



The Elizabethan Poor

How did they deal with the poor before Elizabeth?

From Henry VIII's reign:

- Beggars were whipped
- Being caught a second time meant a hole burned into their ear.
- A third time meant they were hanged.

What did Elizabeth's government do about the problem of poverty?



1601— Poor Law

- Taxes from the rich used to pay for the poor.
- The poor who could work should be given work.
- Those refusing to work should face harsh punishments such as being whipped or placed in a House

The Poor were categorised into three groups.....

The helpless poor (the sick and old): given food and accommodation

The able-bodied poor (those considered fit): had to work in exchange for food

The idle poor (lazy and refusing work): punished and sent to a House of Correction



How effective was the Poor Law?

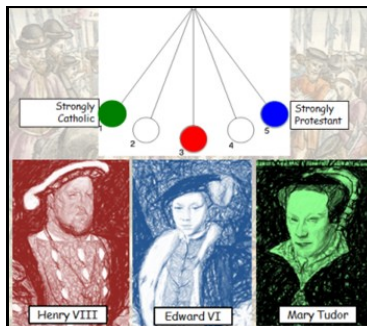
- ✗ Some areas. Of the country chose to ignore it.
- ✗ Begging did decrease but possibly more due to the threat of House of Correction.
- ✗ Some poor were simply sent from one place to another without receiving help.

Year 11 History Mock Exam

'Elizabethan England'



Support Version



Religion before Elizabeth's reign had been constantly changing leading to the persecution of many of the opposite faith.



Why was there conflict between England and Spain?

Marriage

Philip of Spain had been married to Elizabeth's sister, Mary. When she died childless he proposed to Elizabeth. She failed to give him a definite answer, tensions grew.....

Religious Difference

Elizabeth had returned England to the Protestant faith after being a Catholic nation under Mary I. Spain had always been Catholic and opposed Elizabeth's changes.

The Papal Bull

In 1570 the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth (refusing her entry to heaven and allowing forgiveness for anyone who should kill her) Philip was keen to follow the Pope's instructions.

The action of sailors

Sir Francis Drake had been given permission by Elizabeth to raid Spanish treasure ships, this had gone on for many years as Elizabeth wished to share the wealth gained from these raids.

What did Elizabeth's Religious Settlement look like?

Under Elizabeth:	Catholic or Protestant idea?
Priests allowed to marry	Protestant
Services were in English and used and English Prayer book.	Protestant
She was 'governor' of the Church rather than 'head'.	Catholic
Catholics could worship in their own way in private	Catholic
Matthew Parker was made Archbishop of Canterbury—he was Protestant.	Protestant

The Religious Rollercoaster!

1534 - King Henry VIII splits from the Catholic Church in order to secure a divorce from his first wife Catherine of Aragon. He creates the Church of England.

1547 - Henry's son Edward becomes King. Educated as a Protestant he introduces the Book of Common Prayer which makes England a Protestant nation.

1553 - Edward's older sister becomes Queen Mary I after his death. She re-introduces the Catholic faith and has over 300 Protestants burned at the stake

Not everyone was content with Elizabeth's Religious Settlement (1559) changes though.....

1580 - Edmund Campion, a Catholic Jesuit Priest arrives secretly into England to convert people to the Catholic faith. He is arrested and executed as a traitor.

1581 - Fines for Catholics not attending Church of England services are increased to £20 (a lot of money)

1583 - A Puritan (strict Protestant) by the name of John Stubbs had his right hand cut off as a punishment for criticising Elizabeth's relationship with a Catholic Prince. 200 Puritan priests were also expelled from the church the same year.

1585 - Any Catholic who became a Priest after 1559 was classed as a traitor, he and anyone protecting him risked execution.

The Netherlands

Philip of Spain also ruled the Netherlands. In 1566 there was a Protestant rebellion against his rule, he sent troops to restore order. Elizabeth sent money and soldiers to aid the rebels, this angered Philip. After the assassination of William of Orange (the Dutch Protestant leader) in 1584 Elizabeth sent 7000 soldiers and her trusted friend, Robert Dudley to support the Protestants. Although this had little impact, Philip viewed it as a clear act of war.