

Shakespeare: Social and Historical Context

Venice and Cyprus - Student Research Sheet

What can you find out about Venice and Cyprus in Shakespeare's time (1564-1616)?
Use the questions below to help you.

1. Why was Venice important in the sixteenth century?
2. How culturally diverse was Venice, and why?
3. What is a courtesan and how are they relevant to Venice?
4. How was Venice ruled?
5. Who owned Cyprus at the beginning of the sixteenth century?
6. What was the Ottoman Empire?
7. Why was Cyprus vulnerable to the Ottoman Empire?
8. What happened to Cyprus in the 1570s?