

The English Empire Factors to Consider

Student Name _____ Date _____

- 1) Henry VIII's *Act of Supremacy* declared England a Protestant nation and independent from the Catholic Church. After several decades of civil war to determine the religious fate of England, by the mid-17th century, English identity was strongly tied to Protestantism, making it a nation distinctly independent of the pope and *different* from the Catholic nations to the south.
- 2) England defeats the Spanish Armada in 1588, but does not emerge as a powerful naval force until the late 16th century, when it is rivaled only by France and the Netherlands.
- 3) England underwent several economic changes in order to pay for its extensive navy and wars against European rivals. This meant changing the tax system so that the aristocracy was taxed, establishing more government control over the economy, and encouraging the use of joint-stock companies.
- 4) In the early 17th century, England's initial settlements in North America, in the Chesapeake Bay, were terrible failures, but by the mid-17th century, tobacco had become profitable crop.
- 5) Cash crops grown in English colonies led to an increased demand for labor. Native Americans were not a reliable source of labor due to their sensitivity to imported diseases and their tendency to escape. Indentured servitude and African slavery were other labor options.