HIDDEN PAST: UNCOVERING THE JEWISH PRESENCE IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND



SECONDARY SOURCES

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SYNOPSIS

Our podcast follows our interviewer questioning their way through our research, with interviewees exploring the topic of Jewish Tudors, highlighting and disproving false stereotypes around the topic, and demonstrating the importance of diversifying the curriculum with theirs and similar research. Linking to the GCSE curriculum, the podcast explores Shakespeare's play, "Merchant of Venice", using this to demonstrate negative and incorrect stereotypes of Jewish Tudors, and goes on to compare this with the reality of Jewish Tudors, exploring the lives of figures such as Rodrigo Lopez and Hector Nunes. These figures are linked with events already in the curriculum, to demonstrate important roles played by Jewish figures, as well as allowing exploration of the reality of Jewish religions and their lifestyles.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Familiarises students with the notion of an alternative history.

Enhances individual's ability to challenge different stereotypes.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Letters concerning Joachim Gaunse

 Found in Abrahams, Israel. "Joachim Gaunse: A Mining Incident in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth". Transactions -The Jewish Historical Society of England 4 (1899): 83–101.

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 Shakespeare, William. The Merchant of Venice, edited by Cedric Watts. Ware: Wordsworth Editions, 2000.

The England's Immigrants Database

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LINKS TO CURRICULUM

AQA GCSE History: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

- Spanish Armada: Hector Nunes provided intelligence to the Elizabethan government about the preparation of the Spanish Armada in Lisbon in 1587.
- Religion: tensions between Catholics and Protestants often allowed Jewish individuals to go under the radar.