**Vagabonds or wandering beggars caused many problems in Elizabeth society. They were fit and strong but deliberately avoided work. They travelled around the country in groups, robbing and stealing as well as begging. Ordinary people were terrified by the vagabonds.**

**Thomas Harman, a JP, was so worried that he wrote a book called *A Warning Against Vagabonds* in 1567. He claimed that they cheated people into giving them money and claimed they had their own slang language called “canting” that no-one else could understand.**

**Why were vagabonds such and problem for Elizabeth?**

**Thomas Harman described the different types of vagabonds. Match the description to the correct picture.**



Challenge: Consider the questions below in order to explain why vagrancy was such a problem for Elizabeth.

* Why did problems in the economy lead to fears over vagrancy?
* Why did concerns regarding health lead to fears over vagrancy?
* What other reasons can you think of?

Vagrancy was such a problem for Elizabeth because………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..,

**A doxy carries a large pack on her back where she keeps all the things she has stolen. She knits as she begs and always wears a needle in her hat. She steals chickens by feeding them bread tied on a hook. The hook chokes and kills the chicken then she hides it under her cloak,**

**Counterfeit cranks dress in old, dirty clothes and pretend to have epilepsy. They suck soap to make themselves foam at the mouth and pretend to have a fit when people come near them.**

**Clapperdudgeons pretend to be badly wounded. They use arsenic to make their skin bleed. Then they soak dirty rags in the blood and tie them around their arms and legs**.

**Abraham men pretend to be mad. They walk around half naked making strange wailing noises.**

**Anglers carry long wooden sticks. They beg during the day. In the evening they attach a hook to their stick and use it to steal clothes from people’s washing lines.**