

Women in Elizabethan England

We did this as a true or false task in class.
Turns out, all of these statements are true.

Women could not own
property of their own.

Women were allowed to marry from the age of 12.

Elizabethan women were expected to bring a dowry to the marriage. A dowry was an amount of money, goods, and property that the bride would bring to the marriage.

Normally, it was a male who made decisions for the Elizabethan era women, without as much as a consultation with or affirmation from the women involved.

A man could hit his wife with a stick as long as it was no thicker than his thumb.

Fathers arranged the marriages for
their daughters.

From birth, Elizabethan era women were taught how to govern a household and perform domestic duties so that when they married, which was expected of them regardless of their class and ancestry, their husbands would be proud.

Even religion dictated the fate of women, as obedience of a woman to a man was greatly emphasized.

A woman who could not have a baby was seen as worthless to society and was often shunned.

Men could divorce their wives but
women could not divorce their
husbands.

Women were not sent to school. If they were of noble birth, they were educated by an in home tutor.

Women were not allowed to work outside of the home. They could not even play the role of a woman on the stage in the theatre.