

ENGLISH PIRATES BEGAN TO CONQUER THE SEA TRADE ROUTES SO THAT ENGLISH MERCHANTS COULD EXPAND THEIR BUSINESS.



PIRATES ATTACKED AND STOLE THE RICHES FROM PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH SHIPS TRAVELLING BACK FROM THE AMERICAS WITH INDIAN GOLD. THEY BROUGHT MORE THAN £12 MILLION INTO ENGLAND DURING THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I.



SIR FRANCIS DRAKE WAS THE QUEEN'S BEST LOVED PIRATE. HIS FIRST PIRATE EXPEDITION WAS IN 1577-80. IT COST £5000 AND QUEEN ELIZABETH PAID A LARGE PART OF THIS. IT BROUGHT IN ABOUT £600 THOUSAND IN PROFIT AND ABOUT HALF OF THIS WENT TO THE QUEEN.



THE MERCHANTS USED SOME OF THE MONEY FROM PIRACY TO TAKE OVER THE MUCH MORE PROFITABLE SLAVE TRADE...



THE SLAVE TRADE LASTED ABOUT 250 YEARS AND ENORMOUS PROFITS WERE MADE. TRADERS USED THE MONEY TO BEGIN BUILDING FACTORIES IN EUROPE.