English Renaissance
(Elizabethan & Jacobean Period) 1558-1640s

Tracey Culley and Zoe Cooper
1558: Queen Elizabeth I is crowned

During her reign “London became a cultural and commercial center where learning and literature thrived” (The Elizabethan Age).

1563: Martin Luther’s 39 Articles are published

1570: The Catholic church excommunicates Queen Elizabeth I

1574: The St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre

1576: The Curtain Theater was built

1578: King James VI becomes King of Scotland

1577: Raphael Holinshed publishes the Holinshed’s Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland

1582: Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe

1584: Sir Walter Raleigh establishes the first colony in the New World

1587: Queen Mary of Scots is executed

1588: Spanish armada destroyed by English fleet

1592: Anti-Alien riots break out in England

1593: Theaters close due to plague

1594: Theaters reopen

1597: The Curtain Theater was built

1599: The Globe Theater is built

1600: Queen Elizabeth I grants the East India Company and its charter

1580

1600

1558-1600

1560

1570

1580

1590

1600
1601: The Earl of Essex is executed

1613: The Globe Theater burns down during the performance of *Henry VII*

1625: King James I dies and King Charles I follows reign

1604: The death of Queen Elizabeth I

1614: The Globe Theater is rebuilt

1616: The death of Shakespeare

1642: English civil war commences
Puritan Parliament bans theater and closes playhouses
Wars

- 1585-1604: England vs. Spain
- 1597-1601: Ireland rebels against England
- 1624-1630: England vs. Spain
- 1627-1629: England vs. France
- 1642: English civil war
Religion

- Freedom of belief as long as English subjects were not open with or encouraged the practice of their faith
- Church of England
  - Queen Elizabeth I made attending church services mandatory
    - Many had to travel long distances
    - People who did not attend were punished (unless ill)
- Catholics
  - No legal way to practice faith
    - Powerful people less likely to be punished
    - Upper class members exempt from oaths of allegiance to Church of England
Comparing Religions

Church of England

- “Justification by faith”
- Church exists as a guide for the people
- Two Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Eucharist
- Pope does not lead the church
  - “Just a man and subject to error” (Life in Elizabethan England)
- Heaven and Hell
- Relationship with God

Catholic

- “Salvation is gained through faith in God, the prayers of the church, the grace of the sacraments, and doing good works” (Life in Elizabethan England)
- Church interprets the Bible
- Seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony
- Pope = Head of church
- Heaven, Purgatory, Hell
- Worship to God, prayers to Saints
Occult Philosophy

- Anti-scientific way of thinking
- Dealt with supernatural forces
  - Spirits, demons, fairies
  - Hidden causes of everything in the universe
- Cornelius Agrippa
  - Magician
  - Three books of Occult Philosophy
Alchemy

- Linked with metal transmutation (gold making)
- Queen Elizabeth I
  - Believed in good alchemy
- King James I
  - Viewed alchemy as witchcraft
  - Stated his approval of witch hunting
- Thomas Charnock
  - English Alchemist
  - Support from the Queen
    - Making gold and beheading
Sir Francis Bacon

- Emphasis on experimentation and interaction
- New scientific method
- Rejection
- Book One of *Novum Organum Scientiarum*
  - Reputable philosopher of science

"more fully than any man of his time, entertained the idea of the universe as a problem to be solved, examined, meditated upon, rather than as an eternally fixed stage upon which man walked" (Francis Bacon)
Thomas Hobbes

• Concerned with social and political order
  ○ Living together in peace

• Humans are
  ○ Needy
  ○ Vulnerable
  ○ Selfish
  ○ Ignorant

• Authoritarian sovereign
Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543)

- Polish astronomer and mathematician
  - lived in Italy for many years
- passionate about science
- developed new astronomical theory
The Copernican Theory

- disproved the Ptolemaic system
  - Earth was center of entire universe
  - “each planet moved on a small sphere or circle, called an epicycle, that moved on a larger sphere or circle, called a deferent” (The Ptolemaic Model)
- Sun was center of solar system
- each planet orbited around the sun independently
Ptolemaic vs. Copernican
Galileo Galilei (1562-1642)

- Italian scientist
- invented the telescope
  - changed the way space was studied forever
- helped prove that the solar system was heliocentric
- disproved Aristotelianism
Moon and Sun

- people believed that the heavens were perfect
  - “meant that they were unchanging” (Galileo)
- spots on Sun
- Moon surface was rough
Moons of Jupiter

- saw what he thought were stars around Jupiter
- “stars” were rotating around Jupiter
  - many thought that if a planet was moving throughout space, moons and stars would be left behind
- meant “Earth could not be the only center of motion” (Galileo)
Phases of Venus

- similar to the moon
  - shadows appear and move over time
- not noticeable without telescope
- only explanation was that Venus was circling the sun
What Galileo saw
Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

- German mathematician and astrologist
- hired by another scientist to help with research
- developed Laws of Planetary Motion
First law

- planets orbit in ellipses, not circles
- Sun is not perfectly centered, but acts as a focus
Second law

- Planets move quickly when close to the Sun.
- Planets move slowly when farther from the Sun.
Third law

- all planets abide by the same guidelines as each other
- orbits are dependent on astronomical units
Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)

- Flemish surgeon
- dissected human body parts
- believed surgery was key to anatomy
- published *De Humani Fabrica*
  - “the founder of human anatomy” (Elizabethan)
William Harvey (1578-1657)

- English scientist
- researched and dissected animal veins
- discovered that the heart circulates blood throughout the body
  - “founded human physiology” (Elizabethan)
- claimed that animals reproduced by fertilization of the egg by the sperm
Lyric Poetry

- became newly popular among lower classes
  - only the wealthy used to be able to afford poetry
- usually meant to have musical accompaniment
  - often sung
- intended to express personal emotions
Sonnets

- Italian origin
- consist of 14 lines
- five-foot iambics
- rhyme
  - “abab cdcd efef gg” (Sonnet)
- written mainly for romantic purposes
  - was Shakespeare bisexual?
Theater/Plays

- plays typically performed outdoors
  - afternoon or evening
- seating dependent on social class
  - wealthy sat in chairs
  - poor stood
- only men were actors
  - young boys played female parts
Christopher Marlowe (1564-1593)

- dramatic poet
- blank-verse line
  - iambic pentameter
  - unrhymed
- second greatest poet of the century
- reportedly stabbed to death
Sir Philip Sidney (1554-1586)

- passionate poet
- women influence
  - often has female characters
  - mother
- incredibly intelligent
  - “mastery of grammar, rhetoric, mathematics, Latin, French, and some Greek” (Philip Sidney)
Edmund Spenser (1552-1599)

- bold writer
- “The Faerie Queene” epic
  - historical fiction on Queen Elizabeth
  - most famous piece
- unusual upbringing
  - father was “an obscure cloth maker” (Edmund Spenser)
  - did not originally go to school in fine arts
William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

- most famous for his dramatic plays
  - originally wrote nondramatic poetry
  - nobles, including the Queen, would specifically request his plays

- very mysterious
  - unknown birthdate
  - may not even exist

- unique
  - created his own words
  - utilized paradox
Works Cited