

Bad harvests in 1562, 1565, 1573, 1586 meant less food + higher prices

Price inflation caused fall in value of real wages

Changing attitudes to poverty prompted by belief that growing number of vagabonds would lead to crime, disorder and even rebellion

Reasons for increase in poverty

Enclosure drove many off their lands - became **vagrants/vagabonds**

Taxes raised for **war with Spain**

Population growth increased demand for food + housing

1572 Vagabonds Act - punished vagrants with whipping, death penalty for begging 3 times

1576 Poor Relief Act - distinguished between deserving poor (couldn't work) and idle/undeserving poor (chose not to work)

1561 Poor Relief Act - required parishes to raise public assistance funds to support the poor



New science of transatlantic navigation made sailing safer - maths, quadrants, astrolabes

Printing maps + use of longitude and latitude made navigation more reliable

Expansion of trade routes, especially Trade Triangle

Reasons for exploration

New shipyards, development of faster + more stable ships

Need to compete with European powers in acquiring overseas possessions

Sumptuary Laws 1574 regulated fashion



2. LIFE IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES

Gentry = knights, squires and gentlemen who lived in the countryside - increasingly wealthy and influential at court, e.g. Raleigh, Walsingham, Drake

Golden Age of culture

- **Nobility/gentry**: intellectual pursuits, elitist culture, reading classics, music, hunting, hawking - saw themselves as superior - growing in prosperity
- **Working people**: popular culture, escapism from poor living conditions, drinking and gambling in inns/taverns, cockfighting, bear baiting, dice, wrestling, football
- **Theatre** popular with all classes, more were built and Shakespeare wrote many plays
- Theatre faced some opposition from **Puritans** and the **authorities** (thought it encouraged bad morals and behaviour)

John Hawkins

- Navigator and slave trader
- Appointed a vice-admiral against the Armada
- Built lighter, faster, tougher fighting galleons which helped defeat the Armada



Drake's circumnavigation of the globe

- Dec 1577 - Sep 1580
- Wanted to attack Spanish colonies in the **Pacific** due to personal **Puritanical beliefs** and **revenge** for Spanish attack on his ships
- Returned to England with huge amount of **treasure**
- Encouraged further **exploration**, claimed Nova Albion for England, worsened relationship with **Spain**
- Appointed a **vice-admiral** against the **Armada**



The colonisation of Virginia

- **1584** - **Walter Raleigh** given **royal charter** to establish a **colony** in **Roanoke, Virginia**
- Raleigh organised expedition + raised funds
- First expedition group had to leave after a year (1585-86), second group **disappeared** (1587)
- Became known as the '**Lost Colony**'

