

The Age of Elizabeth

1550- 1630

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- Last Tudor monarch ; reigned 44 years.
- Became a cult figure, represented the glory of England
 - Successfully defeated all plots against her
 - Gear military victory over the Spaniards
 - Led England to be one of the most powerful countries in the world
 - Famed for being a virgin



- Literature during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I
- Splendid age for literature and drama.
- Also been an age of like Edmund Spenser, Philip Sidney, Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, and Shakespeare

London in Elizabethan Age

- London was the centre of culture and commerce beside Thames.
- Growing population; dominant merchant class
- Immigrants from other towns
- A large number of poets and dramatist
- Drama was the most popular entertainment
- Noisy, dirty, narrow streets

Socio-political Scenario

- Despite Renaissance and humanism, Elizabethan society was still primitive in science and technology
- Printing was a luxury
- Scientist and witches were often mistaken as in the same trade
 - A number of women were executed for witchcraft in England during Renaissance
 - Many literary works of the period bear testimony to the public interest in the subject

The feudal monarchs

- The monarchs exerted his/her power through the court , a privileged group of the richest and most powerful aristocrats in the country.
- Below aristocrats came the gentry and the citizen
- The gentry , usually denoted by the title 'sir' held wealth in the form of land outside London , inherited by birth of marriage
- The gentry practised feudal authority over those who wroked in their country estate ; served the king at his Court and raised an army for him as well in times of need.