

SUBJECT: History

UNIT: Should Elizabeth be remembered as 'Good Queen Bess'?



What were Elizabeth's problems?

Gender: Some feared a female ruler meant that England would continue to be seen as a weak country. There were worries about who Elizabeth might marry; a foreign prince could end up taking control.

Religion: Religious conflict was a major issue. Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, had broken away from the Roman Catholic Church and started his own Church of England. When Elizabeth's sister, Mary, came to the throne she restored the Pope and made England a Catholic country again. Elizabeth now had to settle the situation, maintaining security and establishing an agreement that would keep her people content.

Invasion: Elizabeth's cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, had a claim to the throne. Mary was a Catholic and married to the heir to the French throne. They could try to invade and threaten Elizabeth's position.

Money: Elizabeth's sister, Mary, had left debts of £250,000, which was a great deal of money at the time.

Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots

Elizabeth and Mary were **cousins**. If Elizabeth had no children - **Mary had a good claim to the Throne** of England. Mary was Elizabeth's heir. Mary was a Catholic. **Should she have been executed?**

Some say Mary/the Catholics were plotting to kill Elizabeth she denied this!

Some say Mary wanted the English throne she denied this!

If Elizabeth executed Mary maybe other Catholic countries may want revenge e.g. Catholic Spain

Elizabeth imprisoned Mary some say she was writing letters to other countries

Mary Queen of Scots was Scottish so could not be tried (a trial) in an English court



Exploration under Elizabeth I

Exploration under Elizabeth I increased England's wealth, power, and status. Sir Francis Drake was the most famous explorer. He worked as a privateer (pirate), paid by Elizabeth to attack Spanish ships and steal gold. From 1577–1580, he became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe on the Golden Hind. On his journey, Drake stole Spanish gold near Peru, traded cloves in Indonesia, sailed past California, India, and Africa, returned to England with goods worth over £500 million. Impact Short term: Brought wealth and boosted England's navy. Long term: Helped begin the British Empire.

Conflict: Increased tension with

What was Elizabethan society like?

Education: wealthy boys went to grammar school and studied Latin and Greek. Some poor boys were allowed however, most were not given an opportunity.

Fun: Many people enjoyed the theatre and watched plays by William Shakespeare. Others went to watch sports such as, bear baiting and cock fighting.

Fashion: Many followed fashion trends in clothing, and women would mix chemicals to create 'make-up' that would often be poisonous for them.

Food: rich people had a vast diet, including; meat, vegetables in pies and stews. Poor people's diet mainly consisted of vegetable stew and ale.

Crime: There was much petty crime, some included people dressing up as poor people or faking illnesses in order to gain sympathy and money.



The Spanish Armada

Causes of the Spanish attack: *England is Protestant, Elizabeth won't marry Phillip, Mary Queen of Scots is executed, Phillip wants land, Pirates raided Spanish ships with British support.*

How did Elizabeth defeat the Spanish?

- Philip's plan was that an armada of 130 ships would sail to the Netherlands, pick up Spanish troops and invade England. However, the Armada was delayed by an **English attack in 1587, 100 ships were destroyed and gold stolen.**
- In 1588, Philip's Armada finally set sail. When the Armada anchored at Calais, **the English used fireships** to scatter the Spanish fleet and then attack.
- In July 1588. The Armada was forced to abandon its **invasion attempt and was destroyed by storms.**