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Timeline of the Kings and Queens of England

(The Tudors)

House of Tudor, an English royal dynasty of Welsh origin, which gave five sovereigns to England: **Henry VII** (reigned 1485–1509); his son, **Henry VIII** (1509–47); followed by Henry VIII's three children, **Edward VI** (1547–53), **Mary I** (1553–58), and **Elizabeth I** (1558–1603).

King Henry VII 1485 - 1509

- Age: 28-52
- Great-great-great-grandson of Edward III
- Born: January 28, 1457 at Pembroke Castle, Wales
- Parents: Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, and Margaret Beaufort
- Ascended to the throne: 22 August 1485 aged 28 years
- Crowned: 30 October 1485 at Westminster Abbey
- Married: Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV
- Children: Three sons and four daughters. Only 4 of whom survived infancy; Arthur, Margaret, Henry and Mary
- Died: 21 April 1509 at Richmond Palace, Surrey, aged 52 years

- Buried at: Westminster
- Succeeded by: his son Henry VIII

1471 - Henry aged 14 fled to Brittany, France, when Lancastrian King Henry VI was murdered by Yorkist King Edward IV making Welsh Henry next in line to the throne.

1485 - Henry gained the throne when he defeated and killed Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. The battle ended the War of the Roses, a dispute between the House of Lancaster and the House of York.

Immediately following his victory at Bosworth he married the Yorkist heiress, Edward IV 's daughter, Elizabeth to consolidate the warring families.

Henry VII kept England peaceful and brought riches to the crown and country.

King Henry VIII 1509 - 1547

Henry built a navy and made England stronger and more important in Europe. He quarreled with the Pope and closed the monasteries, making himself Head of the Church of England.

- Age 17-56
- Second son of Henry VII
- Born: 28 June 1491 at Greenwich Palace
- Parents: Henry VII and Elizabeth of York
- Ascended to the throne: 21 April 1509 aged 17 years
- Crowned: 24 June 1509 at Westminster Abbey
- Married:
 - Catherine of Aragon 1509-1533 Divorced
 - Anne Boleyn 1533-1536 Beheaded
 - Jane Seymour 1536-1537 Died
 - Anne of Cleves 1540 Divorced
 - Catherine Howard 1540-1542 Beheaded
 - Catherine Parr 1543-1547 Survived
- Children: Three legitimate who survived infancy; Mary, Elizabeth and Edward, and at least one illegitimate child Henry Fitzroy.
- Died: 28 January 1547 at Whitehall Palace, London, aged 55 years
- Buried at: Windsor
- Succeeded by: his son Edward VI

Henry succeeded to the throne because his elder brother Arthur died in 1502. His first wife, Catherine of Aragon, was Arthur's wife.

The best known fact about Henry VIII is that he had six wives! Henry argued with the Pope and made himself the head of the new 'Church of England'.

King Edward VI 1547 - 1553

Edward was a boy-king. He founded some Grammar Schools.

- Age 9-15
- Born: 12 October 1537 at Hampton Court
- Parents: Henry VIII and Jane Seymour
- Ascended to the throne: 28 January 1547 aged 9 years
- Crowned: 19 February 1547 at Westminster Abbey
- Married: Never Married
- Children: None
- Died: 6 July 1553 at Greenwich Palace
- Buried at: Westminster
- Succeeded by: his half-sister Mary

Edward reigned under the protection of his uncle, the Duke of Somerset. Edward was never a healthy King and died aged only 15 years.

After Edward's death there was a dispute over the succession. As Mary was Catholic, LADY JANE GREY was named as the next in line to the throne. She was proclaimed Queen but Mary entered London with her supporters and Jane was taken to the Tower. She reigned for only 9 days. She was executed in 1554, aged 17.

Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary) 1553 - 1558

Mary was a devout Roman Catholic. She married Philip, King of Spain. She persecuted the Protestants.

- Age 37-42
- Born: 8 February 1516 at Greenwich Palace
- Parents: Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon
- Ascended to the throne: 19 July 1553 aged 37 years
- Crowned: 1 October 1553 at Westminster Abbey
- Married: Philip II of Spain
- Children: None

- Died: November 17, 1558 at St James Palace, London, aged 42 years
- Buried at: Westminster
- Succeeded by: her half-sister Elizabeth

Her nickname was Bloody Mary because of the huge numbers of people she murdered to return England from its Protestant regime back to the Catholic faith.

Queen Elizabeth I 1558 - 1603

Most of Shakespeare's plays were written in her reign. During her reign great adventurers discovered many new lands. Fought off the Spanish Armada.

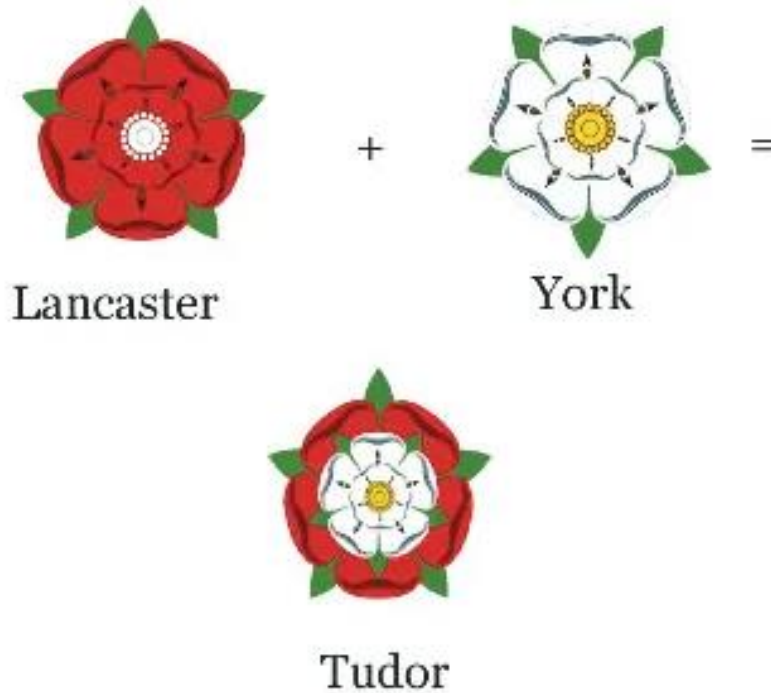
- Age 25-69
- Born: 7 September 1533 at Greenwich Palace
- Parents: Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn
- Ascended to the throne: 17 November 1558 aged 25 years
- Crowned: 15 January 1559 at Westminster Abbey
- Married: Never Married
- Children: None

- Died: 24 March 1603 at Richmond Palace, Surrey, aged 69 years
- Buried at: Westminster
- Succeeded by: her 3rd cousin James of Scotland

Named James VI of Scotland her heir, uniting the two countries Scotland and England.

The five sovereigns (six if Lady Jane Grey is included) of the Tudor dynasty are among the most well-known figures in Royal history. Of Welsh origin, Henry VII succeeded in ending the Wars of the Roses between the houses of Lancaster and York to found the successful Tudor house. Henry VII, his son Henry VIII and his three children Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I ruled for 118 eventful years.

The Establishment of the Tudor Dynasty



By 1485 the **Wars of the Roses** had been raging in England for many years between the two royal houses whose badges were *the Red Rose of Lancaster* and *the White Rose of York*. The real matter was decided on the battlefield, at the Battle of Bosworth Field. It was here that Henry and his forces met with Richard III and Henry won the crown. It was truly through the defeat of Richard and the 'right of conquest' that Henry claimed the throne. The Middle Ages have ended when Richard III was defeated by Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Henry's accession as Henry VII marked the end of the Wars of the Roses,

which had dominated English politics for much of the 15th century. The coronation of the first Tudor monarch was to herald the beginning of an unprecedented period of peace that lasted until the outbreak of civil war in 1642.







In 1486, King Henry VII's marriage to Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward IV, united the houses of Lancaster and York and formally ended the bloody War of the Roses and united the houses. King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York had seven children, four of whom survived infancy: Arthur, Henry, Margaret and Mary. Arthur will be named the Prince of Wales while Henry was named the Duke of York. In an attempt to keep military and political alliances aligned in Europe, King Henry VII arranged marriages for Margaret and Mary. Margaret will marry King James IV of Scotland while Mary will marry King Louis XII of France. Furthermore, Prince Arthur will have a marriage arranged with Catherine of Aragon, the daughter of the Spanish King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I.

The King always envisioned Prince Arthur as the next Tudor King and Henry as a high-ranking official on Arthur's court. However, just four months after Arthur was married to Catherine of Aragon, he died from an unknown illness on

April 2nd, 1502. He was just six months short of his sixteenth birthday. This moved the younger Henry into the heir of the throne. Known for strengthening the English judicial system, Henry VII also grew the treasury funds of England and successfully kept all others from claiming the throne. He died in 1509 after a short battle with tuberculosis. His son, Henry VIII will take over later that year at 17 years old.

King Henry VIII

Henry VIII enacted radical changes to the English constitution, expanded royal power and broke with the Catholic Church in the English Reformation. He ruled England for 36 years, presiding over sweeping changes that brought his nation into the Protestant Reformation. He famously married a series of six wives in his search for political alliance, marital bliss and a healthy male heir. His desire to annul his first marriage without papal approval led to the creation of a separate Church of England. His children Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I would each take their turn as England's monarch.

1. Catherine of Aragon 	2. Anne Boleyn 	3. Jane Seymour 
Divorced	Beheaded	Died
4. Anne of Cleves 	5. Kathryn Howard 	6. Catherine Parr 
Divorced	Beheaded	Survived

Henry VIII's Wives

Best remembered in rhyme form; 'divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived'; two of Henry VIII's marriages were declared annulled, two of his wives were beheaded and another of them died after giving birth to his only son. But his final wife, Catherine Parr, outlived him and their marriage.

→ Catherine of Aragon (1485-1536)

At the age of 17, Henry married Catherine of Aragon, Spain, and the two were crowned at Westminster Abbey. Henry VIII's father wanted to uphold his family's alliance with Spain, so he offered his young son to Catherine, who was the widow of Henry's brother Arthur. The two families requested that Pope Julius II officially grant release to Arthur and Catherine's marriage. The pope granted it, but the official marriage of Henry and Catherine was postponed until the death of Henry VII in 1509.

Of multiple pregnancies and several births, the only child to survive was Henry and Catherine's daughter, Mary, born in February 1516.

Henry had a brief extra-marital affair with Elizabeth “Bessie” Blount, one of Catherine’s ladies-in-waiting. In 1519, Bessie was taken in secret to the Essex countryside where she gave birth to **Henry Fitzroy, Henry’s only acknowledged illegitimate child.**

By the 1520s, Henry had developed a fondness for Anne Boleyn, another lady-in-waiting to the queen, and eventually sought the Pope’s approval for an annulment. Because Catherine was now 42 and unable to conceive another child, Henry grew frustrated by the lack of a male heir. Henry set on a mission to obtain a male heir by arranging a way to officially end his marriage with Catherine. He argued that his marriage to Catherine was invalid because of her marriage to his brother Arthur. When the Pope refused Henry’s request, he arranged for Parliament to pass a body of legislation that withdrew England from the Catholic Church, placing the king at the head of the new Church of England. Henry divorced Catherine in 1533 against the will of the Roman Catholic Church and established the Church of England.

Catherine died at Kimbolton Castle, as a princess not a queen, on January 7, 1536.

→ Anne Boleyn (1501-1536)

Anne and her sister, Mary, spent part of their childhood in the France court. Mary returned to England sometime around 1520 and had a brief affair with Henry. Henry then became smitten with Anne. When Henry sought an annulment from his first wife to marry Anne, Rome refused. So the king broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and formed the Church of England.

In 1533, Anne Boleyn became pregnant. Henry decided he didn't need the pope's permission on matters of the Church of England and declared his first marriage annulled. Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn married secretly in January 1533. Anne gave birth to their first child, Elizabeth, in September the same year. Henry remained hopeful Anne would give him a son, but Queen Anne suffered greatly from her failure to produce a living male heir. After she miscarried twice, Henry became interested in one of Anne's ladies-in-waiting, Jane Seymour.

When he took a mistress, Anne became enraged. In an effort to leave his unfruitful marriage, Henry contrived an elaborate story that Anne was plotting to murder him. On May 15, 1536, Henry put her on trial. Anne denied all

charges against her. Henry accused her of adultery and treason and had the marriage annulled. Four days later, on May 19, 1536, Anne was beheaded for her alleged crimes.

→ Jane Seymour (1508-1537)

Within 11 days of Anne Boleyn's execution, on May 30, 1536, Jane Seymour and Henry VIII formally wed. Jane had served as a lady-in-waiting to both Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn. Anne Boleyn's and Jane Seymour's mothers were first cousins, who shared the same grandmother, and were raised together for a time.

On October 12, 1537, Jane gave birth to the king's long-hoped-for son, Edward VI and died from a pregnancy-related infection several weeks later. At the wishes of the king, Jane is buried at St. George's Chapel alongside him. Because Jane was the only of Henry's spouses to bear him a son, he considered her to be his only "true" wife. He and his court mourned for an extended period of time after her passing.

→ Anne of Cleves (1515-1557)

Henry stayed a bachelor for two years, until his chief minister suggested that he seek a European alliance and

marry one of the sisters (Anne and Amelia) of Germany's Duke of Cleves. Henry requested the women's portraits and found Anne to be the more flattering of the two. When Anne arrived in England on January 1, 1540, Henry was shocked that she looked nothing like the painting. He tried to stop the wedding, but because the arrangement had progressed so far, they married on January 6, 1540. Anne, the so-called "ugly wife," accepted a divorce and generous settlement six months later and lived in peace as the "King's Sister" until her death in July 1557.

→ Catherine Howard (1523-1542)

Within weeks of his divorce to Anne of Cleves, Henry married the very young Catherine Howard. Catherine was the first cousin of Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's scandalous second wife – her father was the brother of Anne's mother. She was also second cousin to his third wife, Jane Seymour – her grandmother Elizabeth Tilney was the sister of Jane's grandmother Anne Say.

Henry married Catherine Howard in July 1540 (she was between 17 and 19-years-old at the time). Henry, 49, and Catherine, 19, started out happy. Henry had become overweight and unable to walk by this time. He was now

dealing with tremendous weight gain and a bad leg, and his new wife gave him enthusiasm for life. Said to be delighted with his new bride, Henry showered Catherine with gifts and called her his “rose without a thorn.”

But less than a year into their marriage, rumors of infidelity surfaced. Catherine began seeking the attention of men her own age—a very dangerous effort for the queen of England. With enough evidence that she had been at least promiscuous, Catherine was executed for adultery and treason at the Tower Green on February 13, 1542.

→ Catherine Parr (1512-1548)

Henry married his sixth wife, Catherine Parr, in July 1543. Catherine managed to avoid the fate of her predecessors, bringing stability and peace to the court, while serving as a kind and caring stepmother to Henry’s children. She married the King after being twice-widowed. She was 31. At this time in the King's life, he was looking at Katherine as more of a nurse and companion than anything else. Katherine was well-educated and strong-willed, which was rare in women at that time.

Catherine Parr had the most influence upon the widest variety of areas including court culture, religion, the role of

women and the education of Henry's children. She enjoyed a close relationship with Henry's three children, Mary, Elizabeth and Edward. She was personally involved in the education of Elizabeth and Edward. She was influential in Henry VIII's passing of the Third Succession Act in 1543 that restored his daughters Mary and Elizabeth to the line of succession to the throne.

Katherine did much to bring the King's three children back to court and back into their father's favor, particularly Princess Elizabeth, to whom she became a loving mother figure. She appointed for the children the best tutors and encouraged them to learn. She was a stabilizing factor in the aging and ill Henry's life until his death in 1547.

Katherine's evangelical zeal for Protestantism made her many enemies in Henry's court who tried to turn the king against her. However, she convinced Henry she was loyal to him. Henry trusted her so much that in the event of his death, he named her Queen Regent.

On January 28, 1547, at the age of 55, King Henry VIII of England died. Henry VIII was buried in St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle alongside his deceased third wife, Jane Seymour. Henry's only surviving son, Edward,

inherited the throne, becoming Edward VI. Princesses Elizabeth and Mary waited in succession.

Katherine was the final queen consort of the House of Tudor, and outlived Henry by a year and eight months. She then married her true love, Thomas Seymour and gave birth to her first child in 1548, a daughter named Mary. Katherine died shortly after the birth.

Though remembered as one of Henry's wives, Katherine has her place in history: with four husbands, Katherine Parr is England's most-married queen. She was also an important patron of letters and the arts, as well as being the first woman to be published under her own name. She was a key early influence on her stepdaughter Elizabeth I.

King Edward VI

Edward VI, was born on October 12, 1537, in London, England. Edward was King Henry VIII's only son; his mother, Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, died just nine days after his birth. Amidst all the celebrations when Edward VI was born in 1537, no-one could know that he would be the last royal Tudor baby to be born. Throughout England there was great rejoicing that this young prince and his offspring would ensure the future of the Tudor dynasty. Yet even though Henry VIII and his three children remained on the throne of England for a further 65 years, there were no more Tudor babies. Edward died at the age of 15 without marrying. Mary twice believed she was pregnant, but she was mistaken, and Elizabeth chose not to marry.

Although Edward has traditionally been viewed as a frail child who was never in good health, some recent studies have found that until several years before his death, he was a healthy, athletically inclined youth. His tutors found him to be intellectually gifted, an advanced student of Greek, Latin, French, and religion.

In 1543 Edward was betrothed to Mary, the young Queen of Scotland. Edward was nearly six-years old and

Mary was seven-months old. It was to be a dynastic marriage. Henry VIII wanted to bring Scotland under English control and stop the age-old enmity between the two countries. However, although the lords in Scotland initially agreed to the match of the young couple within six months they had changed their minds. The agreement was annulled and Mary was later betrothed and married to Francis II of France. Eight years later Edward was again betrothed, this time to Elizabeth, daughter of Henry II of France but this, too, came to nothing when Edward died two years later.

On January 28, 1547, Henry VIII died and Edward succeeded to the throne. Edward VI became king at the age of nine upon the death of his father, Henry VIII, and a Regency was created. Henry had announced that during Edward's early years the government was to be run by a council; in fact, Edward's uncle, Edward Seymour had almost supreme power, with the title of Protector, until he was overthrown in 1549 by the dishonest John Dudley. Dudley was willing to see the Seymour brothers fall in order to achieve his goals. The young king was the mask behind which Dudley controlled the government.

Edward VI allowed two of his uncles to be condemned to death. Although he did not make the decision to execute both men Edward had sufficient authority to stop the executions if he had chosen to do so. The two men, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and his brother Thomas, Lord Seymour, were the relatives most closely involved in the young king's life but despite their kinship to Edward they both failed to develop a close relationship with him. Somerset and Seymour had powerful enemies amongst the privy councilors who influenced the king against his uncles and brought about their downfall.

In January 1553 Edward showed the first signs of tuberculosis, and by May it was evident that the disease would be deadly. Edward was determined to exclude his two half-sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, from the succession and to put Dudley's daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Grey, and her male heirs in direct line for the throne. Edward died on July 6th, 1553 in London, England. A power struggle soon erupted after Edward's death. Lady Jane Grey ruled for nine days (July 10–19, 1553) before she was overthrown by the more popular Mary I.

Lady Jane Grey

Lady Jane Grey is remembered as the innocent victim of her family's heartless ambition. She has also been cast as a Protestant martyr and an exemplar of female virtue.

Born in 1537 to Henry and Frances Grey, later Duke and Duchess of Suffolk, Lady Jane Grey was the great-granddaughter of Henry VII, and the daughter of Mary Tudor, Henry VIII's younger sister. Under the terms of the king's will, the Suffolk family stood fourth in the line of succession to the throne. Consequently, Lady Jane received a princess's education.

King Henry believed in the rule of men. Even though Prince Edward was the youngest of the children, he would inherit the throne. The king's will went on to say:

- If Prince Edward died without any children, the throne would pass to Princess Mary.
- If Princess Mary died without any children, the throne would pass to Princess Elizabeth.
- If Princess Elizabeth died without any children, the throne would pass to Lady Jane Grey, a second cousin of the three royal children's.

Edward's half-sister Mary was actually next in line for the throne but as a devout Catholic, was out of favor. Edward wanted to keep England firmly Protestant and he knew that Mary would take England back into the Catholic faith. As Edward's health deteriorated, the powerful nobleman John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, persuaded the young king to exclude his half-sisters Mary and Elizabeth and decree that the crown should instead pass to his cousin Jane, who by coincidence just happened to be the Duke's daughter-in-law. She was then hastily married to the Duke of Northumberland's son, Lord Guildford.

Edward VI wrote in his will that Lady Jane Grey should become Queen of England after his death. He did this because Lady Jane Grey was a Protestant, like Edward and his father, whereas Edward's half-sister Mary was a Catholic. Edward died on 6th July 1553 and Lady Jane Grey was proclaimed Queen on the 10th of July 1553 after the death of Edward VI. She was just sweet sixteen. Northumberland's hold on power seemed secure when Jane was proclaimed queen on Edward's death.

Although she initially had the support of the Privy Council of England, many of her supporters abandoned her when

support for Mary began to grow. Mary's Catholic supporters staged a rising and on the 19th July 1553, the Privy Council deposed Jane and declared Mary to be Queen instead. This has led Lady Jane Grey to be called the '**Nine Day Queen**'.

After she was deposed, Lady Jane Grey and many of her supporters were put on trial for treason, and sentenced to death. However, Mary initially wanted to spare Lady Jane Grey, but her father later joined a rebellion against the Queen which changed Mary's mind.

Although Jane's innocence was never doubted, her existence as a possible figurehead of Protestant revolt made her an unacceptable danger to the new regime. She was executed on 12 February 1554, aged 16, after refusing to renounce her Protestant faith. During the reign of Queen Mary, many Protestants came to see Lady Jane Grey as a martyr, and she has since been the subject of many romantic poems, stories, paintings, novels and films.

She died, it is said, very bravely... on the scaffold she asked the executioner, 'Please dispatch me quickly'. She tied her kerchief round her eyes and felt for the block saying, 'Where is it?' One of the onlookers guided her to the

block where she laid her head down, and stretched out her arms saying, 'Lord, into thy hands I commit my soul.'

She had been Queen of England for just nine days ...10th to 19th July 1553. The shortest reign of any English monarch, before or since.

Both her husband, Lord Guildford Dudley, and her father, the Duke of Suffolk, were executed.



'The Execution of Lady Jane Grey', by Paul Delaroche, 1833.

Queen Mary I

Mary Tudor was born on February 18, 1516, at the Palace of Placentia in Greenwich, England. Mary was not the long-awaited son her parents, Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, had hoped for. She was the only child of King Henry VIII and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, to survive through childhood. She was baptized as a Catholic shortly after her birth. Tutored by her mother and scholars, she excelled in music and language. In 1525, Henry named her Princess of Wales and sent his daughter to live on the Welsh border, while he continuously tried to negotiate a marriage for her.

She survived infancy and grew up in the public eye as a beloved princess—at least until her teenage years, when her father's infatuation with Anne Boleyn led him to divorce her mother and break with the Catholic Church. Frustrated by the lack of a male heir, in 1533 Henry declared his marriage to Catherine null and married one of Catherine's maids of honor, Anne Boleyn. Declared illegitimate at the age of 17,, Mary was downgraded from the title of "princess" to "lady," and was separated from her mother. She was banished from court and forcibly separated from her mother,

to whom she was very close. She wasn't even allowed to see her when Catherine was dying. She suffered awful health problems, probably caused by stress

After Boleyn gave birth to Elizabeth, she feared Mary would pose a challenge to the succession to the throne and successfully pressed for an act of Parliament to declare Mary unlawful. This placed the princess outside the succession to the throne and forced her to be behind to her half-sister, Elizabeth.

Henry had the scheming Anne Boleyn beheaded in 1536 for treason and married his third wife, Jane Seymour, who insisted that the king make amends with his daughters, but he would only do so if Mary acknowledged him as head of the Church of England. Mary refused to acknowledge the validity of her parents' divorce or her father's status as head of the Church of England. It was only in 1536, after Anne's execution and Henry's marriage to Jane Seymour, that Mary finally agreed to her father's terms. Under pressure, she agreed and although Mary did re-enter the royal court, her religious beliefs made her a lightning rod for conflict.

Her younger half-brother, Edward VI, take the throne as a Protestant reformer. Before his death he attempted to

subvert his father's wishes by leaving the crown to Protestant cousin Lady Jane Grey, excluding those next in line—Mary and her younger half-sister, Elizabeth—from the succession.

Between her brother Edward VI's death at the age of 15 and her own accession to the throne, Mary had to deal with the whole Lady Jane Grey business. This was an attempt by her brother and his Protestant council to keep Roman Catholic Mary away from the throne by instead putting Henry VIII's great-niece Jane on the throne. Edward named Jane as his successor in his will. But the English people weren't having a bar of it. Although the majority didn't want a return to Roman Catholicism, Mary was clearly the next in line, and had been named as such in Henry VIII's will. It wasn't long before the people rallied round, proclaimed her queen, and she made a triumphant entry to London and took the throne.

Mary and Elizabeth rode into England's capital side-by-side, one as a queen and the other as a queen-in-waiting. Mary took the throne as the first Tudor Queen. **Mary I was the first Queen of England to be crowned in her own right.**

Queen Mary enjoyed a splendid coronation in 1553. She made a good beginning with her new subjects. At first, she acknowledged the religious contrast of her country, but she desperately wanted to convert England back to control of the Roman Catholic Church.

Mary was 37 at the time of her accession. She knew that if she remained childless, the throne would pass to her Protestant half-sister, Elizabeth. She needed a Catholic heir to avoid the reversal of her reforms. She surprised many when she announced that she intended to marry her cousin Philip, the future king of Spain. Not only was Queen Mary a Catholic, but she also wanted to bring England back to the Catholic faith. Marrying the most powerful Catholic prince in all of Europe was a good way to do this. With Philip by her side, Queen Mary would be able to require all of her subjects to observe the Roman Catholic faith—or so she thought.

The public response to Mary's marriage was extremely unpopular, but she pressed on abolishing many of Henry VIII's religious laws and replacing them with her own. The enforcement of her laws resulted in the burning of over 300 Protestants. Many prominent Protestants fled abroad, but those who stayed behind—and persisted in publicly

proclaiming their beliefs—became targets of heresy laws that carried a brutal punishment: burning at the stake. Mary's religious persecutions made her extremely unpopular and earned her the nickname "**Bloody Mary.**"

Mary and her advisors hoped the initial spate of burnings would act as a “short, sharp shock” warning errant Protestants to return to the fold of the “true” faith.

These executions—the main reason for her unfortunate nickname—are cited as justification for labeling her one of the most evil humans of all time and even depicting her as a “flesh-eating zombie.” They are where we get the image of a monarch whose “raging madness” and “open tyranny,” as described by 16th-century writer Bartholomew Traheron, led her to “swimmeth in the holy blood of most innocent, virtuous, and excellent personages.”

Such a death was an undoubtedly horrific sentence. But in Tudor England, bloody punishments were the norm, with execution methods ranging from beheading to boiling; burning at the stake; and being hanged, drawn and quartered.

The marriage to the Spanish king produced no children and Philip, bored with his wife, spent little time in England

and provided no part of his vast New World trade network to the British crown. Meanwhile, the alliance with Spain dragged England into a military conflict with France, and cost it the area of Calais. Childless and grief-stricken by 1558, Mary had endured several false pregnancies and was suffering from what may have been uterine or ovarian cancer. She died in London, on November 17, 1558, and was buried at Westminster Abbey.

Queen Elizabeth I – The Final Tudor Queen

Queen Elizabeth I was born on the September 7, 1533 in Greenwich England. Elizabeth I was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Perhaps England's most famous monarch, Queen Elizabeth I grew up in complex and difficult circumstances. She was only two years old when her mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded. Proclaimed heir to the throne at her birth, Elizabeth was removed from the succession and declared illegitimate upon the execution of her mother for treason and adultery in May 1536.

Elizabeth was raised much like any other royal child. She received tutoring and excelled at languages and music. After her father's death in 1547, Elizabeth spent some time under the care of her stepmother Catherine Parr. Parr hired tutors on Elizabeth's behalf. Tensions with Parr led Elizabeth to return to the royal estate away from the court.

Elizabeth and her older half-sister, Mary Tudor, were declared to be illegitimate as her father sought to pave the way for a male heir: their half-brother, Edward, who was the king's first and only son with his third wife, Jane Seymour. Mary and Elizabeth were later reinstated as potential heirs.

Born in 1537, Edward succeeded his father to the throne as King Edward VI upon Henry VIII's death in 1547.

When Edward VI died just six years later, in 1553, Elizabeth found herself embroiled in political intrigue. Her older half-sister Mary and their cousin, Lady Jane Grey, both were in line for the crown. Edward had appointed Grey to be his successor, but her reign proved to be short-lived. Mary gained the support of the English people and unseated Grey after only nine days on the throne.

Even though Elizabeth supported Mary in her coup, she was not free from suspicion. A staunch Roman Catholic, Mary sought to restore her country back to her faith, undoing her father's break from the Pope. While Elizabeth went along with the religious change, she remained a candidate for the throne for those who wanted a return to Protestantism.

In 1554, Thomas Wyatt organized a rebellion against Mary with the hopes of making Protestant-raised Elizabeth queen. But his plot was uncovered, and Elizabeth was quickly imprisoned by Mary. Elizabeth disputed any involvement in the conspiracy, but her sister was not convinced. Although she was soon released, Elizabeth's life

was firmly in her sister's hands. Wyatt was executed, but he maintained that Elizabeth was not aware of the rebellion. Elizabeth eventually returned to Hatfield and continued with her studies.

In 1558, Elizabeth ascended to the throne upon Mary Tudor's death. Succession was a pressing issue for Queen Elizabeth I. During her reign, she showed her talents as a diplomat, managing a number of suitors and potential royal matches.

Through her father and her sister, Elizabeth had seen the troubles and challenges of royal marriages. Mary had made an unpopular choice in marrying Phillip II of Spain, who shared her devotion to the Roman Catholic faith. In the hopes of reuniting their two countries once more, Phillip even offered to wed Elizabeth at one time. Other suitors for Elizabeth's hand included the king of Sweden, Archduke Charles of Austria, and the future King Henry III of France. She used her availability as a means to political ends, but she never agreed to marriage.

Elizabeth herself seemed to have some interest in a member of her court, **Robert Dudley**, and their relationship was the subject of much gossip and speculation. Both

parties came under suspicion after the mysterious death of Dudley's wife. Elizabeth, however, seemed to have no interest in sharing power with a spouse. Over time, she cultivated her image as a queen married to her job and her people. For this dedication Elizabeth earned the nickname the "**Virgin Queen.**"

Queen Elizabeth I's reign was sometimes referred to as the Golden Age or Elizabethan England, an era of peace and prosperity when the arts had a chance to blossom with Elizabeth's support. While she worked hard at court, Elizabeth took time for leisurely pursuits. She loved music and could play the lute. Elizabeth also enjoyed dancing and watching plays. Elizabeth's reign supported the creation of works by such greats as William Shakespeare. Writers paid tribute to the queen in many literary forms. The poet Edmund Spenser based his character of Gloriana in *The Faerie Queen* on Elizabeth, and she was sometimes referred to by this name. Portraiture was the reigning form of painting at the time, and artists honored Elizabeth by painting her portrait. Elizabeth loved jewelry and beautiful clothing; her garments were often made with gold and silver. With the help of makeup, Elizabeth cultivated a dramatically pale look.

In 1558, Elizabeth took the reins of her country after her sister Queen Mary died and ruled until her death in 1603. Elizabeth I inherited a number of problems stirred up by Mary. The country was at **war with France**, which proved to be a tremendous drain on the royal treasury. There was also **great tension between different religious groups** after Mary worked to restore England to Roman Catholicism by any means necessary.

Elizabeth acted swiftly to address these two pressing issues. During her first session of Parliament in 1559, she called for the passage of the **Act of Supremacy**, which re-established the Church of England. Elizabeth took a moderate approach to the divisive religious conflict in her country. However, Catholics did suffer religious persecution and some were executed under her reign. The Roman Catholic Church took a dim view of her actions, and in 1570, Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth.

English Roman Catholics wanted a Catholic monarch on the throne and many rebellions during Elizabeth's reign were attempts to make the country Catholic again. When support turned to her Catholic cousin Mary, Queen of Scotland, Elizabeth acted to defend her position, imprisoning her rival.

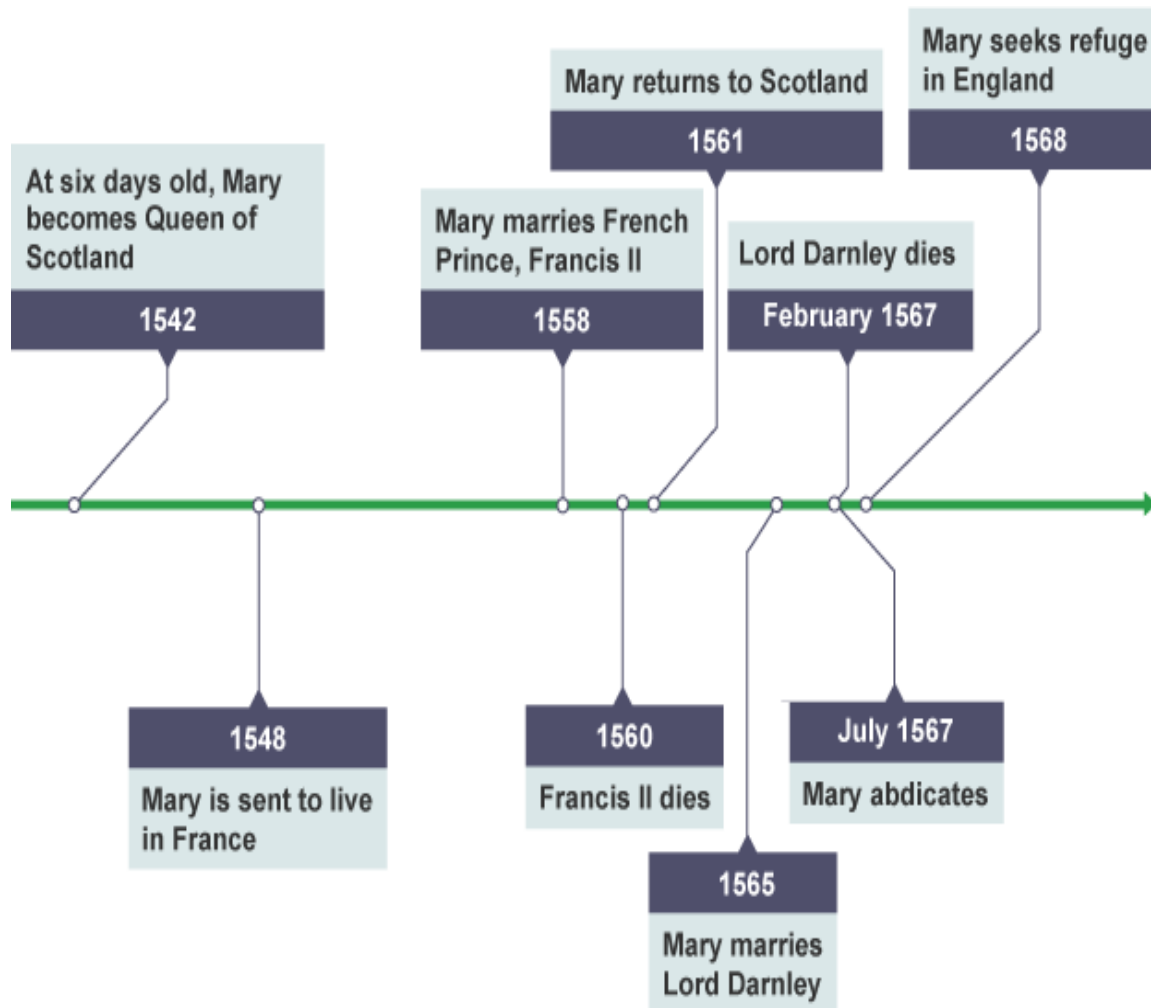
After keeping Mary imprisoned for 19 years, Elizabeth eventually had her cousin executed at Fotheringhay Castle on 8 February 1587.

With the assistance of her key advisor, **William Cecil**, **Elizabeth ended the war with France**. She was able to avoid clashing with the other superpower of the age, Spain, for much of her reign. Finally, in 1585, Elizabeth entered the fray to support the Protestant rebellion against Spain in the Netherlands. Spain then set its sights on England, but the English navy was able to defeat the infamous **Spanish Armada** in 1588. According to several reports, the weather proved to be a deciding factor in England's victory.

Troubled times marked the final years of Elizabeth's reign. The country suffered from failed crops, unemployment and inflation. There were riots over food shortages and rebellions in Ireland. Elizabeth faced many challenges to her authority, including from one of her favorite noblemen, **Robert Devereaux**. She had sent him to Ireland to crush the rebellion led by Hugh O'Neill. Instead, he returned to England and wanted to start his own rebellion. He was executed for treason in 1601.

Elizabeth I, Queen of England (1533-1603)

Mary, Queen of Scotland (1542-1587)



Mary and Elizabeth were first cousins once removed through King Henry VII of England. Two of Henry VII's eight children were Henry VIII Tudor and Margaret Tudor. Margaret went to Scotland and married James IV; their son, James V, had Mary with his second wife, Mary of Guise. Six

days after Mary was born, King James V died, rendering her Queen of Scotland.

Now, onto Elizabeth's side of the family. Henry VIII succeeded his father, Henry VII, on the throne. Famously, Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church in Rome so he could marry Anne Boleyn after his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, did not produce a male heir (they had a daughter, Mary, together). Henry VIII married Anne in a secret ceremony (then he went on to get married four more times). Anne Boleyn didn't produce a male heir, either: Elizabeth was the only child of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Henry VIII later had Anne beheaded. Henry VIII finally had his much-desired male heir, Edward, with his third wife, Jane Seymour.

Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn and had had a troubled childhood. Her mother had been executed when she was three years old and her father had married four more times. Her father had separated the church from Rome and Elizabeth was a Protestant.

When Elizabeth's sister Mary, a Catholic, came to the throne in 1553 she made England Catholic again and Elizabeth was put into the Tower of London so that she

could not lead a Protestant rebellion against Mary and take her place on the throne.

When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558 she made England Protestant. Consequently she had many Catholic enemies who wanted to see her replaced by Mary Queen of Scots. In Catholic eyes, after Mary Tudor's death, there were no more rightful heirs that descended from King Henry VIII. To find an heir, one had to go back to Henry VII's descendants — which made the Catholic Mary Stuart, not Elizabeth, the rightful successor to Mary Tudor's throne. The Catholics believed that because Elizabeth had been declared illegitimate in 1536, Mary's challenge to the throne was stronger than Elizabeth's. Mary refused to ratify the 1560 Treaty of Edinburgh, which would declare Elizabeth the uncontested monarch of England.

Mary was the daughter of James V of Scotland and Mary of Guise. She became Queen of Scotland when she was six days old after her father died at the Battle of Solway Moss. A marriage was arranged between Mary and Edward, only son of Henry VIII but was broken when the Scots decided they preferred an alliance with France.

Mary spent a happy childhood in France and in 1558 married Francis, heir to the French throne. They became king and queen of France in 1559. Sadly, Francis died in 1560 and Mary, not wanting to stay in France, returned to Scotland. During Mary's absence, Scotland had become a Protestant country. The Protestants did not want Mary, a Catholic and their official queen, to have any influence.

In 1565 Mary married her cousin and heir to the English throne, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley. The marriage was not a happy one. Darnley was jealous of Mary's close friendship with her secretary, David Rizzio and in March 1566 had him murdered in front of Mary who was six months pregnant with the future James I. Darnley made many enemies among the Scottish nobles and in 1567 his house was blown up. Darnley's body was found inside, he had been strangled.

Three months later Mary married the chief suspect, the Earl of Bothwell. The people of Scotland were outraged and turned against her. In 1567, Mary Stuart was deposed from the throne of Scotland. She fled to England in 1568, expecting her cousin Elizabeth to provide protection. Instead, Elizabeth put her on house arrest. She appealed to Elizabeth for help and support, but Elizabeth, suspicious that she was going to raise Catholic support and take the

throne of England, kept Mary a virtual prisoner for the next 19 years.

Nineteen years of captivity later, Mary was allegedly the focal point of various conspiracies to overthrow Elizabeth. In 1586 letters sent to Mary by a Catholic called Thomas Babington, were found. The letters revealed a plot to kill Elizabeth and replace her with Mary. Elizabeth had no choice but to sign Mary's death warrant. **Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded on February 8th 1587.**

In 1603, Mary's son, James VI, succeeded Elizabeth on the throne. He became king of England, Scotland, and Ireland. The kingdoms were finally united under one crown.

Elizabeth showed her devotion to her people. She gave one of her most famous speeches in 1601 to the Parliament. During what is referred to as her "Golden Speech," Elizabeth seemed to look back on her long reign. "Of myself I must say this, I was never any greedy, scraping grasper, nor a strait, fast-holding prince, nor yet a waster. My heart was never set on worldly goods but for my subjects' good." While the end of her reign had been difficult, Elizabeth has largely been remembered as being a queen who supported her people. Her lengthy time on the throne provided her subjects with

stability and consistency, and her sharp wits and clever mind helped navigate the nation through religious and political challenges.

Queen Elizabeth I died on March 24, 1603, at Richmond Palace in Surrey. It's believed that the cosmetic concoction Elizabeth used to develop her infamously pale look, called "The Spirits of Saturn" — made by mixing white lead and vinegar — may have impacted her health. Because Elizabeth I had no children, with her death came the end of the house of Tudor — a royal family that had ruled England since the late 1400s. The son of her former rival and cousin, Mary Stuart, queen of Scots, succeeded her on the throne as James I.

Literature in England

During the Elizabethan Era

The term, “Elizabethan Era” refers to the English history of Queen Elizabeth I’s reign (1558–1603). Historians often depict it as the golden age in English history and it’s been widely romanticized in books, movies, plays, and TV series. The Elizabethan age is considered to be a time of English renaissance that inspired national pride through classical ideals, international expansion, and naval triumph.

English literature has been developed in some period. Each period has its own characteristics which portrayed the condition of the age. The period of English literature is started from Old English until Modern English. English literature becomes glorious when Queen Elizabeth I ruled England. This age is known as Elizabethan period. In this period, there are many literary works such as poetry, drama which are produced by famous artists. The literary works produced in Elizabethan period is famous and the existence of the literary works can be seen nowadays. Elizabethan period is regarded as the greatest development of English literature. The literary works of Elizabethan period are very

famous and also can be found until now. Furthermore, some literary works, such as drama, are reproduced into movie. Therefore, this period is also known as the golden age of English Literature.

Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne in 1558 and ended in 1603. In the previous period, English literature has many rules which must be followed by the artists, so they cannot express their feeling freely because of the rules. In Elizabethan period, these rules have been left out. Therefore, the artists can express their feeling freely without being afraid to break the rules. As the result, there are so many literary works produced in this period. The artists seem to revive after binding by the rules. This period is also known as **Renaissance** period.

Renaissance derives from French which means rebirth. Renaissance was a transition from the middle ages to the modern world, and awakening from the darkness of the medieval period to the light and dawn of modern era. It was also a revolt against medieval dogma, against the authority of the church, against prejudice, routine, and stupidity.

Renaissance arose in Italy in 14th century and began to spread out to other countries in the next century.

Renaissance is characterized by the opening of human mind in Europe. In the middle age, people in Europe are bound by some rules made by church. The people must follow the rules and the traditions stated by the church. There is a punishment for everyone who does not want to follow the rules. Renaissance succeeds to replace the authority of church with the authority of knowledge.

The main characteristics of Renaissance people are individualistic. They have freedom to express their feeling and also have strong feeling to find something new. This English Renaissance saw the flowering of poetry, music and literature. The era is most famous for theatre, as William Shakespeare and many others composed plays that we still read and watch today.

When the Queen Elizabeth ruled England, the spirit of Renaissance became stronger in England. It gives an effect in literature. There are many literary works especially poetry and drama produced in this period. Therefore, this period is called **the golden age of English literature**.

Therefore, it can be concluded that renaissance really gives the effect in English literature. There are many literary works produced in this period because of the effect. Some

literary works produced in Elizabethan period can be seen in the following:

1. Poetry

The famous poet in this period is Edmund Spenser who was born in London in 1533. He finished his study in Cambridge in 1576. In 1594, he married Elizabeth Boyle and had four children. He died in 1599 at the age of 47.

Edmund Spenser is known as the greatest poet of the age. His famous poem is the **Faery Queen**. Spenser starts to write a poem which consists of twelve parts which every part tells about the adventure of a knight. Spenser can only finish six parts from twelve parts that he planned before. In this poetry, Spenser invents the new stanza called Spenserian Stanza which consists of 9 lines.

Spenser also writes another famous poem, namely **Shepherd's Calendar**. This poem consists of 12 lines which represents the months of a year. Shepherd's Calendar is a pastoral poem which tells about the life of shepherd.

2. Drama

From all literary works, drama is regarded as the greatest literary work in Elizabethan period. Drama not only teaches the morality, but also portrays the life of people. Every drama

tells a problem. Drama can be tragedy which is full of sadness or can be comedy which is full of happiness. The structure of a drama usually begins with exposition, complication or climax, and denouement. Exposition is a stage for introducing a problem. Complication or climax is a stage where the problem becomes complicated. Finally, denouement is problem solving. These stages are usually arranged in some acts and scenes.

Drama can be divided into two types, namely classical drama and romantic drama. Classical drama depends on classic Greek conventions but romantic drama has its own standards. The main features of classical drama are the observance of what are called the three unities and the employment of the device of the chorus. The three unities are as follows:

a. Unity of Time; it means that the time over which the plot is spread, and that occupied in its representation on the stage, should be the same or approximately the same.

b. Unity of Place; it means that the play must be confined to one place. The important events happened in other places usually will be informed by chorus.

c. Unity of Action; it means that the plot should either be purely tragic or purely comic but not a mixture of the two and no sub-plot.

Meanwhile, **the chorus** is the important element in classical drama which consists of a body of actors who make a report of what happened off the stage and to make such moral comments from time to time as would deepen the desired effect.

The dramatist in Elizabethan period is **Christopher Marlowe**. He makes four dramas which are known as the tragedy of *Marlowesque*. This tragedy tells about the tragic hero who is destroyed by his own power. The four dramas are Tamburlaine, Faustus, the Jew of Malta, and Edward II.

The famous Marlowe's drama is **Faustus** which tells about a scientist named Dr. Faustus who wants to master all science. After mastering theology, philosophy, medical science, and law, he wants to learn magic. He must sacrifice his soul to the evil if he wants to learn magic. So, he is ready to give his soul to evil on the condition that during 24 years he will be given an absolute power, unlimited pleasure, and science. After the time is up, the evil comes to drag him to hell.

Another famous dramatist in this period is William Shakespeare. He is the greatest dramatist in the world. Shakespeare was born in Stratford-on-Avon village in 1564. He studied in King Edward VI's Grammar School in Stratford. Then, he went to London. Between 1564 and 1613, he wrote at least 34 dramas. Shakespeare's drama can be divided into history, comedy, and tragedy.

A. Histories

1. King Henry VI part II 1590-1
2. King Henry VI part III 1590-1
3. King Henry VI part I 1591-2
4. Richard III 1592-3
5. Richard II 1595-6
6. King John 1596-7
7. King Henry IV part I 1597-8
8. King Henry IV part II 1597-8
9. King Henry V 1598-9
10. King Henry VIII 1612-13

B. Comedies

1. Comedy of Errors 1592-3
2. Taming of the Shrew 1593-4
3. Two Gentlemen of Verona 1594-5
4. Love's Labour's Lost 1594-5
5. Midsummer Night's Dream 1595-6
6. Merchant of Venice 1596-7
7. Much Ado About Nothing 1598-9

8. As You Like It 1599-1600
9. Twelfth Night 1599-1600
10. Merry Wives of Windsor 1600-1
11. Troilus and Cressida 1601-2
12. All's Well That Ends Well 1602-3
13. Measure for Measure 1604-5
14. Pericles, Prince of Tyre 1608-9
15. Cymbeline 1609-10
16. Winter's Tale 1610-11
17. Tempest 1611-12
18. Two Noble Kinsmen 1612-13

C. Tragedies

1. Titus Andronicus 1593-4
2. Romeo and Juliet 1594-5
3. Julius Caesar 1599-1600
4. Hamlet, Prince of Denmark 1600-1
5. Othello 1604-5
6. King Lear 1605-6
7. Macbeth 1605-6
8. Antony and Cleopatra 1606-7
9. Coriolanus 1607-8
10. Timon of Athens 1607-8

D. Poetry

1. A Lover's Complaint 1592
2. Venus and Adonis 1593
3. The Rape of Lucrece 1594
4. Sonnets 1595-1600

5. The Passionate Pilgrim 1599

6. The Phoenix and the Turtle 1600-1

There are some Shakespeare's works which are very famous in the world and some producers make them into a film. The works are as follows:

a. Julius Caesar

This is a tragic story. The central actor is Julius Caesar who is betrayed by his friends. He is stabbed by his own friends. Then, he makes a revenge for those who had stabbed him. At the end of the story, Julius Caesar shows up as a ghost and begins to kill his friends who have killed him. Finally, the ghost of Caesar can rest peacefully.

b. Romeo and Juliet

This is the famous story in the world. It tells about the love between Romeo and Juliet which is not approved by their families. Romeo's families forbid Romeo to fall in love with Juliet and Juliet's families also do the same thing. Their families try to separate Romeo and Juliet. Any attempt is tried to make them separate but their attempt is not successful because of the strength of their love. Finally, Romeo and Juliet make a plan to make their families accept the love between them. However, this plan is not successful. They both died because of their plan.

c. The Merchant of Venice

This story tells about a young man named Bassanio who wants to go to Belmont to propose a beautiful rich woman named Portia. Bassanio does not have much money to go to Belmont, so he asks his friend Antonio to give him money. Antonio is Bassanio's best friend. Antonio also does not have money, but he tries to get the money for Bassanio. Antonio comes to Shylock, a Jewish, to get a loan. Shylock gives Antonio his money on the condition that if Antonio cannot pay the loan on time, Antonio must give a pound of his flesh as a punishment.

Finally, Bassanio goes to Belmont and he succeeds to get his girl Portia. However, as long as in Belmont, the time of Antonio's loan is over, and Antonio cannot pay the loan. So, Antonio must do the punishment given by Shylock. Bassanio heard this news and comes back to Venice immediately. Bassanio's wife disguises as a lawyer. She asks Shylock to cut Antonio's flesh without dropping any single blood, because it is not written in the agreement. However, it is impossible to do that. Finally, Antonio is free from the punishment and the story ends happily.

d. Hamlet

Hamlet was a prince of Denmark. His father was a king of Denmark. His father was poisoned by his uncle who wanted to be a king of Denmark. His uncle also wanted to marry Hamlet's mother. The ghost of Hamlet's father came to Hamlet and told the secret and Hamlet knew that his uncle was the murderer. Hamlet wanted to make revenge. Hamlet pretended to be crazy to prove the secret of his uncle. However, because of his act, he lost a woman whom he loved very much. At the end of the story, hamlet's plan was successful. His uncle died and his father can rest peacefully.

Beside **Marlowe** and **Shakespeare**, there is also a famous dramatist named **Ben Jonson** (± 1573 – 1637). Although his works are not as much as Shakespeare, he has knowledge in classical culture and he is also a Poet Laureate (a poet appointed to the British Royal Household to write poems for special occasions). Ben Jonson is a comedy writer. He tries to use the concept of three unities in his works. The famous works of Ben Jonson are *Volpone* and *The Alchemist*. After reading Jonson's works, we can see that the characteristics in his works are not only imagination, but also the intellectual creation of the writer.

Conclusion

Literature in the true sense of term is that kind of writing which is charged with human interest, and characterized by permanence and coloring of imagination. It deals with the life of man and his destinies on earth. It expresses thoughts, feelings, emotions, and attitudes towards life, which are permanent and universal. Human life experiences can be portrayed in any form of literary works such as poetry, drama, novel, etc. Those literary works develop as well as the development of civilization because literary works are the creation of human being and human being always develops every time. This condition can be seen in English Literature.

From all period, Elizabethan period is regarded as the greatest development of English literature because it is characterized by abundance of production in branch of literature especially poetry and drama. The literary works of Elizabethan period are very famous and also can be found until now. In this period, there is a greatest dramatist in the world named William Shakespeare which has written some famous drama, namely Julius Caesar, The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet. Therefore, Elizabethan period is known as the golden age of English literature.

Facts and Features of the Elizabethan Era

Key Events of the Elizabethan Era

YEAR	EVENT
1599	Queen Elizabeth I was crowned the queen of England on the 13th of January.
1559	Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis between England and France.
1599	The Globe Theatre was built, and hosted its first show; Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare.
1560	Treaty of Edinburgh between England and Scotland.
1568	Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned.
1577	Francis Drake set sail around the entire world, and returned in 1580.
1586	The Babington Plot.
1587	Execution of Mary Queen of Scots occurs on the 8th of February.
1588	The Spanish Armada is defeated.
1601	The Elizabeth Poor Law is introduced.
1603	Queen Elizabeth I dies, and the Tudor dynasty is ended.

The Elizabethan Era ran between 1558 and 1603 under the reign of Elizabeth I. She was the last ruler of the Tudor period, and was followed by James I and the beginning of the Stuarts period. It was also an age of exploration and expansion abroad to establish colonies under English rule across the globe, including in The New World, to further England's empire. It was described as the 'golden age' of English History. But why was this period so successful? What was different about the Elizabethan Era compared to others? How significant was its impact on British History?

Considered the golden age of English history, the Elizabethan era saw a flowering of British culture in many different areas. Spanning the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, this period saw unprecedented peace and prosperity in England, especially when contrasted with the times just before and after it. In Elizabethan times, poetry, music, theater and literature dominated daily life at home while the explorations of the British abroad brought a steady stream of exotic news and influences to England's shores. In addition to an explosion of culture, the Elizabethan era contained many ***fascinating facts and features***.

• Elizabeth I

Elizabeth was born on September 7, 1533, the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. When she was three years old, **her mother** was accused of adultery and incest and was beheaded at the Tower of London. When the king died, **her brother** became King Edward VI who was soon replaced by **their sister**, Catholic Queen Mary I. She became the **queen** at the age of 25 governing England with relative stability and prosperity for 44 years, from 1558 until her death in 1603.

Queen Elizabeth was known as the '**Virgin Queen**, and had no heir across her forty-four year reign. **Her death** also marked the end of the house of Tudor — a royal family that had ruled England since the late 1400s.

Patronage: God had chosen the Monarch, and they had the ability to grant / remove power from those below. Those below were therefore indebted to Elizabeth I, and gave their loyalty to her.

• The Elizabethan Period Lasted 45 Years

The reign of Queen Elizabeth I stretched from 1558 to 1603, covering an especially monumental time in British history.

The church of England declared independence from the Catholic Church the same year the Elizabeth took power so the queen had absolute power over both church and state.

• Queen Elizabeth Loved Poetry

One of the queen's favorite art forms was poetry, and the written word flourished under her reign. Some poets even composed verses in dedication to Queen Elizabeth herself as a form of flattery, including the famous “The Faerie Queene” by Edmund Spenser.

• Theatre in the Elizabethan Era

The entertainment industry boomed during the Elizabethan Era, with Theatre being at the forefront of performative arts. The first playhouse was built in 1576 by actor James Burbage, called 'The Theatre'. They were open air theatres, and relied on the 'fourth wall' of the audience for interaction.

There were only male actors, with younger men playing the female parts, and the sets were utterly blank of scenery. The actor's clothes were used to indicate the characters and their social status.

Theatre was extremely popular and only was stopped due to the Black Plague in the 1590s. It was reintroduced shortly after the plague ended.

• **Shakespeare in the Elizabethan Era**

William Shakespeare is recognized as one of the most talented writers in all of English History. He began his career as a playwright somewhere between 1585 and 1592. He produced most of his most famous works between 1589 and 1613. He worked with and was part-owner of the theatre company The Lord Chamberlain's Men, and became a part owner of the Globe Theatre. He was highly successful, and his works are still considered today to be some of the greatest of all time.

Queen Elizabeth poured money into London's arts scene, building the city's first theaters and sponsoring productions. Shakespeare himself grew up and benefited from this atmosphere and even published his first play, "Henry IV," near the end of her reign.

• **Elizabethan Culture and the Arts**

Music in the Elizabethan Era also shifted in popularity from sacred to secular music and the rise of instrumental

music. The queen herself loved dancing, music, and playing the lute. Well-known composers of this time were William Byrd, John Bull, John Dowland, Robert Johnson, John Taverner, etc.

The painting was dominated by portraiture; in the form of miniatures, while elaborate textiles and embroidery dominated the decorative arts, and sculptures were usually found within the confines of tombs and architectural decoration. The era's prosperity saw the rise of beautiful architecture that remains to this day.

• **Elizabethan Pastimes**

Sports and leisure: The rich people in the Elizabethan era enjoyed tennis, fencing, jousting, and hunting through falconry and small games. Others preferred bear and bull-baiting, dog fighting, and cockfighting.

Feasts and festivals: such as May Day, Midsummer, The Lord Mayor's Show, Halloween, All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, and Accession Day.

• Elizabethan Religion

Elizabeth I took over and was able to introduce an Anglican church. Although previously declaring herself as a Catholic under Mary's reign, she was a Protestant and wanted to reintroduce the Church to the nation. She was balanced and allowed those outside the Church to exist as long as they were peaceful. She wanted the Church to be accepted and have as wide of a reach as possible. This allowed Elizabeth to refrain from a large amount of opposition.

When Elizabeth ruled England, she immediately pronounced the immediate removal of the Catholic religion. Protestantism was reintroduced under her. During her reign, Elizabeth I established **Protestantism** in England; leading to the persecution of the Roman Catholics and the Pope excommunicated the queen.

The queen's religious policies, such as the Act of Supremacy and the Act of Uniformity, consolidated the power of the church under her and regularized the practice of the faith.

There were religious acts brought in at the start of Elizabeth's reign that defined her religious outlook:

Year:	Act:	Explanation:
1558	Act of Supremacy	Declared Elizabeth the Supreme Governor of the Church of England with the Oath of Supremacy. Anyone in public or church office was required to take the Oath or be charged with Treason.
1558	Act of Uniformity	Restored the 1552 English Prayer Book but allowed for two interpretations of Communion; Protestant and Catholic.
1563 & 1571	The 39 Articles	Based on the 43 Articles (1553), and defined the Church in its entirety. Very loose and open to interpretation, which fitted with Elizabeth's church.

• England Became the Supreme Naval Power of the World

She was able to avoid clashing with the superpower of the age, Spain, but eventually won against the Spanish during the infamous Spanish Armada in 1588. England had a strong military presence at the time, and was known as the 'rulers of the seas' after defeating the Spanish Armada. This accounts for the explosive growth in prosperity during the Elizabethan period since the British navy controlled the world's naval trade, bringing vast material wealth to the area.

- **Elizabethan Era Consumers Did Not Use Paper Money**

In Elizabethan England money existed as coins comprised of alloys of silver and gold, and the fineness, or exact weight of the silver or gold, of the coin determined its value. Pounds, made up of 240 pennies, were the common monetary standard.

- **Society in the Elizabethan Era**

The Elizabethan Era was very different depending on your social status. The nobility had a large amount of power and influence, and were able to rise the ranks by providing loyalty to the Queen. Titles were granted to those with a significant amount of Land, and the rich went into the Parliament. Those who succeeded and benefited throughout the Elizabethan Court came from the rich classes.

The Nobility only made up a tiny proportion of the population at the time. The lower classes were generally uneducated and poor and struggled even through the 'Golden Age' of England. Due to the belief that God granted you everything, there was no sympathy for the poor. God

had decided that you deserved that position, and you had to accept that.

Around ninety-five percent of people lived in rural areas in the middle ages, but urbanization did increase throughout this period. Due to the atrocity of the Plague, the overall population massively decreased, but there were further opportunities emerging. People were leaving their villages and heading for cities. There was an increase in trade, leading to merchants becoming common. The Elizabethan Era saw opportunities that had not been seen before, and people were able to begin to rise up.

• **Elizabethan Society was Class-Based**

In Elizabethan times, society divided into a strict social order that included six classes: the monarchy (or the Queen herself), the nobility, the gentry, the merchant class, the yeoman class (tradesmen) and laborers. Elizabethan laws even dictated what kind and color of clothes each class could wear so that they could be immediately identified.

• Elizabethan Fashion

In the Elizabethan Era, clothing was a sign of status. Fashion strongly reflected your class situation. Each class would have their own colors and style of clothes available to wear.

It dictated wealth and social status in the Elizabethan Class system. Elizabethan Sumptuary Statutes prohibit 'excess of apparel' to citizens who do not belong to a certain social hierarchy. For example, only earls could wear cloth of gold, or the eldest children have clothing privileges.

• Elizabethan Family Life

The people of Elizabethan times believed that families were to become the role models of the society. Families in England were regarded important in its role to society. It was a time of family rules based from Bible sections indicating the responsibility of the parents to raise their children in a proper manner.

Love was not considered a reason to marry, but did recognize that love may come during married life. Arranged marriages were mostly between neighbors and friends

except for noble classes. Lower social classes were freer to make their own choice in marriage matters.

Wives were regarded as “property” of their husbands and the women were expected to get married and be dependent on the male population all of their life. Men were expected to ask a woman her hand in marriage and marriage was a requirement to be able to take legal command of the household, to be able to work in a public office and to get involved in any position with civic duties. Children were also acknowledged as “property” of their parents, and were commanded to respect them.

Family ties were very close knit and well respected and it was regarded that house rules were followed with proper obedience. The Elizabethans had a high regard for family in the community. They followed a deep respect for the importance of hierarchy. Their customary rulings for the behavior of children were taken from Bible passages, which explained the duty of parents in properly raising their children and likewise explaining the responsibility of children to respect and obey their elders. The life expectancy reached until 42 years old and the richer classes lived years longer than that.

• Elizabethan Health and Diet

The Elizabethan population had poor public sanitation. There were no sewers or drains and trash was thrown anywhere. Rodents and other pests thrived causing diseases such as smallpox, measles, malaria, typhus, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and chickenpox.

Main cities suffered overpopulation as well so poverty and homelessness were quite common. The wealth gap was wide so only the richer families could send children to school, have better homes to live in, and have proper jobs.

• Nobody Drank Water in Elizabethan England

Except for country people, most British people in the Elizabethan era drank ale, beer, cider or wine instead of water. Water was contaminated and not safe to drink, especially in London; the alcohol content of alcoholic beverages helped to kill germs and bacteria.

Water was not clean during the Elizabethan Era, and thus people drank ale and wine. The Upper Classes drank both and the Lower Classes just drank ale. Honey was used to make a sweet alcoholic drink called mead which was

drunk by all classes. Wine was imported, although there were a few fruit wines produced in England. Most of the wines were sweet and rather heavy. They probably had to be strained before they could be drunk, and could still have solid matter floating in them. “Apple-wine”, a form of cider was also produced during the Elizabethan era. Ales were brewed with malt and water and were relatively flat, while beer contained hops of a bitter flavor. It was estimated that a person would consume about a gallon a day of weak low alcohol drinks during the Elizabethan era.

• **Cuisine Exploded During the Elizabethan Period**

The exploration of the New World and the South Pacific brought a slew of culinary treats into the kitchens and restaurants of England. Tomatoes, chili peppers, chocolate, cinnamon and avocados are just some of the hundreds of flavorful items that the British tasted for the first time during the Elizabethan era.

• **Elizabethan Diet**

Elizabethan food and drink did not constitute a good balanced diet. The rich ate few fresh vegetables and little fresh fruit. Fruit was usually served in pies or preserved in

honey. Vegetables and fresh fruit were eaten by the poor, usually in some form of stew, soup or porridge. Food items which came from the ground and dairy products were considered only fit for the poor.

The diet of the poor and Lower Classes was better than those of the Nobles and Upper Class. Because of the snobbery of eating fresh vegetables, fruits and dairy products the Upper Classes suffered from lack of Vitamin C, calcium and fiber in their diet. This led to an assortment of health problems for those running the country. Bad teeth, skin diseases, scurvy, and rickets were just a few health problems the rich encountered. Sugar, only affordable to the rich was known to blacken teeth. It became fashionable to have your teeth blackened by applying cosmetics to get this effect if enough quantities of sugar were not available to you.

Religion played an important part in the diet of the Elizabethan people. There were certain times the eating of meat was banned. Certain religious observances banned the eating of meat on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Meat was also banned during the religious seasons of Lent and Advent and on the eve of many religious holidays. Fasting

and abstaining from meat was observed for over half the days of the year.

• **Economic And Social Class Availability Of Food**

Social class played a very important role in Elizabethan England in almost every aspect of life. Food and drink were no exception to this rule; it varied according to status and wealth. The food available to the Upper Class differed considerable to the food available to the lower class. The Upper Class also enjoyed various spices imported from abroad.

The availability of food during the Elizabethan Era was based on economic and social class standing. How many times a day you ate and what you ate with depended on your social class. Upper classes and nobility would eat three meals a day using glass, delft from Holland and silverware. China ware was unknown at this time. Lower classes would eat two to three meals a day using wooden or horn dishes and pewter.

Poor harvests which occurred during the 1590's, had a bad effect on the economy and led to starvation in some areas. The booming wool trade changed the face of

agriculture and the land enclosures led to an increase of the number of people living in poverty and the introduction of the 1601 Poor Law.

Presentation of food was also important during the Elizabethan era especially for the nobility. It was important that their feasts and banquets had a great visual effect. Colors, different serving methods, and various “props” also used to enhance the presentation of a meal. Peacocks were not raised just for the meat of the poultry but also for its feathers. The feathers were used to decorate the foods that were served during the banquets. Any imported foods were expensive and out of the reach of Lower classes and used primarily by the monarch and nobility classes.

Meat was the primary food consumed by the wealthy and privileged class. It was the most popular food and usually sold a large livestock markets. The rich of Elizabethan England ate well. Meats such as lamb, beef, mutton, pork, goat, bacon, veal, rabbit, and fowl such as peacocks, swans, herons, and goose were served. Chicken were believed to be introduced to England by the Romans. Only Lords and Nobles were allowed to hunt deer, boar, hares and rabbits. They also ate different kinds of freshwater and ocean fish such as herring, salmon, eel, whiting, cod, trout and pike.

Shell fish including crab, oysters, mussels and cockles were also featured in Elizabethan recipes.

Meat, fishes and poultry were cooked in varied ways as well. Some of the more common methods were spit, roasting, baking, boiling, smoking, salting and frying. Smoking of the meat was very popular and was intended to preserve the food. The people during this era mostly preferred cooking that done over an open flame. Meat was cooked on a spit which was sometimes turned by a dog running on a circular treadmill attached to the end of the spit. Other useful cooking utensils for cooking over an open flame were pots, pans, skillets and cauldrons. Food preparation was made possible with the use of ladles, knives, meat forks, and scissors. In the Upper Classes, the kitchens were in large houses or castles some distance from the main house and food was generally served cold.

Improved agriculture techniques and inventions gave way to an increase in herbs, vegetables, and fruits such as turnips, parsnips, carrots, onions, leeks, garlic and radishes, apples, pears, plums, cherries and woodland strawberries. It was common to prepare these by roasting or boiling and serving with bread.

Sugar, honey, and marzipan became popular during this era as the Tudors were very fond of desserts. Sugar was imported to England, having been obtained from sugar cane. They enjoyed pastries, tarts, cakes, cream, custard, and crystallized fruit and syrup. On special occasions such as banquets, all kinds of specialties would be made out of sugar and marzipan such as animals, birds, fruits or baskets.

Food items were generally purchased from small markets and from fairs. In larger cities there were specific markets which sold fish, dairy products, fruits and vegetables. The term “vegetable” was rarely used to describe what we call vegetables today. Instead the term “herb” was used for all green plants, roots, and herbs. Food items that came from the ground were only good enough for the lower classes. Only vegetables such as rape, onions, garlic and leeks were set on a Noble’s table.

Food began changing over the course of the Tudor period. More and more foods were being introduced into society as they were discovered in the New World. Tomatoes or “love apples” from Mexico, Turkey from Central America, Kidney Beans from Peru and of course the famous potatoes brought to England by Sir Walter Raleigh. Chili

peppers, including red peppers, cayenne, and paprika were also imported from the New World. One of the most sought after spices was pepper. The discovery of Chili peppers in the New World was very encouraging to the Elizabethan explorers. Vanilla, pineapples, lima beans, peanuts, tapioca, pumpkins, corn, avocado, pecans, cashews, squash, coffee, maize, chocolate and tea were also introduced during the Elizabethan era.

The Early Crusaders had brought back to England the element of eastern cooking with spices such as pepper, cinnamon, mace, ginger, cloves, raisins, saffron and sugar. These Medieval recipes were passed down to Elizabethan recipes. Spices were welcomed in the preparation of a meal as their distinctive flavors disguised the strong and dominate taste of salt which was used to preserve the meat. Spices were very expensive and used in these cooking recipes for the Upper Class. It became a matter of both social fashion and prestige and a sign of wealth and high social status. The Oriental Spice Trade was very important and the most profitable in European trade. The drive for profit through new spices as well as the quest for gold and silver was what encouraged the explorations of Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh.

• Elizabethan Banquet & Feast

The Elizabethan Royalty, Nobility and Upper Classes were known throughout the country for their lavish banquets and feasts. New foods and spices arriving daily from the New World inspired new recipes using the finest foods and ingredients. The Royal banquets of the Elizabethan Era were the most magnificent. The Tudor Dynasty, especially the father of Queen Elizabeth, King Henry VIII was always in competition with the French King.

Cooks employed by Nobles during the Elizabethan era would endeavor to provide Queen Elizabeth with a feast or banquet of a similar standard and content set by the high standards set by the French.

An example of an Elizabethan Banquet is outlined:

The Dining Table

- On the dining table was placed a center piece representing a green lawn surrounded by large peacock feathers and green branches. On the branches are tied violets and other sweet smelling flowers.
- In the middle of this lawn, a fortress was placed covered in silver. The fortress is hollow and formed into a sort of cage, in which several live birds were shut up with their feet and tufts gilt.
- On the tower of the fortress, which was also gilt, there were three banners placed, one bearing the coat of arms of the host, and the other banners in the coat of arms of the two other guests, in whose honor the feast was given.

The First Course

- The first course consists of a civet of hare, a quarter of a stag which has been soaked in salt overnight, a stuffed chicken and a lion of veal. The stuffed chicken and veal were covered with a German sauce, with gilt sugar plums and pomegranate seeds.
- At each end, outside of the green lawn, was an enormous pie, surmounted with smaller pies, which formed a crown. The crust of the large one was silvered all around and gilt at the top. It contained a whole roe deer, a gosling, three capons, six chickens, ten pigeons, and one young rabbit.
- To serve as seasoning or stuffing, a minced lion of veal, two pounds of fat, and twenty six hard boiled eggs, covered with saffron and flavoured with cloves.

The Second Course

- There was a roe deer, a pig, a sturgeon cooked in parsley and vinegar, and covered with powdered ginger; a kid (baby goat), two goslings, twelve chickens, twelve pigeons, six young rabbits, two herons, a leveret, a fat capon stuffed, four chickens covered with yolks of eggs and sprinkled with powder de Duc (spice)

The Third Course

- Some wafers (darioles), and stars; a jelly, part white and part red, representing the crest of the main guests.

The Fourth Course

- Cream with Duc powder, covered with fennel seeds preserved in sugar; a white cream, cheese in slices, and strawberries; and lastly, plums stewed in rose water.

The Fifth Course

- Beside these four courses, there will be a fifth, entirely of the prepared wines, then in vogues, and of preserves. These consisted of fruits and various sweet pastries. The pastries represented stags and swans, to the necks of which were suspended the coat of arms of the host.

• Elizabethan Government

→ The Monarchy

The monarch of England during the Elizabethan era was Queen Elizabeth I. The government of Elizabethan England was centralized, well organized and very efficient. It was very much a personal monarch with ministers. Queen Elizabeth's personality determined the style, intensity and efficiency. She ruled and led her people for 45 years, and produced great developments and advancements for England.

During her time, monarchs were rulers and not just figureheads. She was the ultimate decider and was able to determine issues of her nation's religion, when Parliament would sit and what it would discuss, when and if her country would go to war, matters of education, welfare of her citizens, what food they would eat and what clothes they could wear.

She is considered to be England's best monarch. She was a wise and just Queen and chose the right advisers and never let herself get dominated by these advisers. She dealt with the stubbornly resistant members of Parliament without

being tyrannous, and was cleaver at compromising in both religious and political matters. Queen Elizabeth I was the sixth and last of the Tudor dynasty.

The Divine Rights of Kings gave the monarch the image of being a Demigod. The theory of the Divine Right of Kings aimed at instilling obedience by explaining why all social ranks were religiously and morally obliged to obey their government. The strong authority made going against the monarch a sin. By not obeying the queen, you could be accused of treason and sentenced to death. The queen had the power to send one to prison and order execution. Even with all of this power, the monarch was not above the law, and she could also be brought before the court.

All laws required the queens consent in order to be passed. The queen could not write and pass laws herself. She had to draw up a Bill and put it forward to Parliament for consideration and approval. However, the queen could make Royal Proclamations without Parliament's consent.

→ The Privy Council

The Privy Council was Queen Elizabeth's group of advisers and its main purpose was to give numerous different opinions to the queen and she decided on the

issue at hand. Too often the advice was often ignored and the Council had to still carry out the queen's wishes. The Council took care of routine administration which involved matters of religion, military, the queen's security, economics, and the welfare of the citizens.

The Council dealt with matters of national and individual interest, issued proclamations in the queen's name and supervised law and enforcement. The Council could not make any decisions, they could only advise. Queen Elizabeth believed the more members of the Council, the more opinions and problems. She dropped the number of Council members from 50 to 19 and eventually to 13. At the beginning of her reign, the Council met three times a week, by the end her reign, they met almost every day.

The Secretary of State, Sir William Cecil led the Council. He was wise, cautious, and cooperative with Queen Elizabeth and trusted by all others. He was also the queen's personal secretary and chief adviser until his death. He had the reputation of one of the greatest English statesmen. His successor, Sir Francis Walsingham, was the mastermind of the English spy network which defended

Queen Elizabeth against foreign powers and plots. He was succeeded by Sir Robert Cecil.

→ Parliament

A group of representatives called Parliament was divided into two sections. The House of Lords or the Upper House consisted of bishops and aristocrats. The House of Commons or the Lower House consisted of common people. There were no political parties or a Prime Minister associated with Parliament during the Elizabethan era.

The main function of Parliament at this time in history was to deal with financial matters such as taxation and granting the queen money. The monarch paid for daily administration with ordinary revenues from customs, feudal dues and sales of land. Parliament covered extraordinary expenditures such as war with taxation. If taxation did not supply enough funds for military expenditures, more land was sold along with illegal scheming.

Parliament was also used for passing laws. During Queen Elizabeth's reign, 438 public and private laws were passed. Public laws applied to everyone, whereas, private laws only applied to certain people. Parliament could undo a

law if both houses agreed three times and the queen was also in agreement. The queen could make laws by Royal Proclamation without Parliament's consent. Parliament could also advise the queen, but she was never interested in their advice.

Elections only occurred for the members of the House of Commons. These members were supported by the important local people from their locale. The members of the House of Commons only had voting power if they were male and received a certain annual income. The queen decided when Parliament would be called to session. Queen Elizabeth I only called Parliament to session 10 times during her reign.

→ Local Governments

Local governments were important to the citizens of Elizabethan England. Every county had royal representatives such as Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, and Lords Lieutenant. They insured that the queen's command and laws were enforced and obeyed.

Regional governments were responsible for overseeing parts of England that the Privy Council could not supervise. The Council of the North, which resided in York, was

responsible for Northern England, and the Council of the Marches, which resided in Ludlow, was responsible for Wales and some border counties.

Manors were run by nobility and gentry. Owning land was what made one powerful, and those with land were wealthy and masters of the tenants on his land, thus they had had a major influence. It was a position of responsibility as they were meant to aid the monarchy by governing their own land. Grievances were taken to the Lord of the manor and the tenants were loyal to him. His political views were greatly impacted on his tenants as well. Each city and town had its own government, head by a mayor.

→ Courts

The judicial system of Elizabethan England was made up of several courts. The most important courts were the Great Sessions Courts or the Assizes, which was famous for its power to inflict harsh punishment, and the Quarter Sessions Courts which dealt with most crimes. The Great Sessions Courts were held twice a year in each county, and the Quarter Sessions Courts were held four times a year.

Petty Sessions Courts, Manor Courts, and town courts handled unimportant crimes. Civil cases were dealt by various courts depending on the person's monetary status. The Star Chamber, one of the highest profile courts consisting of mostly Privy Counselors tried the wealthy. The Court of Chancery judged criminal cases, and the Exchequer of Pleas handled the financial suits. The Court of Requests dealt with "poor man's causes, and the Church Courts handled religious and moral cases. Those who committed high treason and other serious crimes received the death sentence which was often handed down by the queen. Those guilty of lesser crimes were sent to prison or to the stocks.

• Elizabethan Societal Classes

→ The Monarch

The era called the Elizabethan England was a time of many changes and developments and was also considered as the Golden Age in English history. This era was led by Queen Elizabeth I, the sixth and last ruler of Tudor. Queen Elizabeth I was considered by many to be England's best monarch. She was wise and a just Queen and chose the right advisers and was not dominated by them. She ruled

the Elizabethan era for 45 years and during this time was the height of the English Renaissance and the time of the development of English poetry and literature.

→ **Nobility**

Nobility and knights were still at the top of the social ladder. These men were rich and powerful, and they have large households. The real growth in society was in the merchant class. Within the nobility class there was a distinction between old families and new. Most of the old families were Catholic, and the new families were Protestant.

At the head of each noble family is a duke, a baron or an earl. This class is the lords and ladies of the land. A person becomes a member of nobility by birth, or by a grant from the queen or king. Noble titles were hereditary, passing from father to oldest son. It took a crime such as treason for a nobleman to lose his title.

Many nobles died during the War of the Roses, a series of civil wars fought during the 15th century. The Tudor monarchy, Elizabeth rarely appointed new nobles to replace those who died. They viewed the nobility class as a threat to their power and preferred to keep the number of them small.

Being a member of the nobility class often brought debt rather than profit. The expectations of the class and the nonpaying honorific offices could bring terrible financial burdens. Most of Queen Elizabeth's council came from the noble families. They were expected to serve in an office, such as being an ambassador to a foreign country, at their own expense of course.

→ **Gentry**

The Gentry class included knights, squires, gentlemen, and gentlewomen who did not work with their hands for a living. Their numbers grew during Queen Elizabeth's reign and became the most important social class in England. Wealth was the key to becoming a part of the gentry class. This class was made of people not born of noble birth who by acquiring large amounts of property became wealthy landowners. The rise of the gentry was the dominant feature of Elizabethan society.

The gentry were the solid citizens of Elizabethan England. Francis Drake, the famous explorer and Sir Walter Raleigh, who led the way to the English colonization of America were of the gentry class. Two of the queen's chief ministers, Burgley and Walsingham were products of the gentry. Francis Bacon, the great essayer and philosopher

also came from this class. The gentry were the backbone of Elizabethan England. They went to Parliament and served as justices of the Peace. They combined the wealth of the nobility with the energy of the peasants from whom they had sprung.

→ Merchant

The Tudor era saw the rise of modern commerce with cloth and weaving leading the way. The prosperous merchant class emerged from the ashes of the Wars of the Roses. The prosperity of the wool trade led to a surge in building and the importance cannot be overstated. Shipping products from England to various ports in Europe and to the New World also became a profitable business for the merchants. Prices for everyday food and household items that came from other countries increased as the merchants gained a monopoly on the sales of all goods under the pretense it would benefit the country where it really benefited the pocket of the merchants.

→ Yeomanry

This was the “middling” class who saved enough to live comfortably but who at any moment, through illness or bad luck be plunged into poverty. This class included the

farmers, tradesmen and craft workers. They took their religion very seriously and could read and write. This class of people was prosperous and sometimes their wealth could exceed those of the gentry, but the difference was how they spent their wealth. They content to live more simply, using their wealth to improve their land and expand it.

→ Laborers

The last class of Elizabethan England was the day laborers, poor husbandmen, and some retailers who did not own their own land. Artisans, shoemakers, carpenters, brick masons and all those who worked with their hands belonged to this class of society. In this class we can also put our great swarms of idle serving-men and beggars. Under Queen Elizabeth I, the government undertook the job of assisting the laborers class and the result was the famous Elizabethan Poor Laws which resulted in one of the world's first government sponsored welfare programs. This era was generally peaceful as the battles between the Protestants and the Catholics and those between the Parliament and the Monarchy had subsided.

• Astrology in the Elizabethan Era

People in the Elizabethan Era had strong beliefs in Astrology and Star Signs. The stars were looked at in an attempt to predict a person's future and help them in the present. An example of this would be farmers looking to astrologers for advice on weather patterns such as droughts. There were a number of famous astrologers, but the most famous was Dr John Dee, a court astronomer and personal advisor to Elizabeth I.

• Ghosts Were Common in the Elizabethan Era

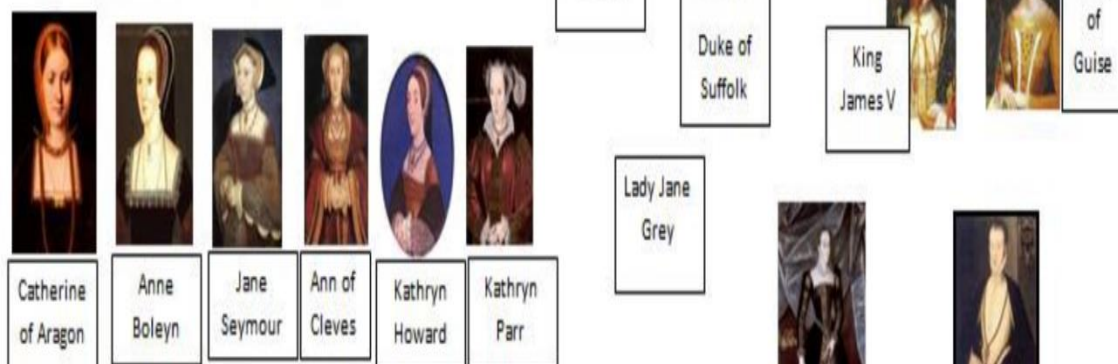
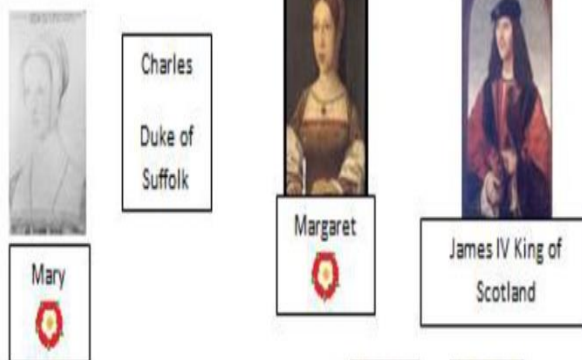
Superstitions ran high in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and chief among them was the belief in ghosts and haunted houses. Castles were an especially common haunt for ghosts; in fact, the ghost of Queen Elizabeth herself has been reported to haunt Windsor Castle to this day.

• Witch Hysteria Occurred in Elizabethan England

Like the rest of Europe at the time, England went through a phase of witch hysteria during the Elizabethan era. In England, however, witches found guilty of murder were publicly hanged, not burned at the stake like in France.

***These Images depict different
aspects of life in England
during the Elizabethan Era.***

***They are inserted for further
illustration.***



Problems facing Elizabeth at the start of her reign.

- Elizabeth became **Queen** of England and Wales at the age of 25 in November **1558**
- Elizabeth faced the problem of **religion** as the country was **divided** between both **Protestant** and **Catholic**.
- Elizabeth had to deal with the **prejudiced ideas** of the **role and limitations of women** which **undermined her authority**.
- **Economic difficulties** included the decline of the cloth industry, inflation and unemployment, which in turn led to greater poverty and vagrancy. **Rich – Poor divide**.
- **Foreign and maritime** affairs. Threats from other countries. Increasing England's power and prosperity.

Coronation

The Coronation and Popularity of Elizabeth 1



- Took place on 15th January **1559** in London.
- Processions – barge on Thames.
- Ceremony – Westminster Abbey.
- Banquet for nobles and foreign visitors.
- Celebrations lasted 10 days
- Cost approx. £16,000
- Encouraged the '**Gloriana**' myth – pure & powerful! A 'Glorious' woman leading the country.

Elizabeth tried to win popular support by...

Summer tour
Royal Progresses

Queen +
advisers
officials
servants
guards



Stayed with
nobles for free!

Never went to
Wales, North or
SW England.

Royal
Portraits



The Armada Portrait
c.1588

This was only way
to see the Queen!

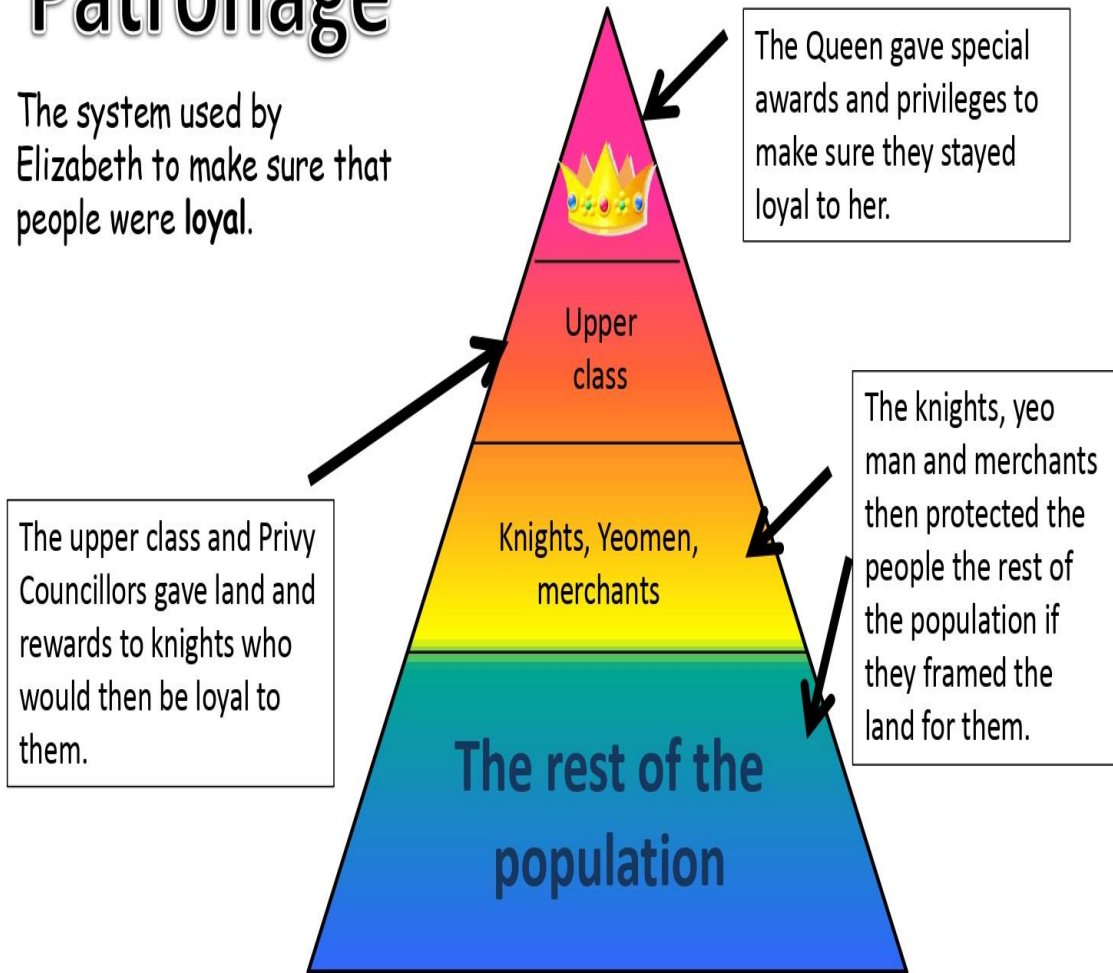
Shows her:-

- Legitimate ruler
- Pure
- Successful
- Wise
- Wealthy
- Strong
- Powerful
- Ageless

6

Patronage

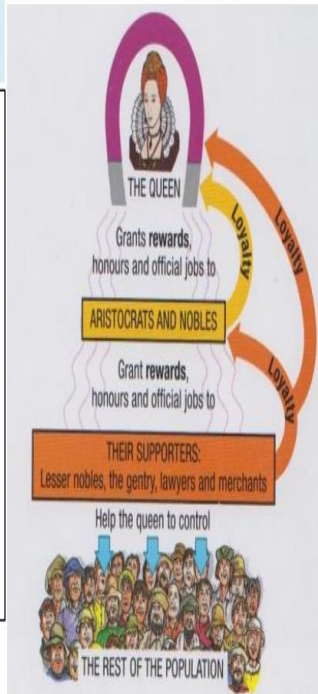
The system used by Elizabeth to make sure that people were loyal.



What was the role and main features of...

The Royal Court

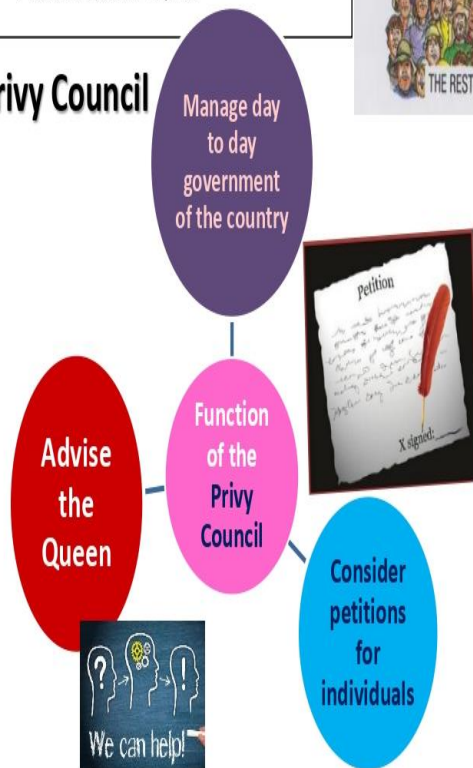
- Centre of political power
- Whitehall Palace, London
- Advisers, officials, servants
- Nobles went to court to try to get her patronage. She would keep them loyal by granting important positions of power in government.
- Noble were rivals



Parliament

- A lot less powerful than today.
- Met when called by monarch.
- Elizabeth called Parliament to help pass Acts of Parliament and set taxes.
- Queen appointed speaker who chose topics for discussion.
- Monarch could close Parliament whenever.
- Not allowed to discuss personal affairs (marriage), religion or foreign policy. 1586 Anthony Cope tried to push changes to prayer book Elizabeth had him imprisoned
- Between 1558 and 1603 Parliament met 13 times - 9 dissolved; 4 prorogued.

Privy Council



Local Government

- **Justices of the Peace.** Often landowners. Approx. 40 in each county. Like a 'Police force'
- Part time & unpaid.
- Punish robbers, thieves and idle vagabonds,
- Deal with complaints, violence and unlawful behaviour.
- Implement laws set by Parliament
- Each county had a **Sheriff**
- Helped by **Constables** and **Night-Watchmen.**



7



The Privy Council and Councillors



Sir William Cecil, Lord Burghley (1520 -98)

Appointed: 1558. Served Elizabeth for over 40 years as Secretary of State and later Lord Treasurer.



Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester (1533 -88)

Appointed: 1562. Very close friends with Elizabeth. There were rumours that he and Elizabeth were having an affair. Commander of the army to the Netherlands.



Sir Christopher Hatton (1540 -91)

Appointed: 1577. Responsible for the Royal progresses. Lord Chancellor in 1587



Sir Francis Walsingham (1532 -90)

Appointed: 1573. Led Elizabeth's secret service – controlled a network of spies trying to uncover plots against Elizabeth.



Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex

(1567 -1601) Appointed: 1593
In charge of organising attacks against Spain. Executed in 1601 for his part in plot against Queen's councillors.



Robert Cecil (1563 -1612) son of William Cecil.

Appointed: 1591
Took over as spymaster after Walsingham died.



Queen

I will call Parliament to help pass laws -Acts of Parliament, agree to collecting new taxes and advise and support me. We will NOT discuss my personal affairs, religion or foreign policy. I will appoint the Speaker of the House of Commons.



Parliament

V.

We believe that we have the right to discuss our own ideas for new laws.

We also believe that when Parliament is in session we cannot be arrested!

We believe that we have the right to discuss whatever we want, especially if we have concerns about how England is being governed.

We believe in FREEDOM OF SPEECH!



Richard Onslow – Speaker of the House of Commons at times during Elizabeth’s reign. I am expected to choose the topics that Parliament will discuss and which MPs will be involved in the discussion



Freedom of Speech

Why did Elizabeth and Parliament clash so much?

- Elizabeth could call and dismiss Parliament when she wanted.
- Parliament wanted to discuss things that she believed they had no right to discuss. E.G: religion, marriage and succession
- Parliament tried to put pressure on her by refusing to grant laws about taxation

Who has
the power?



Freedom of Speech

1559 MPs asked Elizabeth to marry, she gave a vague reply and then closed Parliament

1576 MP Peter Wentworth (a Puritan) complained that MPs were not being allowed to discuss their concerns. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London and Parliament was dismissed.

1586-87 Puritan MP, Anthony Cope tried to introduce a Bill to get rid of Bishops and introduce a new Prayer book – Elizabeth sent him to the Tower. Peter Wentworth defended freedom of speech – he was sent to the Tower. Puritan John Throckmorton criticised the war against France – TOWER! Elizabeth closed Parliament!

1601 MPs refused to grant taxes for war against Spain and sending an army to Ireland unless Elizabeth cancels monopolies. Elizabeth agrees to cancel some, flatters Parliament in a long 'Golden Speech' then closes Parliament.

12

How successful was the Government of Elizabeth I?

Yes – she was
successful!

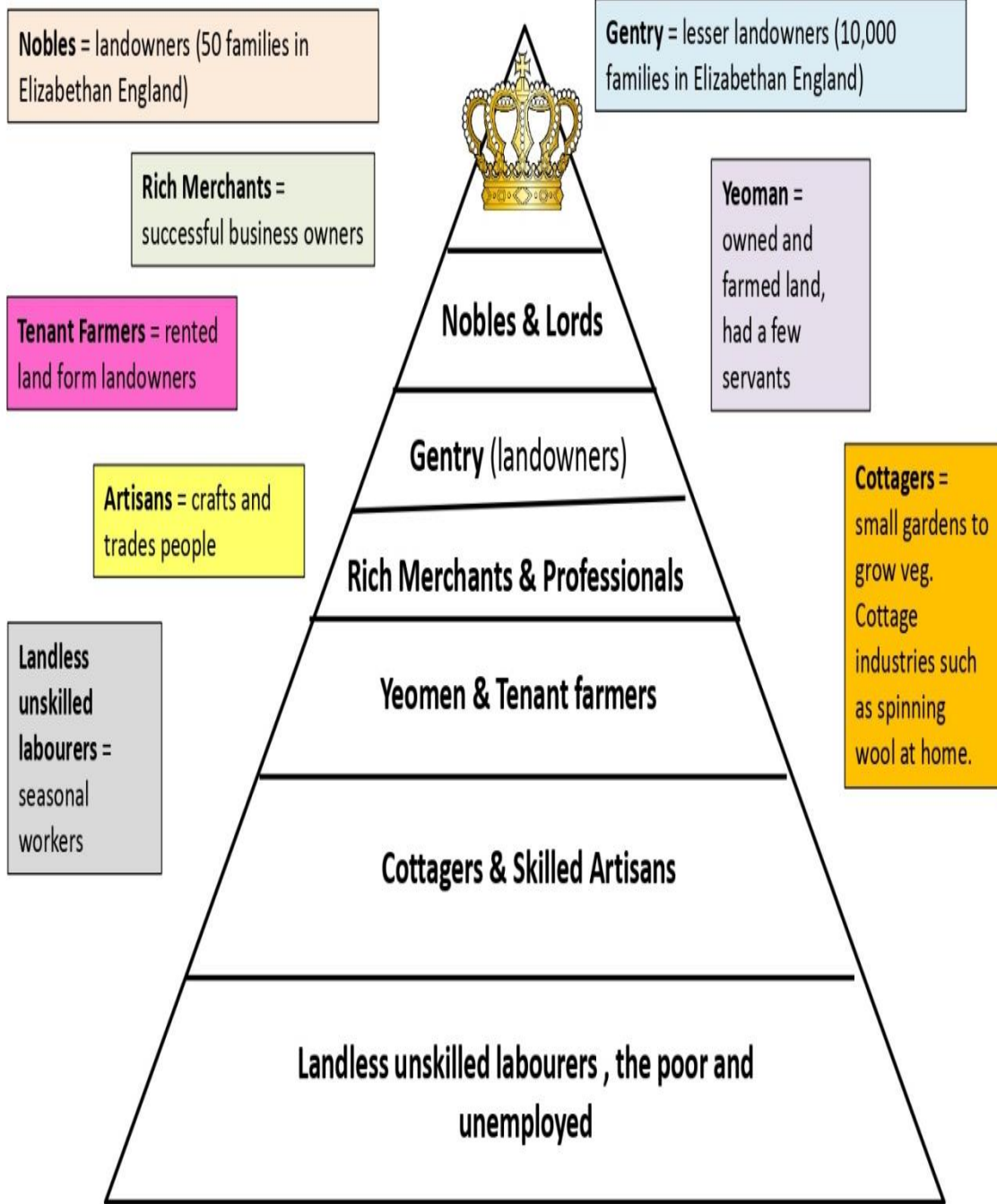
- Her coronation, portraits and progresses ensured that she was seen as wealthy and powerful monarch
- Her popularity generated loyalty and obedience from the officials.
- Patronage helped her popularity
- She had tight control of her Privy Council and Parliament
- Her temper ensured that few nobles were willing to challenge her.

BUT

No – she was
NOT successful!

- She was unpopular because she refused to allow Parliament to have the right to Freedom of Speech
- Success and implementation of laws depended on the loyalty of unpaid officials in roles such as Lord Lieutenant and JPs

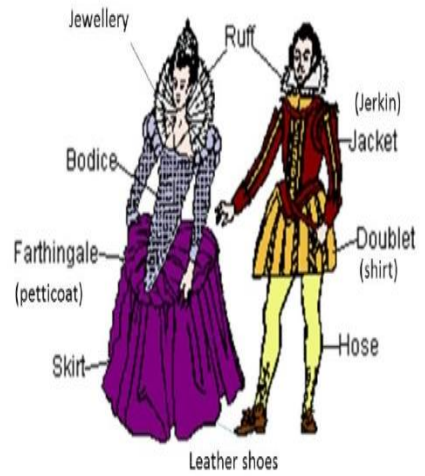




The Social Structure of Elizabethan England.

Rich people needed lots of rooms to accommodate large numbers of guests and servants. Rich houses were often made from brick which was a relatively new building material and as such very expensive.

If you were rich, you were lucky – your forefathers probably owned lots of land which you would rent out at very high prices. This meant that you never had to work a day in your life, and neither would your children!



Rich lifestyles

New building material of bricks led to chimneys being built. More glass windows, large fireplaces. Great Hall was either used as servants dining room or venue for banquets.

New building styles developed to enable divide between owner and servant. Ground plan in design of an 'E' or 'H'

The rich women of the Tudors, Royalty and the Nobility, wore make-up as an indication of their status and rank. Make-up also had a practical use to hide the scarring of various diseases such as smallpox.



Sons of wealthy nobles and lords were tutored at home. Receiving education in the classics as well as good knowledge of French, Spanish and Latin. Teaching social etiquette like table manners was seen as important. Daughters would be tutored by a governess and how to run a large household.

Rich people could afford clothing made of fine wool, linen or silk. Their clothes were decorated with jewels and embroidered with gold thread. No rich person felt properly dressed to impress unless he or she was wearing a ruff.



The richest people had lots of glass, which was a luxury at the time and a status symbol.

Clothes were a means of displaying how wealthy a person was.

Gentry owned more land than they could farm so rented land out to tenant-farmers to get a regular income.

They followed in rich by modernising their homes into more fashionable dwellings.

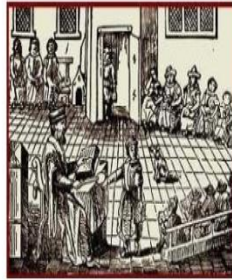
New houses built out of brick, stone and half timber. At least 8 rooms with a servants quarter.



Ceilings were made higher and walls covered in tapestries. Oak staircases installed to connect hall to upper rooms. Windows were bigger with glass instead of wooden shutters. Large fireplaces installed with chimneys.

Gentry followed the fashion of the rich. Their outfits lacked the fine threads of gold and silver or the jewellery embroidered on the doublets and gowns.

Gentry lifestyles



Fashion was taken seriously as a symbol of power, status and social standing.

Sons of gentry attended grammar school because they concentrate on learning Greek and Latin grammar. Had to be taught social etiquette. Had to be good at hunting, fencing, music and dancing.

360 grammars schools by end of Elizabethan period- virtually one in every town.

Tudor education aimed to produce the 'perfect' gentleman and teaching was very strict with flogging being common punishment. School day was long- 6-7am to 5pm. Break for lunch. From these schools some boys would go onto university at Oxford or Cambridge at 15-16yrs old to study maths, music, theology, astronomy and geometry. Alternative was to go to inns of Court, London to study law.

A poor Tudor house would have a hole in the wall for a window, sometimes they would have wooden shutters. It would be made of straw, mud and dung. It would be very simple.



With little or no education, the lower classes spent what little time they had on visits to the inn and tavern, gambling in cock or bear baiting rings, playing cards etc. Fishing and archery were popular. Some children attended the local parish school if they could afford it. Most started work young.

The toilet was a basic hole in the ground. Their rubbish would go in a bush or a field.

Some poor people in Tudor times could not work. They might have been disabled when they were born, or had a disease which meant they were not strong enough to work. These people had to *beg* for money and food so that they could live.

Poor women wore a dress of wool that went down to the ground. They often wore an apron over this and a cloth bonnet on their heads. Most poor men wore trousers made from wool and a tunic which came down to just above their knee.

Poor lifestyles

Many other poor people worked on the land, raising crops or livestock such as cattle and pigs. They worked very hard all the time. This land did not belong to them – it belonged to the rich Tudors who rented it out to them. If they could not pay rent they could not work.



Ordinary houses, on the other hand, were usually made of timber (wood) and **wattle and daub**. The house was built out of timber frames which then had woven sticks (**wattle**) placed in between the frames. A mixture of clay, sand and dung (**daub**) was smeared over the wattle to make the wall.

If you were poor and lucky, you could become an **apprentice** and learn to be a tailor, mason, barber, carpenter, bookbinder, blacksmith, weaver, or many other jobs you had to train for first.



Other Tudors worked as **servants** in the homes of the rich Tudors. They would cook, clean, serve and run the house for them.

20

What caused poverty in Elizabethan England?

- **Bad harvests** 1556,1596,1597 caused rise in grain prices
- **Rack renting** – landowners could charge what they liked. Could stop poor using land to graze their animals.
- **Sheep farming** more popular than arable farming – poor farm labourers lost jobs, spinners and weavers lost their jobs too.
- **Cloth trade collapsed** – the country relied on the woollen cloth industry when it collapsed many spinners and weavers lost their jobs.
- **Soldiers and sailors lost jobs when wars ended** – resulted in rise in unemployment
- **No monasteries** meant poor had nowhere to go for help.
- **Rising Population** 2.7 million in 1540s to 4.1 million in 1601. This meant more jobs, food, houses and clothes were needed –not enough for everyone.
- **Land enclosure** – land owners closed their fields with hedges which meant that ordinary folk couldn't graze their animals cause poverty. Less arable land available.
- **Coin debasement** – Henry VIII had reduced the quantity of precious metals in coins so Merchants were asking for more coins to cover the cost of goods. Elizabeth called in all the debased coins and issued new ones with more precious metal in the hope to bring down the price of goods BUT prices still rose
- **Inflation** – (rising prices) food became expensive but wages didn't rise
- **Rural depopulation** – there was a drift from countryside into towns and cities



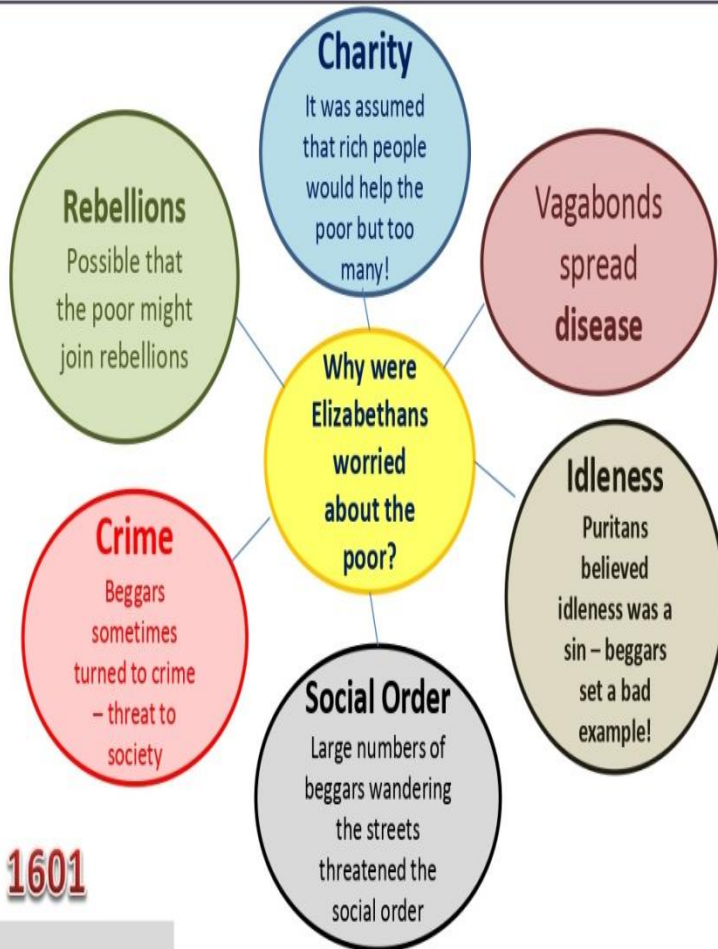
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Poor and Poverty

Poor Law introduced 1601

- 'Deserving Poor' needed help.
- Beggars were given a licence to beg.
- 1572 all people pay had to contribute to a local poor rate to help the deserving poor.
- **Overseer of the Poor** was appointed to administer the system of outdoor relief and indoor relief in alms-houses and workhouses



➔ BUT not really successful :-

- poverty continued to rise
- Famines caused by bad harvest
- Vagabonds punished for being idle – whipped/branded. 3rd offence – executed
- Poor relief hit and miss – not all towns/villages did it

- Rising unemployment caused more homelessness & begging
- These groups were referred to as 'rowdy beggars'/vagabonds/rogues
- They were blamed for increasing crime
- They were seen as idle/lazy
- It was believed they would spread disease
- There was a fear that the increase of vagrancy would lead to rebellion
- The burden of looking after the poor meant increasing in taxes which caused resentment.



Clapper Dudgeon
 Fake being wounded, use arsenic to make skin bleed and wrap bloody rags around arms and legs.

- Tudor Clergyman William Harrison said there were about 10,000 vagabonds in England
- 1566 Thomas Harman identified 23 different categories of vagabonds



The Doxy
 Keeps all things stolen in sack. Steals chicken by feeding them with bread attached to a hook which chokes chicken and she hides it in her sack.



The Abraham Man
 Pretends to be mad in the hope that he would be given money because people pitied him

Other common types of Vagabonds
Hooker/Angler – knocked on doors in daylight begging. At night used a 'hook' through an open window to steal clothes and valuables
Ruffler – ex-soldiers who robbed, threatened people and begged.
Dummerers – pretended to be dumb in order to beg and get money.

Pretended to have epilepsy – sucked soap to make themselves look like they were foaming at the mouth.
 Famous Counterfeit Crank was 'Nicholas Jennings'



The issue of unemployment and vagrancy

Poverty was an issue because there was a drop in the standard of living and an increase in vagrancy which brought with it a **real fear that society was crumbling and crime rate rising. Fear that there would be rebellions.** Series of acts passed recognising that sorting issue was the responsibility of society as a whole.

1563

Categorisation of poor

- a) 'Deserving poor' – elderly, very young, infirm, families in financial difficulty due to unforeseen circumstances **DESERVED HELP!**
- b) 'undeserving poor' – feared that this group would turn to crime and were a danger to society-pickpockets and highwaymen
- c) 'deserving unemployed' – fit to work but unable to find work
- d) Reaffirmed whipping of able-bodied beggars
- e) Compulsory 7 year apprenticeships.

1597 – each town had to have a prison for vagabonds to be financed by taxes from local people. JPs had to be responsible to oversee this programme



Government Legislation on Poverty

OBEY THE LAWS

1572 – Vagrancy Act. Severe punishments for vagrants. Ear-boring of right ear, imprisonment and execution continued until 1593.



1576 – Act for the relief of the Poor. JPS had to build 2 'Houses of correction' in each County. Beggars must be forced to work in them . Keep a stock of materials – give work to unemployed.



1601 Poor Law

Act for relief of the Poor (Poor Law)

- a) JPs had to appoint 4 Overseers of the Poor in each Parish.
- b) Apprenticeships to be found for orphan children
- c) Unemployed, able bodied made to work using supply of materials kept
- d) Elderly /too sick to be housed in Almshouses
- e) Begging forbidden. Whipped. Sent back to place of birth. House of Correction.
- f) Poor rate to be paid or face imprisonment. Wealthy encouraged to give generously..



How significant was Government Legislation on Poverty?

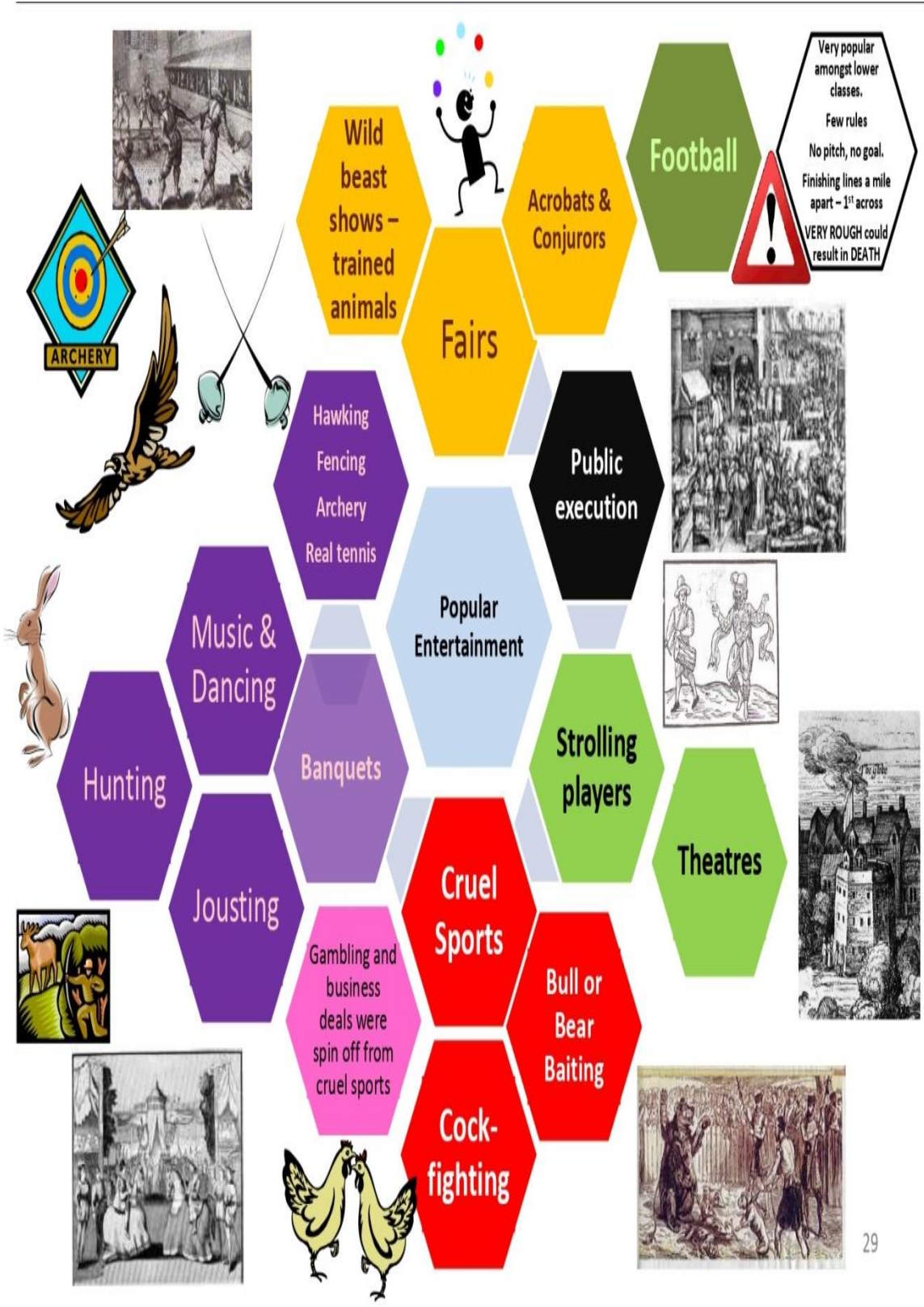
Yes

- Progressive move from private charity to welfare state
- Created a new, nationwide system
- Care and provision for elderly, very young, infirm embodied in law and to be managed by individual towns.
- Disorder and disturbances did not develop into a rebellion
- Crime was dealt with on several levels Court of Star Chamber, Assizes, Quarter Sessions and Petty Sessions.
- An attempt to standardise.
- System of Poor Relief was in place for the next 200 years

No

- Problem of poverty remained
- More money raised by charity than Poor Rate
- Many people who were scraping a living did not qualify
- 1597 and 1601 Poor Laws continued into the 20th Century.
- Crime increased between 1596 and 1598
- Elizabeth only had limited resources to deal with crime.
- JPs not paid and voluntary. Not always reliable and competent in enforcing laws. Some followed their own agenda. INCONSISTENT.
- Varied form county to county.

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Popular Entertainment enjoyed by the Rich & Cruel Sports

Rich Tudors also like to play and listen to music, write poetry, dance, and watch plays at the theatre.

Jousting

The Rich would hunt animals such as deer, wild boar, and even bears. This was a sport in Tudor times, and rich Tudors took it very seriously. Only nobles could hunt stags

Feasting

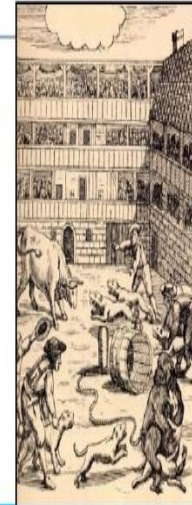
Rich Tudor ladies were not allowed to do much. They could learn to read and write, play music, dance and sew.

Real Tennis was fashionable for rich Tudors. Bowls and skittles were played by all classes in society

Archery was important. They use a long bow and crossbow and men were expected to practice every Sunday after Church



A German visitor, Paul Hentzer, watched a blinded-bear forced to fight in London: "The bear cannot escape from them because of the chain; he defends himself with all his force and skill, throwing down all who come within his reach... and tearing the whips out of their hands and breaking them."



Cruel Sports

- Bear and Bull baiting (shown in the above illustrations) were a popular forms of entertainment for all classes in society.
- They attracted large audiences and were held regularly in arenas eg: 'Bear garden' in London with space for about a 1,000 people. They were built like theatres
- Cockfighting was also popular. Many towns had cockfighting pits. Sometimes they would put several birds in the ring to see which one would survive.
- People would place bets on the outcome of the fight. Some people used this as an opportunity to make money or do business deals.
- Public execution was always well attended.
- Some went to places where mentally ill people were kept as 'insane' and watched their behaviour for fun.

30

The development of Elizabethan Theatre

- No theatres in 1558 when Elizabeth became Queen
- By the end of her reign there were many theatres in London and in towns.
- It was a popular form of entertainment

Strolling Players

- Firstly - wandering bands of musicians and actors
- Move from town to town performing for mixed audiences
- They would perform in the town square/market/inn
- Rich people would sometimes pay for private performances
- Plays including stories about Robin Hood were popular.
- Caused concern when topics became political or critical of the established authorities.



In 1572 a law passed banning wandering players from touring because:

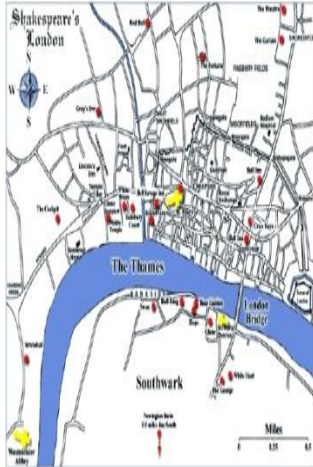
- Worried about content – might cause rebellion
- Link to vagrancy & begging
- Spread of disease
- **UNLESS** they had a licence to perform which was granted by the Lord Chamberlain

Theatre companies

- The ban led to the formation of companies
- It meant the government had more control over what was being performed
- Wealthy nobles gave 'patronage' and money to support theatre companies.
- 1574 The earl of Leicester's Players
- 1583 The queen's men
- 1594 The Lord Chamberlains' men
- They would tour the country, perform at Royal Court for the Queen.
- As they became more popular they needed more space to perform

The first theatres

- The first purpose built theatre was built in 1576 by James Burbage (actor-owner)
- Called 'The Theatre'
- Finsbury Fields, Shoreditch, London
- Performers – 'The Lord Chamberlain's men'



Elizabethan Theatre Plays, Playwrights, theatres and Actors


Actors

**Burbage
Tragic
actor**

Leading role in Shakespeare's plays
Part owner of The Globe

Theatres were outside city limits to the north and south bank of river Thames

Elizabethan Playwrights & Poets



William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)

- Born in Stratford-on-Avon
- Wrote 37 plays – comedies, tragedies and historical dramas. Wrote Sonnets (poems) as well
- Very popular – Queen Elizabeth liked his plays
- Most popular plays – Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth

Member of The lord Chamberlain's men.
Comedian and acrobat

**Thomas
Pope -
Comedian**

The Curtain 
Opened in 1577


 **The Rose**
Opened in 1587

The Swan 
Opened in 1596

 **The Globe**
Opened in 1599


Christopher Marlowe (1564 – 1593)

- Playwright and Poet
- Developed the 'tragedy' in theatre.
- Most famous play 'Dr Faustus' (set in Germany, Dr Faustus made a deal with the devil to give him magical powers but at a cost!)
- He was stabbed in a pub fight.
- There were rumours that he was assassinated because he worked as a Government spy.



**Will
Kempe -
Popular
actor and
dancer**

Popular actor & dancer
Leading roles in Shakespeare's Henry IV

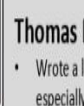


Thomas Kyd (1558 – 1594)

- Pioneered the 'revenge' tragedy.
- Most famous play was 'The Spanish Tragedy'

Leading roles in Marlowe's plays eg: The Jew of Malta
Part owned The Fortune theatre

**Edward
Alleyn -
Tragic
actor**



Thomas Dekker (c.1572 – 1632)

- Wrote a lot of comedies – about ordinary life & especially rowdy e.g.: Shoemaker's holiday.

Attitudes towards the Theatre

Support

- Popular
- Cheap entertainment
- All classes in society
- Queen liked the theatre
- Plays had gripping storylines, interesting characters and heroes
- Plays had a message of loyalty, obedience sometimes anti-Spanish when the relationship between Spain and England was at its worst.



The theatre is such a wonderful place and absolutely looove that Will Shakespeare.

The theatre is a den of sin – 'tis the work of the devil. These places should be closed down NOW!



Opposition

- London authorities were worried about law and order especially with the city's growing population
- Fear that could help spread disease and were places where prostitutes and pickpockets operated causing problems for the authorities trying to keep law and order.
- Could also be used as bear/bull baiting pits: therefore concerns about gambling
- The theatres only managed to stay open because they were outside the power of the City of London authorities who would have closed them down

Opposition from religious groups

- Strongest opposition from Puritans
- Believed the theatre to be the 'work of the devil'
- They believed that plays lacked morals and were too rude and coarse.

Religious Problems in 1559

- Religion was **very IMPORTANT!** Everyone went to Church. Religion gave people hope, help and promise of a better life in heaven if you lived a good life
- Elizabeth had inherited **a country divided by religious differences.**
- There had been constant changes in religion; each time there had been a new monarch the religion had changed. Henry VIII had begun the changes by declaring England no longer Catholic but Protestant. Edward VI had made the country even more Protestant and exiled many Catholic priests. Mary I (Bloody Mary) had just been Queen before Elizabeth and had declared England a Roman Catholic country even persecuting those who refused and wanted to practise in the Protestant way.
- Elizabeth was a Protestant
- Elizabeth wanted people to be Protestants BUT she did not want to cause problems with Catholics either and she needed to avoid a Civil War over religion. She needed to gain loyalty.
- There were Catholics, Protestants and a growing number of Puritans in England. Everyone believed they were right.
- Elizabeth had to find a 'compromise' in order to solve the issue.

Religious Problems in 1559

Different religious beliefs in England in 1559

Catholics believed	Protestants (Anglicans) believed	Puritans believed
Pope should be obeyed above monarch	Monarch should be head of Church	No one should be head of Church
Services & Bible should be in Latin Churches highly decorated Believed all other religions were heretics Mass – bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus Music, singing, organ music	Services in English Plain Churches Other religions shouldn't be allowed – punish them Music, singing, organ music Holy Communion – symbolic remembrance that Jesus died for them	Services in English – plain and simple Churches so would not detract from worshipping God Other religions shouldn't be allowed – punish them NO MUSIC Holy Communion – symbolic remembrance that Jesus died for them
+ points England, Spain France & Scotland Roman Catholic. Mary Queen of Scots (next in line to become Queen) was also Catholic.	+ points Elizabeth herself was a Protestant. Many people were Protestants and didn't like the Roman Catholic faith.	+ points Growing number of Puritans especially in London Some MPs were Puritans, therefore challenging Elizabeth in parliament
- Points Mary's actions towards Protestants had made Catholics an unpopular minority.	- Points Most powerful countries in Europe were Roman Catholic eg: Spain and France	- Points Few Puritans in Europe

The Religious Settlement 1559

The Act of Supremacy

Elizabeth
Supreme Governor
Of
Church of England

All Clergy, JPs, MPs,
government to swear an
oath of loyalty to her in this
role

Freedom of worship for
Protestants

Compromise!
The 'Middle Way'
(Via Media)



Aim:-

appease both
Catholics
&
Protestants

Avoid invasion from
Catholic foreign powers

The Act of Uniformity

Church services in English

Everyone must go to Church
on Sunday or be fined!

Bible in English
Protestant prayer book in
every Church

Royal Injunctions

- Bible written in English in every Church
- Decorations were allowed
- Clergy to wear vestments (surplice)



The significance of the 'Middle Way'

Oath of loyalty – Ensured that the Clergy, JPs, Judges, Lawyers and MPs would obey and be loyal to Elizabeth which reduced the risk of rebellion

Act of Supremacy – Ensured that this did not offend Catholics who did believe that the monarch should not be head of the Church. It also ensured that Protestants were satisfied with the title of 'Supreme Governor' as they believed the Pope was NOT head of the Church.

Act of Uniformity – This made sure that there were elements from both the Catholic and Protestant practices incorporated in the new Anglican Church.

Royal Injunctions 1559 – set of rules that made sure there was uniformity in worship. Condemned Catholic practices, recusants fined, license to preach and denounce the authority of the Pope.

Visitations – 125 commissioners went around the country checking that the clergy had sworn the oath of loyalty and the new rules were being followed.

Act of Exchange 1559 - This made sure that the Queen had control of the finances of the Church as it made sure that she could seize Church land. This meant that the church would be less able to finance rebellions against her.

Thirty-Nine Articles 1563 - formally set out the key elements of the Protestant faith

Reactions to the Religious Settlement

Catholics

- Disliked the fact that England was a Protestant country
- Disliked the fact that the monarch and not the Pope was the Head of the Church
- Did not want to use a Protestant Prayer book, especially that the Clergy had to swear an oath that they would use it!
- Disliked that the Bible was in English and not Latin
- Disliked the clergy being allowed to marry
- That the clergy had to take an oath recognising Elizabeth as Supreme governor of the Church of England
- Changes went too far!

Protestants

- Disliked that Churches were still decorated
- Disliked the clergy wearing vestments
- Disliked that the settlement was vague in relation to Holy Communion
- Changes did not go far enough!

Puritans

- Disliked that Churches were still decorated
- Disliked the clergy wearing vestments
- Disliked singing still allowed
- Disliked that the settlement was vague in relation to Holy Communion
- Changes did not go far enough!

BUT...in practice

- Most clergy took the oath of loyalty
- Fines for Recusancy were not strictly enforced
- By 1568 most people accepted the new Church
- No serious rebellions

Recusancy/Recusants

Anyone who refused to go to the new Church had to pay a fine of 1 shilling. Poor struggled to pay ⁴¹

Yes – she was
successful!

BUT

No – she was
NOT successful!

- She avoided a civil war caused by religious differences
- She appeased the majority of Catholics, Protestants and Puritans
- The Church of England (Anglican Church) has remained the main
- Only 3% of Priests refused to swear the oath of loyalty to her
- The majority of people accepted the Religious Settlement (The Middle Way) even though it favoured the Protestants.
- Before 1568 there were no serious threats to the settlement/Elizabeth; this changed when Mary Queen of Scots returned to England.



- Extreme Catholics and Puritans continued to challenge the religious settlement e.g The Vestments Controversy
- There were several Catholic plots to overthrow Elizabeth e.g – Northern Earl, Ridolfi, Throckmorton and Babington
- The Religious Settlements seemed to favour the Protestants.
- Fines for Recusancy weren't strictly enforced
- She was excommunicated by the Pope
- Elizabeth persecuted Catholics 162 were executed between 1577 - 1603

Overview - How much of a threat were the Catholics?

Threat from - Catholics in England

Pope advising Catholics not to go to Protestant Church services.

Penalties lenient to begin with as she did not want to alienate anyone – hoped that change/acceptance of new church would happen and avoid rebellion.

Elizabeth feared that Catholics were a threat to national security.

Threat from foreign Catholic Alliance

- Elizabeth feared that France and Spain would create a 'Catholic Alliance' against England.

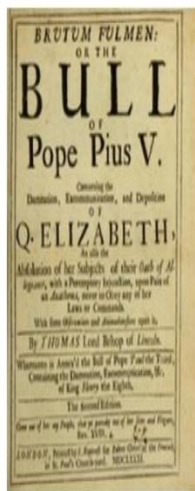
Elizabeth and her Privy Council were worried especially after

- a) St Bartholomew's Day Massacre 1572 – thousands of Protestants had been massacred in Paris
- b) Threat from **Jesuit priests**
 - 1580 Catholic Priests (Jesuits) sent as missionaries to England to promote Catholicism
 - They provided leadership for Catholics
 - 1581 Elizabeth ordered them to be arrested **Edmund Campion** (Jesuit) gave free copies of a book criticising the Anglican Church. Captured. He refused to renounce his Catholic faith. He was hanged, drawn and quartered in 1581.
- c) The murder of William of Orange 1584 – leader of Dutch Protestants had been shot dead by a Catholic. Privy Council worried about Elizabeth's safety.

1585 Elizabeth reacted **more strongly** by passing Acts against Catholic Priests which said that Catholic priests ordained since 1585 had 40 days to leave England or be executed for high treason. Anyone trying to persuade someone to convert to Catholicism was guilty of treason. The fine for Recusants was increased to £20 a month. She became increasingly less tolerant of Catholics

Early Toleration

- Tolerance marked the first years.
- It is fair to say that in the early days Elizabeth sought to find a way to keep both Protestants and Catholics happy. This was the aim of the Religious Settlement. However, as time went on with increasing threats and deterioration in the relationship with Spain and the Pope there was less tolerance.
- Rich Catholic families who continued to try to practice their faith found themselves at risk and Priests attending them with Mass forced into hiding places (Priest holes)
- Both faced severe punishments if caught.



1570 Pope excommunicates Elizabeth

- Released Catholics from their oath of allegiance to Elizabeth
- Gave Catholics permission to plot against Elizabeth
- Elizabeth responded by making the **Treason Act in 1571** making it a treasonable offence to say that Elizabeth was not the rightful queen



Recusancy

- Recusants = people who refused to attend Anglican Church services
- 1568 William Allen set up training college to train Priests as missionaries to England. Aim - re-establish Catholic faith, even if meant becoming a martyr
- After 1574 Seminary priests were being smuggled into England. Jesuits Priests arrived in disguise ready to hold mass and spread the message against Elizabeth.
- 1581 **Elizabeth increased fines** to £20 and treasonable offence for anyone trying to convert someone to the Catholic faith
- 438 Seminary Priests sent to England.
- 1585 **Act of Parliament** ordered all Jesuits and Seminary Priests to leave England or face death. Anyone found hiding priest could also be sentenced to death
- 1593 **an Act of Parliament** was passed forbidding Catholics meeting together and confined Catholics within a 8km radius of their homes.



Edmund Campion

- **Jesuit & Recusant**
- **1580 sent to England on mission to spread catholic faith**
- **Arrived in secret**
- **Went to Lancashire - moved South - preached in homes of rich Catholic families**
- **Caught and arrested in 1581**
- **Tried for treason - tortured and executed in 1581**

The Rebellion of the Northern Earls 1569

Aim

- Release Mary Queen of Scots from house arrest.
- Marry Mary to Duke of Norfolk (Elizabeth found out about the marriage. Norfolk begged for forgiveness, Norfolk was sent to the tower)
- Capture the North of England
- Depose Elizabeth and replace her with Mary
- Restore Catholicism



Action

- Leaders Earls of Northumberland & Westmoreland.
- November 1569 4,600 marched on Durham Cathedral, held a Catholic mass and tore up English prayer books.
- Marched south to Bramham Moor. Gave up the idea of a siege at York and retreated North when they heard of the advance of the Queen's army.
- January 1570 the two earls escaped to Scotland.

Consequences

- Northumberland was captured, tried for treason and beheaded at York
- Westmoreland escaped
- Duke of Norfolk was pardoned
- 800 rebels were executed to reinforce Elizabeth's rule
- Plot failed because it was badly planned, lacked support for replacing Elizabeth with a Catholic monarch
- Aid from the Spanish Ambassador De Spes did not happen. Philip believed Mary would support France rather than Spain if she became Queen so was reluctant to send help

Catholic Plots against Elizabeth

1571 Ridolfi Plot

- The plot was organised by an Italian Banker called Roberto Ridolfi
- The aim was to overthrow Elizabeth
- It involved Mary Q, Philip II of Spain, Duke of Norfolk and the Spanish Ambassador De Spes.
- A Spanish army would invade, Mary would marry the duke of Norfolk become queen and make England a Catholic country again.
- Spymaster Walsingham and Cecil uncovered the plot.
- Norfolk was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death
- Ridolfi and De Spes were expelled from England
- Elizabeth refused to execute Mary despite demands from Parliament.

Throckmorton Plot 1583 - 84

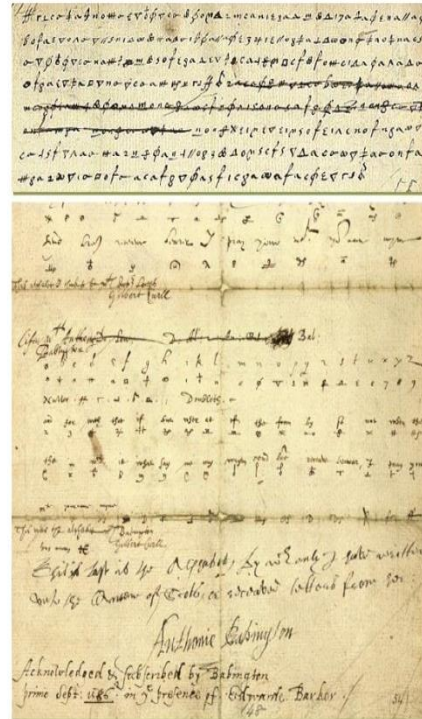
- Francis Throckmorton led a plot to overthrow Elizabeth.
- It involved French Catholic forces, was backed by the Spanish and money from the Pope. Throckmorton acted as go between MQS and de Mendoza (Spanish Ambassador)
- Secret Service discovered the plot – Throckmorton was tortured and executed. De Mendoza was expelled from England.
- MQS was moved to a more secure place – Tutbury Castle and was banned from having visitors.

1584 -5 Increasing Catholic Threat

- Elizabeth's life was threatened with an assassination attempt by John Somerville
- They were worried because William of Orange had been assassinated by a Catholic
- 'Bond of Association' stated that if Elizabeth was murdered Parliament would make sure they punished whoever was responsible.
- The early tolerance changed and Jesuit Priests were ordered to leave the country within 40 days

Catholic Plot - The Babington Plot 1586

- Walsingham uncovered another Catholic plot
- He claimed that MQS was involved
- Anthony Babington was leader of the plot to overthrow Elizabeth and replace her with MQS
- Coded letters delivered in beer barrels were intercepted by Walsingham.
- August 1586 Babington was arrested and confessed.
- Armed with evidence Walsingham persuaded Elizabeth to put MQS on trail.
- MQS was moved to Fotheringay Castle and tried in October 1586. She was found guilty but Elizabeth refused to sign her death warrant.
- Elizabeth finally agreed in 1587. She refused to release the paperwork but Walsingham went behind her back and persuaded her secretary William Davison to get the document.
- Davison passed the signed document to Fotheringay and MQS was executed.
- Elizabeth was furious and Davison was sent to the tower.



The role of Mary Queen of Scots

- Mary arrived In England in 1568 after escaping imprisonment in Scotland
- Elizabeth had a choice = she could send Mary back to Scotland, execute her, help her regain the throne of Scotland, allow her to go to France or recognise her as the heir to the throne of England. She made the decision to keep Mary captive – BIG MISTAKE!
- Mary was seen by English Catholics as **rightful** (legitimate) **ruler** of England. She became a threat to Elizabeth because English Catholics saw her as an alternative monarch to Elizabeth.
- She was supported by English Catholic nobles, French king – later by Spain and Pope.
- Even though she was placed under house arrest and moved to various places to prevent her being a figurehead for a rebellion, that was exactly what she was even if she, herself was not involved.
- Elizabeth did not want to execute her because: cousins, believed in Divine Right of Kings, feared revenge from Spain.
- Implicated in plots – Ridolfi 1571, Throckmorton 1583, Babington 1586.
- October 1586 Mary was tried for treason, found guilty and executed on 8th February 1587.



England's foreign affairs

Country	Situation in 1558	Situation in 1603
Spain (Catholic)	Catholic country. Powerful. Friends with England.	War between England and Spain ongoing (1585 – 1604)
Ireland (Mainly Catholic)	Elizabeth claimed rule BUT only small area. Mainly a Catholic country. Hostile to England.	Following rebellion and unrest from 1594, England had regained control by 1603. English settlers controlled parts but hated by Irish Catholics.
France (Catholic)	Allied to Scotland. At war with England!	During Civil War between Catholics and Protestants. Eliz sent army to support Protestants.
Scotland (Catholic)	Allied to France – Mary Queen of Scots married to French prince. Hostile!	Victory against Scotland and their French allies in 1560. Threat from Mary Queen of Scots controlled. Scotland friendly Protestant country in 1603.
Netherlands Protestantism growing)	Ruled by Spain	Elizabeth first sent financial help then army to support Dutch Protestants. Spain facing defeat in Holland by 1603.
Trade, Voyages, Colonies	Limited	More voyages, improved trade with new colonies.
Conclusion	England weak!	YOU DECIDE!

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War in the Netherlands



- Spain controlled the Netherlands
- **1566 Dutch Protestants rebelled against Spanish rule**
- King Philip of Spain sent the **Duke of Alba** with 10,000 men to stop the rebellion
- Over 1,000 Dutch rebels were brutally burnt to death.
- **Elizabeth** supplied the rebels with money and weapons

- 1575 there was second rebellion which, by 1579 had split the country in half. The Northern half was led by **William of Orange** and rejected Spanish rule. The Southern half formed the Union of Arras and made peace with Spain.
- **The Duke of Parma** was sent to stop the second rebellion.
- 1584 William of Orange was assassinated
- 1585 Elizabeth signed the **Treaty of Nonsuch** with Dutch rebels. She promised protection for the Protestant rebels and sent the Earl of Leicester with an army of 5,000 to support their campaign against Spain.
- Philip of Spain was extremely angry!
- England and Spain were now **unofficially at war!**

Preparation for the Spanish Armada

Spain

- Phillip ignored his commanders advice that they should delay the launch of the armada.
- The leader of the armada, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, was unqualified, hated sailing and got very seasick. The Duke requested to be replaced, but Phillip ignored him.
- Spain had 30,000 men; 8000 sailors, 19000 troops, 3000 servants, 180 friars and priests.
- Spain had 64 battle ships and a large supply of food and drink.
- The Spanish planned to defeat the English in the English Channel, land in Margate in Kent, and travel up the Thames to London. English Catholics would help with the invasion.

England

- The English Navy was commanded by Lord Charles Howard, the Duke of Effingham
- They had 20,000 men, 200 ship; 54 battle ships, 140 merchant ship. The English ships were light and fast moving.
- England would be warned of an invasion by warning beacons being lit across he boats, and bells would be rung to warn people.
- The plan was for the land force to be split into three; one in the North of England, one in Kent and one in Tilsbury, Essex, to guard the coast of England



The route of the Spanish Armada

12 July 1588

The 130 ships of the Spanish Armada set sail from Corunna in Northern Spain under the command of the Duke of Medina Sidonia.

28 July 1588

The English and Spanish ships engaged in a fierce battle near Gravelines. Spanish ships sailed close in an attempt to board

19 July 1588

The English saw the Armada sailing in a crescent formation off the coast of Plymouth.

30th July 1588

The Armada tried to sail back to Spain by going north via the North Sea and around Scotland. The Spanish soldiers were left in the Netherlands

July 1588

English ships chased the Spanish up the English Channel; there were several battles.

August 1588

Many Spanish ships were wrecked by storms along the west coast of Scotland and Ireland.

27th July 1588

The Spanish Armada anchored near Calais. The English navy sent 8 burning fireships, their masts coated in tar and guns primed to explode when the fire reached them, towards the Armada.

The Armada captains panicked and sailed away. The fire ships did not actually damage the Spanish ships.

September 1588

Only about 65 of the 130 warships of the Spanish Armada returned to Spain.



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Why did the Spanish Armada fail?

English Success:

- High confidence following Elizabeth's speech
- Use of fire ships to break up the armada
- Duke of Parma did not turn up on time
- English ships had long cannons
- English ships were smaller and faster

Spanish Weakness:

- Sailors became ill
- No accurate maps
- Lack of food and water
- Duke of Parma didn't turn up on time
- Spanish Commander inexperienced
- Confidence was low – ships outgunned.
- Cannons didn't work

Other:

- Wind blew the Spanish troops off course
- Spanish Crescent formation was difficult for the English to break, but they got there in the end!



Was the defeat of the Spanish Armada a success for Elizabeth?

Success

- Elizabeth remained Queen of England
- There were no further Catholic plots or rebellions
- There were great celebrations
- The country remained Protestant
- English Catholics had not supported Spain



Limitations

- There was still a risk of invasion, and Philip built a new armada of 100 ships and tried to do it again
- English sailors continued to attack Spanish treasure ships
- The English continued to support Dutch Protestants against Spain
- There was still a successful Spanish army in the Netherlands, not far from England

Puritanism

What is Puritanism?

Puritans are very strict Protestants, who believed in a purer form of worship. They had to flee England during Mary Tudor's reign, and then returned when Elizabeth became Queen with very strong ideas.

They were highly critical of the Religious Settlement, saying it had too much Catholic in it.

People were suspicious of Puritans as they were seen as a threat to the Queen.



What did Puritans do?

Puritans didn't like; bowing when the name Jesus was said, kneeling to receive communion and celebration of saint's days.

On a Sunday they would; devote the whole day to religious study, study scriptures and read devotional books. Their clothing had to be plain and simple, mainly black and white.

In their every day life Puritans would; live a simple life based on scriptures, avoid visiting the theatre, gambling and swearing.

There were different types of Puritan; moderate Puritans accepted the Religious Settlement, but wanted further reform. Presbyterians wanted more reforms to the church and simpler services, as well as the abolition of bishops and churches to be run by elected people. Separatist wanted to break away completely from the English Church.



Puritan Challenge to the Religious Settlement

The Vestments Controversy 1566: The Archbishop of Canterbury wrote the 'Book of Advertisements' which said the priests should wear specific clothes, vestments, during the services. Many Puritan priests refused to do so, saying it was 'too Catholic'. Thomas Sampson was sacked because he refused to wear vestments. In London 37 Puritan priests were removed from their jobs for refusing to obey the rules.

Thomas Cartwright 1570: Cambridge Professor Cartwright said in lectures that the church should follow a Presbyterian system, including; no archbishop or bishops and elected ministers instead. This would have weakened the power of the queen. Thomas Cartwright was sacked from his job and forced to leave England.

John Stubbs 1579: Stubbs was a Puritan who wrote a leaflet criticising the queen for considering a marriage to the Catholic brother of the King of France. Stubbs was arrested, put on trial, and sentenced to have his right hand cut off, then he was put in prison for 18 months.

The Marprelate Tracts 1588-89: A series of anonymous leaflets called the Marprelate Tracts attacked all the bishops. The content of the leaflets was violent, sarcastic and used offensive language – the complete opposite to how Puritans were supposed to behave. Some Protestants wrote anti-Puritan leaflets as a response.

Opposition to Elizabeth from Puritans in Parliament & The Privy Council	How did Elizabeth deal with Puritan opposition?
<p>Walter Strickland 1571: called for a new Book of Common Prayer, the banning of vestments, banning using a ring in marriage and kneeling whilst receiving communion.</p>	<p>Elizabeth closed down Parliament before his ideas could be discussed.</p>
<p>John Field and Thomas Wilcox 1572: said that the Presbyterian system of Church was the true one outlined in the Bible. Criticised the Prayer Book</p>	<p>Arrested and imprisoned for a year. Puritan printing presses were ordered to be destroyed.</p>
<p>1575 – 83 The Puritans organised prayer meetings, called 'Prophesyings' to spread their ideas. Edmund Grindal, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, was a Puritan and like these meetings.</p>	<p><i>Elizabeth ordered Grindal to ban the meetings. He refused. Elizabeth suspended him. When he died in 1583, she appointed John Whitgift as his successor. He banned the meetings and expelled 200 Puritan priests for disobeying the rules of the Church.</i></p>
<p>Peter Wentworth 1576, complained that MPs could not discuss issues they thought important in Parliament.</p>	<p>He was imprisoned in the tower of London for a year and Parliament from raising issue to do with religion without the Queen's permission.</p>
<p>Peter Turner 1584: Wanted to copy John Calvin's system which was similar to Presbyterian system of Church</p>	<p>His speech was denounced by Elizabeth's adviser Christopher Hatton who hated Puritans</p>
<p>Anthony Cope 1586-7: Wanted to replace the Book of Common Prayer with the Calvin book of prayer. He also wanted to abolish Bishops.</p>	<p>Hatton attacked this idea. Cope was sent to the tower.</p>

Measures taken to deal with the Puritan Challenge



How did Elizabeth deal with the Puritan threat.

PROBLEM 1: Archbishop Grindal and Prophesyings

- Puritan meetings called prophesyings were becoming more popular. The Government were worried that this could lead to more unrest and rebellion.
- Grindal supported the idea of these meetings
- He refused to follow the Queen's orders



Solution 1: Queen Elizabeth & her government reacted to this by:

- Putting Archbishop Grindal under house arrest
- Banned the 'prophesying' meetings
- Made John Whitgift Archbishop who introduced 'The Three Articles' which made the clergy swear acceptance of Bishops, the Book of Common Prayer and the 39 Articles.

PROBLEM 2: Separatists

- Puritans are forced into hiding because of Elizabeth's strict laws
- In the 1580s some Puritans led by Robert Browne form a group called The Separatist Movement. They 'Separate' from the established church and form a group called 'The Separatists'



Solution 2: Queen Elizabeth & her government reacted to this by:

- Robert Browne imprisoned, released and exiled
- The Act against Seditious Sectaries 1593 was passed. This meant that any Puritans believed to be Separatists could be executed and severely punish anyone refusing to attend the established Church of England.
- Separatist leaders Barrow and Greenwood were executed in 1593

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Timeline for Tudor Britain

**from Henry VII's victory at Bosworth in 1485,
to the death of his granddaughter, Elizabeth I, in 1603.**

1485

Henry Tudor becomes King Henry VII of England after his victory at the Battle of Bosworth.

1487

Lambert Simnel challenges for the throne, pretending to be the son of Edward IV. The rebels are defeated at the Battle of East Stoke in Nottinghamshire and Simnel is given a job in the royal kitchens.

1492

In a wider context – Christopher Columbus arrives in the Bahamas instead of Japan.

1495

University of Aberdeen founded.

1497

Commissioned by Henry VII, John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto, a Venetian) discovers Newfoundland.

1503

James IV of Scotland marries Margaret, daughter of Henry VII of England.

1509

Henry VIII marries Katherine of Aragon and becomes king of England.

1512

England at war with France and Scotland.

1513

Scotland invades England and is defeated at the Battle of Flodden. James IV of Scotland is among those killed.

1517

In a wider context, in Wittenberg, Martin Luther nailed his 95 *Thesis* to the door of All Saints' Church, or the *Schlosskirche*, questioning excesses and corruption in the Roman Catholic Church.

1519

In a wider context – Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan leads a Spanish sponsored expedition that resulted in the first circumnavigation of the globe.

1521

Pope Leo X conferred the title of *Fidei defensor* or 'Defender of the Faith' on King Henry VIII of England. Despite Britain becoming a predominantly Protestant land, successive British monarchs have continued to use the term, as Heads of the Church of England.

1522-25

England at war with France.

1526

In Worms, Germany, John Tyndale publishes a translation of the New Testament in English.

1528

England at war with Spain.

1529

Henry VIII seizes Hampton Court from Cardinal Wolsey.

1530

Death of Cardinal Wolsey.

1533

Archbishop Thomas Cranmer annuls Henry VIII's marriage with Katherine of Aragon and Henry marries Anne Boleyn.

1534

The Act of Supremacy - Henry becomes Head of the Church of England - the official start of the English Reformation.

1535

The dissolution of monasteries in England begins. Sir Thomas More is executed.

The first 'Laws in Wales Act', often incorrectly referred to as the 'Act of Union' between England and Wales, abolished the Marcher Lords, established Welsh administrative areas

and MPs and aimed to harmonise Welsh administration and law with English.

1536

Anne Boleyn is executed. Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour. The Pilgrimage of Grace – a rebellion, particularly in Yorkshire, against Henry VIII's religious reforms.

1537

Jane Seymour dies having given birth to a son, the future King Edward VI.

1539

Publication of Henry VIII's Great Bible in English.

1540

Henry VIII marries and divorces Anne of Cleves. Thomas Cromwell, principal architect of the Reformation, is executed. Henry marries Kathryn Howard, his 5th wife.

1541

Henry VIII makes himself King of Ireland.

1542

The English defeat an invading Scottish army at Solway Moss.

Kathryn Howard is executed.

1543-51

The rough wooing - Henry's violent and failed attempt to

force an alliance with Scotland by marrying his son Edward to the future Mary, Queen of Scots.

1543

The second 'Laws in Wales Act' tightened provisions of the Act of 1536. England was at war with France. Henry VIII married for the last time - Katherine Parr survived him.

1545

Attempted French invasion, the Battle of the Solent and the sinking of The Mary Rose.

1547

Henry VIII dies. Edward VI becomes King of England. The new king is determined to reform the English church and make it more Protestant.

The Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, the last pitched battle between England and Scotland before the union of the crowns in 1603.

1549

The First Act of Uniformity establishes the Book of Common Prayer, a standard form of worship across England and Wales.

The Kett Rebellion in Norfolk – the largest of several rebellions at the time, mostly in protest against landlords' enclosures of common land. The rebels captured Norwich,

England's second city, but were eventually defeated.

1553

Edward VI dies. Lady Jane Grey was uncrowned *Queen for 9 days* before Mary, the daughter of Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon, comes to the throne. Mary is determined to return England to Roman Catholicism. Protestants begin to be persecuted.

1554

Mary marries the King of Spain, Philip II.

The Wyatt Rebellion – arising from fear that England would be ruled by Spain. Lady Jane Grey is executed as a precaution.

1555

Prominent Protestant churchmen Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley are burned at the stake.

1556

Former Archbishop Cranmer is burned at the stake.

1557

War with France.

1558

Calais is taken by the French; England no longer has any territory in France. Mary dies. Elizabeth, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, becomes Queen Elizabeth I of

England.

1559

Enthusiastic Protestant John Knox returns to Scotland from exile. In England, the Book of Common Prayer once again becomes the only legal form of worship; the Catholic mass is henceforth illegal.

1562

Captain John Hawkins sells African slaves in the Caribbean.

1566

Murder of Rizzio, Mary, Queen of Scots' secretary, in the Palace of Holyrood, Edinburgh.

1567

Mary, Queen of Scots is imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle.

1568

Mary, Queen of Scots, defeated at the Battle of Langside, escapes to England.

1569

Northern rebellion in England.

1570

The Pope declares Queen Elizabeth a heretic and excommunicates her.

1572

Harrow School is founded.

Francis Drake raids the Spanish Main.

1576

Sir Martin Frobisher searches for the North West Passage.

1579-83

Rebellion in Ireland.

1580

Francis Drake returns to England having circumnavigated the world.

1583

University of Edinburgh founded.

1584

Colonization of Virginia. Queen Elizabeth grants Walter Raleigh a charter authorizing exploration and colonization of remote, heathen and barbarous lands.

1586

Walter Raleigh introduces tobacco, maize and potatoes to Britain (it is possible that tobacco, at least, was known in this country before then).

1587

Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots at Fotheringhay Castle as a consequence of being implicated in the Babington Plot, one of several plans to assassinate Elizabeth and replace her with Mary.

1588

The Spanish Armada – an attempted invasion of England is thwarted by a combination of better leadership and bad weather.

1590

First performance of Shakespeare's plays - possibly Henry VI, Parts I, 2 and 3.

1600

British East India Company receives its charter.

1601

Earl of Essex rebellion

1603

Elizabeth I dies. The English throne is offered to James VI of Scotland, who becomes James I of England and the first King of Great Britain.

Tudor Britain Timeline

Tudor Britain Timeline	
1485	The <u>War of the Roses</u> ends at the <u>Battle of Bosworth</u> . Henry Tudor wins and is crowned <u>Henry VII</u>
1485-1509	 Reign of King <u>Henry VII</u>
1492	 Christopher Columbus discovered the West Indies
1497	John Cabot, the Italian-born English explorer, discovered Newfoundland. He left Bristol on his ship, the Matthew, looking for a sea route to Asia. He ended up in North America, the first European to reach there since the Vikings.
1498	 Christopher Columbus discovered Trinidad in the Caribbean Sea.
1499	A plague epidemic killed thousands of people in London.

<p>1509</p> <p>-</p> <p>1547</p>	 <p>21 April 1509 Henry VII died and his son Henry VIII succeeds to the throne</p>
<p>1513</p>	<p>30 June 1513 A 35,000-strong English army, led by Henry VIII, lands at Calais, which is ruled by England.</p> <p>9 September 1513 King James IV of Scotland is killed at the Battle of Flodden. James's son becomes James V of Scotland at the age of 18 months.</p>
<p>1515</p>	<p>24 December 1515 Cardinal Wolsey appointed lord chancellor</p>
<p>1521</p>	<p>Henry VIII made 'Defender of Faith' by Pope Leo X for being a good Catholic.</p>
<p>1524</p>	<p>Population of Britain 2.3 million. 6% of the population lived in towns. 3% in London</p>
<p>1529</p>	<p>18 October 1529 Henry VIII sacks Cardinal Wolsey for failing to persuade the pope to grant him divorce to Catherine of Aragon.</p>
<p>1533</p>	<p>Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn</p>
<p>1534</p>	<p>17 November 1534 Henry VIII forms the 'Church of England'. Henry is confirmed as 'Supreme Head of the Church of England'</p>

	following a parliamentary Act of Supremacy
1535	The first Bible printed in English is placed in Churches.
1536	14 April 1536 Act of Union makes Wales  part of England 
1536-1539	<u>Dissolution of the Monasteries</u> (Destruction or closure of 560 monasteries and religious houses)  © Mandy Barrow
1541	Population of Britain 2.7 million. 18 June 1541 Henry VIII proclaimed king of Ireland
1542	Mary, Queen of Scots lays claim to the English throne
1544	Henry VIII invades northern France
1545	The French attempt to invade England. 20 July 1545 The <u>Mary Rose</u> sinks in Portsmouth harbour. 

<p>1547-1553</p>	 <p>28 January 1547 Edward VI becomes king Many new schools and colleges founded.</p>
<p>1548</p>	<p>23 September 1548 The Book of Common Prayer</p>
<p>1548</p>	<p>10 July 1553 Lady Jane Grey proclaimed queen. Jane Grey reigns for little more than a fortnight, and is executed on 12 February 1554.</p>
<p>1553-1558</p>	<p>3 August 1553 <u>Mary I</u> becomes queen</p>
<p>1554</p>	<p>25 July 1554 Mary I marries Philip II of Spain</p>
<p>1558</p>	<p>17 November 1558 <u>Elizabeth I</u> begins her 45 year reign</p>
<p>1561</p>	<p>Mary, Queen of Scots returns to Scotland</p>
<p>1567</p>	<p>Mary Queen of Scots gives throne of Scotland to James</p>
<p>1569</p>	<p>Population of Britain 3.2 million.</p>

1570	 <p>Sir Francis Drake sets sail for his first voyage to the West Indies</p>
1577	 <p>Drake becomes the second person to go round the world</p>
1585-1604	<p>England and Spain at war</p>
1587	<p>8 February 1587 Queen Elizabeth I executes Mary, Queen of Scots</p>
1588	 <p>The Armada fleet of Philip II of Spain attempts to invade England, but is defeated</p>
1591	 <p>First performance of a play by William Shakespeare</p>
1600	<p>First British involvement in the Indian continent - East India Company formed.</p> <p>Population of Britain just over 4 million. 10% of the population lived in towns.</p>
1603	<p>24 March 1603 Queen Elizabeth I died. King James of Scotland becomes the first Stuart king of England. End of Tudor Times</p>

Tudor Timeline

1485	22 August: Henry Tudor defeats Richard III at the <u>Battle of Bosworth</u> .
1485	 30 October: Henry VII crowned at Westminster Abbey
1486	January: Henry VII marries Elizabeth of York, uniting the two houses and ending the Wars of the Roses.
1487	17 June: Henry VII defeats a pretender to his throne at the Battle of Stoke
1497	John Cabot sailed from Bristol aboard the 'Matthew' and discovered North America
1502	2 April: Arthur, Prince of Wales dies, leaving his widow, Catherine of Aragon . With the heir to the throne now dead, the 11-year old Henry, Duke of York, became first in line to the throne.
1503	8 August: James IV of Scotland marries Margaret, daughter of Henry VII of England. Although this meant peace between the two countries, the marriage also gives James IV's descendents a claim to the English throne.
1509	 21 April: Henry VII dies and is succeeded by his younger son Henry VIII . Two months after he became king, he married his brother's Spanish widow, Catherine of Aragon.

1513	9 September: James IV of Scotland is defeated and killed at the Battle of Flodden Field . While Henry VIII's forces were campaigning against the French king Louis XII, James IV of Scotland invaded England.
1515	Thomas Wolsey becomes a cardinal and Lord Chancellor
1518	Thomas Wolsey is made papal legate, making him effectively head of the English church. He was the most powerful man in England after the king.
1521	June: Henry VIII meets Francis I of France at the ' Field of the Cloth of Gold ' The first meeting of Henry VIII and Francis I of France took place just outside the English-held town of Guines near Calais, France. In a fortnight of ceremonies and entertainments, the English and French kings attempted to outshine each other with extravagant clothes and jewels, lavish tents and spectacular feasts, jousts and games.
1521	17 October: The pope grants Henry VIII the title ' Defender of the Faith ' Pope Leo X conferred the title on Henry for his book 'Assertio Septem Sacramentorum' (Defence of the Seven Sacraments), which affirmed the supremacy of the pope.
1528	Henry VIII appeals to the pope to annul his marriage so that he could marry Ann Boleyn instead.
1528	29 February: First Protestant martyr is burned in Scotland
1530	Thomas Wolsey , unable to arrange the king's divorce from Catherine of Aragon, was stripped of his offices and died on his way to face a

	charge of treason.
1533	January: Henry VIII commands Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer to declare the marriage to Catherine of Aragon void on the grounds that the union was illegitimate because Catherine was his brother's widow.
1533	25 January: Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn , following divorce from Catherine of Aragon
1533	September: Anne Boleyn gives birth to Elizabeth
1534	November: Act of Supremacy makes Henry head of the English church <u>Henry VIII formed the 'Church of England</u> separating England from the Roman Catholic Church. Henry himself was never a Protestant, but the break with Rome was a huge encouragement to Protestants in England.
1534	6 July: Former Chancellor Sir Thomas More is executed for treason for refusing to swear to the Act of Succession (which made Ann Boleyn's daughter Elizabeth heir to the throne) because its preface undermined the authority of the pope.
1536	<u>Act of Union joined England and Wales</u> The Laws in Wales Acts of 1535 and 1542 attempted to regularise the relationship between the two nations, by introducing the English legal system in Wales. English became the official language of administration.
1536	Destruction or closure of 560 monasteries and



- 1540	religious houses
1536	Henry VIII's second wife Anne Boleyn is executed
1536	Eleven days after the execution of his second wife, Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour .
1536	4 August Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer receives the first Bible in English
1537	12 October: A male heir, Edward, is born to Henry VIII and Jane Seymour Henry was shattered by her death shortly after Edward's birth.
1541	Henry VIII changes his title from Lord of Ireland to King of Ireland
1542	Mary, Queen of Scots laid claim to the English throne
1547	 <p>28 January: Henry VIII dies and is succeeded by nine-year-old Edward VI</p>
1553	<p>6 July: Edward VI dies and is succeeded by Lady Jane Grey</p> <p>Four days after Edward died, Jane was proclaimed queen, but widespread popular support for Mary ensured her reign lasted only a matter of days.</p>

1553		<p>19 July: Mary I, daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, becomes queen Mary was the first woman to be crowned monarch of England in her own right. A devout Catholic, she was determined to halt the growth of Protestantism initiated by her father, and return England to Roman Catholicism.</p>
1554	<p>25 July: Mary marries Philip of Spain despite widespread opposition</p>	
1556	<p>21 March: Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer is burnt for heresy Thomas Cranmer, who had approved the divorce of Henry VIII from Mary's mother, Catherine of Aragon, went to the stake the following March.</p>	
1558	<p>7 January: England's last French possession, Calais, is lost</p>	
1558		<p>17 November Mary dies and Elizabeth I accedes to the throne</p>
1559	<p>24 June: Book of Common Prayer becomes the only legal form of worship</p>	
1570	<p>Sir Francis Drake set sails for his first voyage to the West Indies</p>	
1577	<p>15 November: Sir Francis Drake set sails in his flagship 'Pelican' - soon renamed 'Golden Hind' to circumnavigate the world.</p>	
1580	<p>c. 26 September: Francis Drake arrives at Plymouth after circumnavigating the world</p>	
1587	<p>8 February: Mary Stuart (Mary I of Scotland) is executed when found guilty of treason to kill</p>	

	Elizabeth
1588	The English defeats the <u>Spanish Armada</u> at the Battle of Gravelines
1591	First performance of a play by <u>William Shakespeare</u>
1600	First British involvement in the Indian continent - East India Company formed. Population of Britain just over 4 million



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