

- explorer
- playwright
- circumnavigate
- scientist
- Golden Age

KO: To understand what is meant by the 'Elizabethan Golden Age'

Prior learning task:

What impact did Elizabeth I have on England? Was it positive or negative?

Due to Elizabeth's 44 years of peaceful rule, culture and learning were able to flourish. For this reason, Elizabeth's reign is often known as the 'Golden Age', as so much was achieved by figures such as Shakespeare, Drake, Raleigh and Bacon.



Francis Drake (1540-1596)

Francis Drake was a sailor and explorer. From 1577 to 1580, he went on a great adventure sailing along the South American coast, up much of North America, though the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and back along the African coast. He was the first Englishman to circumnavigate (sail around) the world. Drake liked to attack and rob ships belonging to the Spanish, as they were England's great enemy, and many described him as a pirate. He also played a part in defeating the Spanish Armada.



Walter Raleigh (1552-1618)

Soldier, explorer, writer, and adventurer— Raleigh was an all action hero. As a young man, he explored the newly discovered land of America, and helped establish England's first American colony at Roanoke. On his return, Raleigh introduced tobacco and the potato to England, making smoking a fashionable pastime. Some thought Queen Elizabeth was in love with this dashing hero: she even locked him in the tower of London when she discovered he had secretly married.



Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

Bacon was a leading politician, but his real interests lay in science. He developed the use of scientific experiments, and saw the natural world as a great mystery that had to be solved. He is seen as the founder of modern science. Bacon rose to the powerful position of Lord Chancellor, but lost his job for being corrupt. In 1626 he conducted an experiment into whether meat could be preserved through freezing. This led him to catch a cold, and die of pneumonia.



William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Perhaps the world's most famous playwright, Shakespeare wrote 37 plays during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I, including Hamlet, Macbeth, and Romeo and Juliette. His plays are so great, that they are still performed and made into films today. Elizabeth I was a great supporter of Shakespeare, and his plays were often performed in the Queen's Court. Shakespeare's plays were also performed at the Globe theatre in Southwark, where a replica theatre can be seen today.

Who was William Shakespeare?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bClqPEQflic> (stop the video at 5 minutes 15 seconds).

Who was Francis Drake? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cCFef8G-pc>

Who was Walter Raleigh? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XoIB0cCwgA>

Who was Francis Bacon?

Francis Bacon is the reason why we carry out experiments and investigations in science to prove theories.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTpoGDnjXuk>

What was the Elizabethan Golden Age? Why did the Golden Age flourish under the rule of Queen Elizabeth? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSaE5_o-G18

Task: You will be writing a letter to Elizabeth I reflecting on how everything has changed since Mary I. Remember to discuss what has changed, how things are flourishing and what impact that has on the country.

Step for Depth: Why did things such as plays and exploration flourish so much during Elizabeth's reign? Why not during the reign of her siblings?