

The Colorado Shakespeare Festival

E D U C A T I O N O U T R E A C H

FAST FACTS

ON

THE ELIZABETHAN AGE

- ❖ Are you feeling a little phlegmatic today?
 - ❖ People believed that elements called humors controlled the body and emotions. There are four humors. They are:
 - Yellow bile - anger, cholera
 - Black bile – melancholy
 - Phlegm – slowness, sluggish
 - Blood – lusty, a jolly disposition

- ❖ Wanted Dead : One Protestant English Monarch
 - ❖ So strong were the sentiments against Elizabeth’s protestant faith and policies, the Pope pre-absolved any one who should attempt to murder her.

- ❖ Rats, Actors, and the Plague
 - ❖ Between 1558 and 1603 an estimated 65,000 people died from various outbreaks of the Plague. Rats were thought to be harbingers of the deadly disease. Actors too may have unwittingly spread the disease when they performed in the country because theatres were closed during outbreaks in London.

- ❖ 10 Hours of School and Discipline
 - ❖ The average school day lasted ten hours. Young boys, girls stayed at home, were taught: Latin, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy. Teachers were encouraged and expected to physically discipline their pupils.

- ❖ A Non-Practicing Virgin Queen
 - ❖ The title of the ‘Virgin’ Queen refers to the fact Elizabeth never married. It is well known, as it was during her reign, that she had several suitors and lovers.

- ❖ “Will you marry me? It’s okay we can live with my mother.”
 - ❖ It was legal for boys to marry at the age of 12 and girls at 14. In spite of this law, people thought it proper to marry later in age (18 for girls, 22 for boys).

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<http://www.coloradoshakes.org/education/schools/lounge.cfm#packets>