

The life in Elizabethan era

The Queen Elizabeth I



This Queen, who has given her name to the sixteenth century, was truly loved by her people. The Elizabethan Times is often referred to as a Golden Age and Elizabeth I has the reputation of the greatest monarch of England.

She was a cultivated princess; she spoke many languages including Latin, Greek, French, Spanish and Welsh.

She is the last representative of the Tudor's dynasty.

She has reigned 44 years and she was never married.



Sir Walter Raleigh

In her reign, there was an increase in literacy and great achievements in the arts, greatest poet and playwrights emerged during her era such as William Shakespeare or Edmund Spenser. The reign of this Queen also saw significant expansion out of country and she encouraged great explorers such as Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh... she encouraged also the new scientific thinking and important men such as Sir Francis Bacon.



William Cecil

Elizabeth I was highly accomplished in the art of rhetoric and Public Relation and she established a good rulers.

She was encircled by highly intelligent and loyal advisors (people who give advice) as Sir William Cecil who gave her sound (judicious) political advice, but she wasn't be dominated by them.

A major accomplishment was the defeat of the Spanish Armada by the English fleet. The Queen adopted a moderate religious policy and established Protestantism as the country's religion but she

The Queen Elizabeth established the Poor Laws; she achieved a new system of support for the needy

Elizabethan Social Classes

The highest level in the social class, excluding the monarch is the gentlemen (duke, marquis...). They are people who are of gentle birth (both parents are gentlemen). They are also sublevels of this level:

First is nobility (which is passed to the oldest son), then they are knights, a title which is not inherited was originally meant to be a military rank, but in Elizabethan times it became a mark of honour.



Then come the esquires who had knights in their ancestry and the clergy.

The second levels in social classes are Landholding Commoners:

The Freeholders (proprietor of land) are first. Their land is passed down through family, they never can be evicted and they pay rent to gentlemen.

The Leaseholders live on land with tenancies (occupancy of land in 'location'). These tenancies were usually renewed after they expired.

The copyholders lived on some land, paying rent, like leaseholders, but without the lease (location). They could be evicted at anytime.

Yeomen were equal to leaseholders. They were independent farmers.



Husbandmen were farmers who produce crops for themselves and their family, and sell a small quantity on the market.

Townsfolk were peoples who lived in towns, only the male property owner could be considered citizen. Most citizens were merchants or artisans.

The Masters are their own business in trade and take apprentices can become a journeyman (after seven years).

The Labourers worked for others with a risk of becoming unemployed. Servants were employed by family and their services were often a temporary stage on the road to a better social position.

The very last level on the social classes was the Poor and unemployed.

The childhood and education in Elizabethan era



In the Elizabethan era the childhood for boys, from the age of five to seven, was dedicated for the most elementary level of education which got ready in academic institution called a 'Petty School' even though lessons and general education were conducted not in a school but in the house of the 'teacher'. The word 'petty' probably derives from the French word 'petit' meaning little or small.

These Petty schools were usually run (maintain), for a small fee (participation), by a local, well educated housewife, they were also referred to as 'Dame Schools'. At the 'Petty School' or 'Dame School' children's education would consist of being taught (it is the teaching) to read and write English, learn the catechism and also learn lessons in behaviour (posture, attitude). These were considered the most important elements of Elizabethan Petty School education and what must be taught during childhood.

The catechism was an Elizabethan book detailing the details of the Christian Faith (conviction).

Petty School which related to being a 'good Christian' as part of their education. An example of this would be "I will renounce the devil". The standard behaviour during childhood and expected of properly (correctly) brought up(education) children in the era was published in Hugh Rhodes's Book of Nurture (1577) and adhered

to at the Petty School.

The basic principles of childhood and education would include respecting their mother and father, asking their parents blessing, rising early in the morning and saying their prayers. Basic manners were also taught during childhood and Elizabethan education at the Petty School including the correct behaviour at the table such as eating small morsels (peace), chewing properly, using a knife and using a napkin (serviette). Children would also be taught their 'place' in society which included where they should sit at the table.

(Solene)