

Year 8 History: Topic 1

Elizabeth I: a golden age?

Key Individuals

Henry VIII – King from 1509-1547. Married six times and changed England through his 'Break from Rome'

Anne Boleyn – second wife of Henry VIII, executed in 1536. Henry 'Broke from Rome' in part to allow the annulment of his first marriage (to Catherine of Aragon).

Edward VI – Henry VIII's son, died at 15. King from 1547-1553.

Mary I ('Bloody Mary') – Queen from 1553-1558. tried to return England to Roman Catholic Church. Persecuted protestants

Elizabeth – Queen from 1558 to 1603. The last Tudor monarch, she brought stability, a religious settlement and defeated the Spanish Armada

Mary, Queen of Scots – Catholic Queen of Scotland, held prisoner for 19 years before her execution by her cousin Elizabeth

Philip II – Catholic ruler of Spain and its Empire. Launched the Armada in 1588.

Elizabeth I: key facts

Born 1533
Queen from 1558-1603
Fifth and final Tudor monarch
Elizabeth did not marry or have children
She was Protestant, and made the country Protestant.
However, she allowed Catholics to practice their religion without fear of being punished
She used symbols in portraits to show her power



The Spanish Armada

Catholic Spain sent 130 warships to attack England in 1558 – a much stronger force than the English Navy

Armada led by the Duke of Medina Sedonia. English led by Sir Francis Drake

Spanish Armada held up by bad weather; English ships were smaller but faster than the Spanish; English fire ships sailed into Spanish warships

English Navy won a famous victory

Key Vocabulary

Heir – next in line to throne

Succession – who comes next

Annulment – to declare a marriage invalid
Reformation – movement breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church

Catholic – Christian Church led by Pope
Protestant – groups leaving the Catholic Church during the Reformation

Heretic – someone denying the beliefs of the Church

Martyr – a person who suffers or dies for their beliefs

Armada – invasion fleet of ships

Parliament – law making body

Dictator – a cruel leader who is all-powerful

Treason – to plot against King/Queen or country

Monarch – King or Queen

A Golden Age?

Amazing time for culture. Shakespeare and Marlow produced their work during her reign

English explorers discovered many new lands and bought back lots of new discoveries

There was relative religious peace in England (compared to the other Tudor monarchs)

England became richest and most powerful Western country

The poor were treated very badly.