** Population of England grew from 3 to 4 million. Population growth meant more people which meant more competition for jobs and food = unemployment and starvation.

SHORT TERM - Enclosure: Changes to agriculture. Common land and field systems were enclosed with stone walls etc. Some landlords also increased rents and reduced workers. This caused unemployment, as well as hunger. Poorer villagers could no longer access common land to graze animals.

Bad harvests: Between 1594 and 1597 there were four bad harvests. As there was so little food available, those that had food to sell could demand high prices which not everyone could afford resulting in starvation.

POVERTY

CATEGORIES

POVERTY

Settled Poor: People living in poverty in towns who sometimes received alms. In some places up to 30% of the population. Mostly aged under 16 - often didn't live long. Women abandoned by husbands - caring for children alone. Elderly widowed women, often made a little money spinning yarn & at times of plague caring for sick & dying

Vagrant Poor: wandered with no fixed home looking for work. Often young people. Might get seasonal work but often shunned by suspicious villagers. Local constables whipped them until they left. Often died from hunger/cold

The Impotent Poor: Individuals/families unable to work because of age/illness - seen as deserving of help

Able Bodied Poor - Individuals/families without work but wanted to find it.

Vagabond/Vagrant: Individuals/families who chose not to work & avoided - seen as undeserving of help.

POOR LAWS:

1572 Act for Punishment of Vagabonds and Relief of the Poor

All vagabonds above age 14 whipped & burned through right ear. Imprisonment for a 2nd offence. Persistent offenders over 18 could be hanged.

1589 addition: fines for sheltering vagrants in homes

1601 Poor Law Act

Justices of the Peace to appoint 4 overseers of the poor in each parish responsible for the poor alongside churchwardens.

Overseers to collect a 'poor rate' (tax) from households.

Begging forbidden - vagrants whipped & sent back to their birth parish.

Almshouses to protect impotent poor and work provided for able-bodied poor.

Anyone refusing to work placed in jail or house of correction to do hard labour.

POVERTY

York, 1588: Actions

POVERTY

- York's gentry and middling sort to pay a 'poor-rate' (tax) based on wealth.
- 'viewers' to be appointed to list the poor in the city according to need.
- Those impotent and 'pas their work' to be given at least three halfpence a day to prevent begging.
- Able-bodied to be given wool and paid a small wage to spin at home.
- Rogues, vagabonds from outside the city put to work in houses of correction or banished.

The Elizabethan Theatre

Development

- Groups of actors travelled around and performed plays.
- In 1576 John Brayne and James Burbage paid for a new building outside the city walls, which would be used just for performing plays. It was the only one of its kind so they called it 'The Theatre'.
- A 2nd theatre was opened in London in 1577; The Curtain. In the 1580s/90s, more new theatres opened outside the city on the south bank of the River Thames. In 1587, the Rose Theatre opened near existing bear-baiting and bull-baiting arenas.
- From the 1580s, afternoon plays at the new theatres on London's Bankside attracted thousands.
- Elizabethans of all social groups loved the comedies, tragedies and histories written by Shakespeare and other playwrights.
- 'Groundlings' (those in the audience who stood at the very lowest level of the theatre), paid only 1p to attend. Two pennies bought a seat in the covered galleries.

Arguments Against Theatre

The Puritans:

- Theatres came from ancient times so the Puritans associated them with paganism.
- Theatre also reminded them of old 'miracle' plays from before Elizabeth, which were considered a Catholic tradition.
- They were concerned that theatres and other attractions on Bankside led young people into sinful behaviour, especially sex outside marriage.
- Several Puritan preachers wrote pamphlets attacking the theatres.

The London Authorities:

- City authorities often tried to restrict plays at inns because they were too rowdy.
- The mayor and alderman of London argued that the theatres drew servants and apprentices away from their work.
- They were concerned that large theatre crowds created disorder in the suburbs of Bankside and Shoreditch.

Other Problems and Restrictions:

- At times of plague, the large crowds of people at the theatres contributed to the spread of disease.
- Some Elizabethans complained that 'jigs' after performances were too inappropriate.
- Casual sex encounters were common after a play
- Pick-pockets mingled among the crowds. Fights sometimes broke out.
- Groups of travelling actors faced an increasing threat of being arrested as vagabonds.
- Miracle plays which reconstructed scenes from the Bible were banned by Elizabeth's Privy Council during the 1560s and 70s because they saw them as a Catholic tradition.

Alehouse

- Most common part of popular culture for the middling sort and labouring poor.
- For beer, good company and a sing-song with neighbours.
- Sometimes a place of drunkenness, gambling and prostitution.

Sports: bear-baiting, badger-baiting, 'throwing at cocks', wrestling, boxing, football (played by large numbers of young men who kicked a ball around the countryside or streets, with few rules and many injuries.)

Parish Feasts

- Celebrated the saint of the local parish church
- Often lasted several days.
- Often a procession followed by eating, drinking and dancing in the churchyard.
- Sometimes plays performed.
- Rough sports, bull-baiting and cock-fighting.
- Villagers brewed large quantities of ale.

Calendar Customs

- Several calendar events through the year including Christmas, May Day and Harvest.
- Involved sports and Parish Feasts (see details)
- May Day involved dancing round maypoles
- The main opportunities for middling and labouring people to have fun.

Opinions on Popular Culture

Queen Elizabeth - enjoyed traditional festivities and especially Christmas. Had music and dancing at court, as well as plays

The Privy Council - support traditional festivities that didn't get too unruly.

The Church - generally no problem with festivities. Some bishops didn't approve of some of the traditional festivities as too rowdy.

Puritan Ministers - thought the festivities were impure and that everyone should be more careful to obey the bible. Campaigned to improve the people's behaviour including producing pamphlets explaining 'the wicked nature of popular culture'. Gained some support locally.

Other Entertainment

- As well as theatres, Bankside had other attractions.
- They would watch bear- or bull-baiting in one of two arenas.
- In the theatre yard, people sold nuts, fruit, shellfish and beer.
- Richer people took their own, expensive food.
- Eating, drinking, flirting were all part of Elizabethan theatre.
- After the plays on Bankside, audiences could stay on to enjoy a 'jig'. These featured songs, dancing and jokes - most theatre-goers enjoyed the rude and slapstick comedy.
- In the evening, young men headed for Bankside's alehouses, bowling alleys and gambling dens.

The Globe

- built 1599 on Bankside, London
- burnt down 14 years later
- Closed by England's Puritan administration in 1642
- demolished in 1644
- replica built on Bankside in 1997, using a drawing of a different Elizabethan theatre, The Swan, by Johannes de Witt, from 1595

Support for the Theatres

- The Queen loved to watch plays and protected London's new theatres.
- Some of her leading courtiers sponsored a theatre company to win her favour.
- Elizabeth's Privy Council generally ignored protests against theatre from the London authorities and Puritans.
- Only during the plagues of 1581-82, 1592-93 and 1603 did the Privy Council order the playhouses to close.

Popular Culture in Elizabethan England

ART

- Wonderful artwork produced in England between 1580 and 1603.
- Most painted by foreign artists.
- The Queen and her courtiers paid for portraits of themselves
- Few ordinary people had any connection with the elite art
- Most English artists were mediocre painters.

MUSIC

- Music was important to the Queen and to many Elizabethans.
- Thomas Tallis composed beautiful church music for the Queen's chapel.
- Tallis, Byrd and Dowland took English music to new heights.
- Few ordinary people had any connection with the elite music

LITERATURE

- After 1580, education grew, the printing press developed and some talented writers emerged.
- Poets such as Edmund Spenser transformed English poetry.
- Prose writers produced fascinating travel books and biographies.
- Few ordinary people had any connection with the elite literature
- The dramatists, especially William Shakespeare, contributed most to the flowering of culture in Elizabethan England.
- It was Shakespeare's plays which gave the period a golden glow.
- Shakespeare's plays were not only enjoyed by the gentry, but also by many of the middling sort and labouring people of Elizabethan London.

Witchcraft in Elizabethan England

Witchcraft Trials

- Law was passed in 1563 introduced death by hanging for using witchcraft to kill someone.
- Witches who harmed people or property were imprisoned.
- Relatively few prosecutions in the years immediately after this law was passed.
- In the 1970s historians examined the records and discovered the number of witchcraft trials shot up dramatically in the later years of Elizabeth's reign.
- 109 cases in the 1570s, 166 in the 1580s and 128 in the 1590s.
- Same decades saw a huge rise in the population and big increases in poverty for many labouring people, and poor harvests created tensions in many communities.
- Prosecutions for witchcraft often started with complaints from neighbours.
- Some of the accused women may have practised magic and could have believed that they had the power to harm.

Adventurers in Elizabethan England

CASE STUDY - Walter Raleigh: (Roanoke: England's attempt at an American colony)

- One of the most famous Elizabethan adventurers.
- Considered by the Victorians to have laid the foundations for the British Empire
- granted a royal charter authorising him to establish England's first colony in North America - 'Virginia' after the 'Virgin Queen'.
- Didn't go on the voyage himself - it was led by his cousin Richard Grenville and the military commander Ralph Lane in 1585
- On the voyage were scientist Thomas Hariot and artist John White who recorded the landscape, plants, animals and people they encountered in North America.
- The journey across the Atlantic was difficult due to storms and the fleet was separated for a time.
- Landing at Roanoke was hard, the ships got stuck and lost most of their supplies including seeds they had brought to plant so they would be dependant on the natives to survive.
- Ralph Lane became Governor and set about building a small wooden fort but only 107 of the colonists stayed whilst Grenville returned to England with the rest for more supplies.
- Wingina the Algonquian Chief who ruled Roanoke was wary of the English and although he supplied them at first with corn; as his tribe began to run out of food in 1585-6 he plotted to attack the colony. By this point everyone was nearing starvation.
- Though the colonists avoided attack by killing the tribe chief, tensions rose and eventually the group were rescued by Francis Drake in June 1586
- This expedition did help pave the way for the first successful American colony at Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.
- Raleigh planned an expedition to Guiana in South America in the early 1590s to find gold at the fabled 'El Dorado' and set out in 1595 but did not discover any gold instead publishing '*Discovery of the Large, Rich and Beautiful Empire of Guiana*' which inspired Britain's continued empire building in the 17thC and 18thC.

CASTE STUDY: Ursula Kemp

- Ursula Kemp's skeleton was found buried outside a churchyard with iron rivets hammered into her knees and elbows to stop her from using witchcraft to rise from the grave.
- Ursula was an Elizabethan 'cunning woman' - a healer and a midwife
- She was accused on witchcraft by people in the village when a baby died after Ursula had an argument with its mother.
- The mother reported Ursula as a witch to the Justice of the Peace. They had previously fought over late payment of fees for treatments.
- Ursula Kemp was tried for witchcraft, found guilty, and hanged.

Historians' Interpretations

Historians have produced several theories regarding the increase in trials

- Some think it was sexism and repression of women which led to accusations and note that magistrates trying the witches were all men
 - Critics say this doesn't make sense as accusers were often women and some of the accused were men
 - Some think it was because of the suffering and hardship caused by poverty, high population and poor harvests which meant people were less willing to help out neighbours and tensions led to suspicions
- Some think the rise in Protestantism caused the rise since counties like Essex which had many Puritan ministers also had high rates of witchcraft trials
- Puritans strove for godly communities and caused suspicion among people

Elizabethan Beliefs about Magic and Witchcraft

- Magic was an important part of Elizabethan (and Medieval) culture
- Most Elizabethans believed in magic, and people known as 'cunning' or 'wise women' were thought to have special magical powers.
- Elizabethans would often use these people for medical reasons.
- Magic was also used to find out the sex of an unborn child, or recover stolen goods.
- It was not seen as an alternative religion, and was tolerated by the Church at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign.
- Witchcraft, however, involved a special kind of magic used to harm people or their property.
- In Europe, witches were often accused of getting their power from the devil.
- However, English witches were rarely accused of making pacts with the devil.

Missions, motives, achievements - an overview:

- Adventurers from throughout the Elizabethan era travelled across the world
- Francis Drake plundered ships in the Caribbean, James Lancaster led the first expedition of the East India Company, and Ralph Fitch ventured to the court of the Mughal Emperor in India.
- Maps produced by John Dee on his travels helped later voyagers extend British trade
- The voyagers brought home riches and goods for Queen and country
- The East India Company, granted a monopoly on trade by the queen, became the biggest trading company the world had even known, bringing back tons of spices from East India e.g. cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, pepper.
- Francis Drake claimed the coast of California for the queen - 'New Albion' - along with several islands
- The voyagers were driven by desires to increase the queen's and the country's wealth, extend trade, explore new parts of the world, create an empire.
- John Dee used the phrase 'British Empire' to describe his vision to the queen

Negatives:

- Several voyages were failures, including Raleigh's American colony.
- Ralph Fitch was prevented from sailing into China by officials, despite a letter from the queen
- James Lancaster's first voyage to the East Indies was a disaster which saw only 25 men survive for the return to England
- The explorers' plundering of Spanish ships made them similar to pirates

Ralph Fitch - contact with India

- 1583 voyage to India - commissioned to find out more about trade with India and SE Asia and if possible China.
- Fitch had letters from the Queen to the Mughal and Chinese Emperors to persuade them to trade with the English.
- The journey took over a year and they were temporarily arrested and held as spies in Portugal along the way!
- By 1585 Fitch and his friends had arrived at Emperor Akbar's newly built palace near Agra and saw great wealth & luxury
- Fitch travelled all around India.
- Fitch eventually arrived home in April 1591 - 8 years after he set off! He was the first Englishman to explore the possibilities of direct trade with South East Asia and he published fascinating descriptions of all he had encountered