

Renaissance Fair Part 1 Example:

Queen Elizabeth I

- 1) Queen Elizabeth I was born in 1533 and died in 1603. She ruled England and Ireland from 1558 until her death. Prior to her reign, her father, King Henry VIII ruled England. He desperately wanted a male heir and her brother Edward VI reigned for a short time period before he died of illness. Her half-sister Mary then ruled, but Elizabeth had her imprisoned for her Catholic policies and took the throne at last. As a queen, Elizabeth never married nor had children, earning her the nickname “The Virgin Queen.” She vowed to keep England Protestant as her father had established the Church of England during his reign. She was one of the first women to hold such a position of power in western Europe at this time.
- 2) Elizabeth I lived the Renaissance ideals through her policies of ruling England. She observed and let her subjects do as they pleased. She showed great respect and emphasis on individuals, including her possible partner Robert Dudley and the explorer Sir Francis Drake. She was very interested in military defense and power, and not too concerned with religion. She valued scientific innovation, literature, language and theater. She was a patron of the art as well, including holding court for William Shakespeare himself. She was a true humanist – she herself studied music, literature and foreign languages and became a popular ruler with her people for ruling fairly. She also helped to bring unity to England with Protestantism and emphasis on the human spirit and individuality.
- 3) Elizabeth’s 3 main accomplishments were the Netherlands expedition, defeat of the Spanish Armada and supporting Drake’s circumnavigation of the world. The Netherlands expedition was a chance for Elizabeth to show support of the rebels in Holland who were revolting against King Phillip II of Spain. Since Spain and England were now at odds, Elizabeth supported to people of Holland with the expedition. She sent military to fight Spain overseas and allow the people to have rights and free religious worship. Future rulers looked to Elizabeth for ways to help their people and rule justly.

The Spanish Armada was Elizabeth's most famous contribution to the world. In order to defend against Spain, she ordered the English Navy to attack the large Spanish fleet (Armada) and was victorious. This kept England safe from foreign attack and influence and strengthened England as a country. This defeat also proved that England was a force to be reckoned with. Again, other rulers saw her as an example of a ruler with military might and knowledge.

Finally, Elizabeth supported Sir Francis Drake's circumnavigation around the world. She believed in discoveries and scientific observation and so paid for his expeditions. Elizabeth exemplified the Renaissance spirit through her curiosity about the world and interest in exploration, bettering mankind and furthering thought. She left a legacy for leaders of the world and exploration as the state of Virginia, once colonized, was named in her honor.