

Y13 Introduction to Shakespeare

Individual Researched Report

Report by:

Essential Historical Context: a report on Elizabethan life (1), Elizabethan theatre (2), and religious influences (3).

1. Daily Elizabethan Life

This differed according to social status and location. It usually consisted of fixed routines like waking up, cooking, and eating meals, leisure. The day usually started at dawn, to make the most of the daylight hours.

Children's education started at home. Boys and a few girls at ages 5 – 7 attended Petty Schools. Most girls were taught housework from an early age, while boys at the ages of 7 – 14 from middle classes went to Grammar Schools. Noble children were home-schooled by England's best scholars. Those who were able to afford it went to universities.

To eat, the wealthy classes had lots of meat like beef and pork, as well as white wheat bread called manchet, and to drink they had wine, ale, beer because water was impure. The poor classes had the same drinks as the wealthy classes, they ate meat vegetables which were a rarity, bread made of rye or barley, eggs, and dairy.

The life expectancy of an Elizabethan was 42 years.

Queen Elizabeth, I ruled England from 1558 to 1603. She was a popular monarch, and the English people liked her. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and well versed in the art of rhetoric. She inspired the English people with some great speeches which confirmed her position as a strong leader of the country.

The Elizabethan era had explorations across vast oceans into the New World. New lands were to be claimed increasing the wealth of England. New foods were introduced such as the tomato and the turkey, as well as new spices.

2. Elizabethan Theatre