

Name: _____
Date: _____

Subject: Themes KS2
Sheet: Famous people

Sir Francis Drake - Comprehension

Francis Drake was born in Tavistock, Devon, around 1540. Francis Drake was one of 12 children and his father, Edmund Drake, was a preacher.

Drake was a bright young man and studied navigation on ships (which direction and position the ship is going).

In 1567 John Hawkins, Drake's second cousin, made Drake an officer.

Hawkins and Drake went on an expedition to Africa to capture slaves and sell them to America. The expedition didn't go as smoothly as they thought it would as the fleet were attacked by the Spanish. Most of the ships were destroyed but Drake and Hawkins survived and escaped back to England. Drake was so angered by this attack and sought revenge. He devoted his life to fighting the Spanish.



Francis Drake continued to wage war against the Spanish and in 1572 he headed towards Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. He won victory over the Spanish and filled his ship with treasures and spices.

Queen Elizabeth I later assigned Drake to attack the Spanish fleet. He left Plymouth in England with 5 ships, his own being the Pelican. They fought a bloody and violent battle and all but one ship was destroyed. Only the Pelican survived. At this point Drake renamed his ship and called it the Golden Hind.

Drake's hatred for the Spanish continued and he set sail again for the next three years fighting every Spanish colony on the American coast, robbing them of their treasures. The Spaniards were beginning to fear Drake so much that he was known as 'El Draque', which means the dragon. Because of Drake's hatred of the Spanish and the fact that he was depleting them of their treasures, war began between England and Spain. In 1587 Queen Elizabeth I ordered Drake to the port of