

Queen Elizabeth I

Queen Elizabeth I is one of England's most famous monarchs and was the last monarch from the House of Tudor.

Early Life

Elizabeth was born in 1533, the daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Henry had been desperate for a son to be king after him and was disappointed when Anne had a daughter.



After her mother's execution for treason in 1536, Elizabeth was removed from the line of succession. She was well educated and was said to be fluent in Latin, Italian, Welsh, Irish and many other languages. Elizabeth was also raised as a Protestant in order to honour her mother's faith.



Life as Princess

Towards the end of Henry VIII's life, Elizabeth and her older sister, Mary, were restored to the line of succession. After her father's death in 1547, Elizabeth's brother, Edward, became king and Elizabeth went to live with her father's sixth wife, Catherine Parr, for a while before moving to Hatfield House in May 1548.

After Edward's death in 1553, Elizabeth's half-sister, Mary, became queen. In 1554, a plot was discovered to replace the Catholic queen Mary with Elizabeth. The conspirators were arrested and many were executed. Elizabeth, was arrested but was released shortly after and she returned to Hatfield, where she stayed until her sister's death on 17th November 1558.

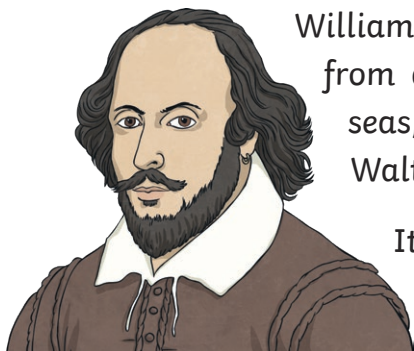
The Virgin Queen

Elizabeth was crowned Queen of England at the age of 25. The people welcomed their new queen, although they were concerned about trouble with Catholics.

Elizabeth was regularly asked to marry, though Elizabeth felt a marriage would make her less powerful as queen as it had done when her sister Mary had married. She continued to consider marriage for many years but by 1570, her government had accepted that Elizabeth would not marry. Because she never married or had children, Elizabeth is often referred to as 'The Virgin Queen'.

A Golden Age

Elizabeth's reign is said to have been the 'Golden Age' for England. It was a time of peace where the country got richer. England became known for its culture and William Shakespeare wrote his famous plays, getting attention from all over Europe. England also became stronger on the seas, with English sailors such as Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh exploring the New World.



It was not all happy times during Elizabeth's reign, however. In 1588, King Phillip II of Spain ordered a fleet of 130 warships to invade England and restore it to the Catholic faith. This is known as the Spanish Armada. After losing in battle to English ships and having being damaged by storms, the Spanish fleet retreated. They had lost over half their ships and over 20,000 men. The victory over the Armada was seen as God's approval for England being Protestant.



Later Life

As she grew older, Elizabeth was becoming more aware of her looks after catching smallpox in 1562, leaving her half bald and her skin scarred. She wore wigs and heavy make-up in a hope to appear younger. Elizabeth stayed healthy until the autumn of 1602, when she fell sick and began to keep more to herself.

She died on 24th March 1603 at the age of 69. After her death, King James VI of Scotland was crowned King James I of England, bringing both countries together.



Queen Elizabeth I - Questions

1. Which house was Elizabeth part of?

2. Who was Elizabeth's mother? Tick **one**.

Henry VIII

Anne Boleyn

Mary Tudor

Catherine Parr

3. Name **two** languages, apart from English, that Elizabeth was able to speak?

4. Who sent the Spanish Armada to invade England?

5. Match the year to the event in Elizabeth's life.

1603

Elizabeth was crowned queen

1588

Elizabeth died aged 69

1558

The Spanish Armada tries to invade England

6. Why did Elizabeth choose not to marry? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

7. Why do you think Elizabeth wanted to appear younger as she got older?

8. The text says that Elizabeth's reign is known as a 'Golden Age'. Why is it given this name?

Queen Elizabeth I Answers

1. Which house was Elizabeth part of?

The House of Tudor

2. Who was Elizabeth's mother? Tick **one**.

Henry VIII

Anne Boleyn

Mary Tudor

Catherine Parr

3. Name two languages Elizabeth was able to speak.

Accept any two of the following: Latin, Italian, Welsh, Irish.

4. Who sent the Spanish Armada to invade England?

King Phillip II of Spain

5. Match the year to the event in Elizabeth's life.

1603	Elizabeth was crowned queen
1588	Elizabeth died aged 69
1558	The Spanish Armada tries to invade England

6. Why did Elizabeth choose not to marry? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
Pupil's own response, such as: Elizabeth chose not to marry as she thought it would make her less powerful as queen, as it had done with her sister, Mary. She wanted to make sure that she was the most powerful in the country and so didn't want to share her power with a husband, as men were seen as more important than women at the time.

7. Why do you think Elizabeth wanted to appear younger as she got older?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Elizabeth wanted to look younger so that people would still see her as beautiful and strong. If she was seen to be getting older, people may have thought she was getting weaker.

8. The text says that Elizabeth's reign is known as a 'Golden Age'. Why is it given this name?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Elizabeth's reign is known as a 'Golden Age' because England grew stronger and richer during her reign. The country became more powerful on the seas and became known for culture because of Shakespeare's plays.

Queen Elizabeth I

Queen Elizabeth I is one of England's most famous monarchs. She was the last of the five monarchs in the House of Tudor.

Early Life

Elizabeth was born at Greenwich Palace in London in 1533. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Henry had been desperate for a son to be king after him and was disappointed when Anne had a daughter. In 1536, Anne was arrested for treason and was beheaded.



After her mother's execution, Elizabeth was removed from the line of succession. Despite this, she was well educated and by the end of her education in 1550, Elizabeth was said to be fluent in Latin, Italian, Welsh, Irish and many other languages. Elizabeth was also raised as a Protestant in order to honour her mother's faith.



Life as Princess

Towards the end of Henry VIII's life, Elizabeth and her older sister, Mary, were restored to the line of succession. After her father's death in 1547, Elizabeth's brother, Edward, became king and Elizabeth went to live with her father's sixth wife, Catherine Parr, for a while. While she was there, rumours grew of a relationship between the princess and Catherine's new husband, Thomas Seymour, and she was sent back to live at the royal estate at Hatfield.

After Edward's death in 1553, Elizabeth's half-sister, Mary, became queen. In 1554, a plot was discovered to replace the Catholic queen Mary with Elizabeth. The conspirators were arrested and many were executed. Elizabeth, who had denied any knowledge of the plot, was also arrested but was released shortly after and she returned to Hatfield, where she remained until her sister's death on 17th November 1558.

The Virgin Queen

After Mary's death, Elizabeth was crowned Queen of England at the age of 25. The people welcomed their new queen, although they were concerned about trouble with Catholics.

Throughout her reign, Elizabeth was regularly asked to choose a suitor to marry, though Elizabeth felt a marriage would lessen her power as queen as it had done when her sister Mary had married her husband, King Phillip II of Spain. She continued to consider marriage for many years but by 1570, her government had accepted that Elizabeth would not marry. Because she never married or had children, Elizabeth is often referred to as 'The Virgin Queen'.



A Golden Age

Elizabeth's reign is said to have been the 'Golden Age'. England grew wealthier and more powerful in a time of peace and William Shakespeare wrote his famous plays making the country a cultural centre of Europe. England was also seen as a rising power on the seas, with English sailors such as Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh exploring the New World.

It was not all happy times during Elizabeth's reign, however. In 1588, King Phillip II of Spain ordered a fleet of 130 warships to invade England and restore it to the Catholic faith. This is known as the Spanish Armada. The ships were defeated by the English fleet, which engaged the Spanish in battle in order to use up their ammunition and sent ships full of gunpowder into their fleet to explode. After this and having being damaged by storms, the Spanish fleet retreated. They had lost over half their ships and over 20,000 men. The victory over the Armada was seen as God's approval for England being Protestant.

Later Life

As she grew older, Elizabeth was becoming more conscious of her image after catching smallpox in 1562, leaving her half bald and her skin scarred. She wore wigs and heavy make-up in a hope to appear more youthful. Elizabeth stayed healthy until the autumn of 1602, when she fell sick and began to keep more to herself.

She died on 24th March 1603 at the age of 69. After her death, King James VI of Scotland was crowned King James I of England, uniting both countries.

Queen Elizabeth I - Questions

1. Where was Elizabeth born?

2. Fill in the missing words.

Henry had been _____ for a _____ to be king after him and was _____ when Anne had a _____.

3. Which monarch reigned before Elizabeth?

4. When was Elizabeth crowned queen? Tick **one**.

1558

1588

1554

1547

5. Why was Elizabeth arrested in 1554?

6. Which of these people were explorers during Elizabeth's reign? Tick **two**.

Phillip II of Spain

Sir Walter Raleigh

Sir Francis Drake

Thomas Seymour

7. Why did Elizabeth choose not to marry? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. The text says that people saw England's victory over the Armada as God's approval for England being Protestant. Why do you think they thought this?

9. Do you think Elizabeth was intelligent? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Queen Elizabeth I Answers

1. Where was Elizabeth born?

Greenwich Palace, London

2. Fill in the missing words.

Henry had been **desperate** for a **son** to be king after him and was **disappointed** when Anne had a **daughter**.

3. Which monarch reigned before Elizabeth?

Queen Mary I

4. When was Elizabeth crowned queen? Tick **one**.

1558

1588

1554

1547

5. Why was Elizabeth arrested in 1554?

Elizabeth was arrested because there had been a plot by protestants to replace her sister Mary as Queen of England with Elizabeth.

6. Which of these people were explorers during Elizabeth's reign? Tick **two**.

Phillip II of Spain

Sir Walter Raleigh

Sir Francis Drake

Thomas Seymour

7. Why did Elizabeth choose not to marry? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: Elizabeth chose not to marry as she thought it would make her less powerful as queen, as it had done with her sister, Mary. She wanted to make sure that she was the most powerful in the country and so didn't want to share her power with a husband, as men were seen as more important than women at the time.

8. The text says that people saw England's victory over the Armada as God's approval for England being Protestant. Why do you think they thought this?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think people saw England's victory as God's approval as at the time, religion was a very important factor in people's lives. They believed that things that happened were because God wanted them to happen, so their victory would have been what God wanted.

9. Do you think Elizabeth was intelligent? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

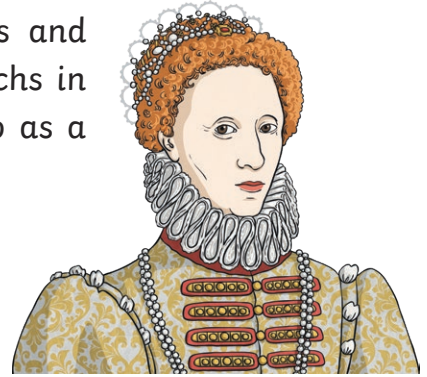
Pupil's own response, such as: I think Elizabeth was very intelligent because at the start of the text, it says that she was well educated and fluent in many languages, as well as being queen during a time of prosperity for England, keeping the peace and making sure she was respected as a queen.

Queen Elizabeth I

Queen Elizabeth I is one of England's most famous and iconic monarchs. She was the last of the five monarchs in the House of Tudor and her reign is often referred to as a 'Golden Age'.

Early Life

Elizabeth was born at Greenwich Palace in London in 1533. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Henry had been desperate for a son to become his heir and was disappointed when Anne delivered a daughter. In 1536, Anne was arrested for treason and was beheaded.



After her mother's execution, Elizabeth was declared illegitimate and was removed from the line of succession. Despite this, she still received an extensive education and excelled at languages and music. By the end of her education in 1550, Elizabeth was said to be fluent in numerous languages, including Latin, Italian, Welsh and Irish. Elizabeth was also raised as a Protestant in order to honour her mother's faith.



Life as Princess

Towards the end of Henry VIII's life, his sixth wife, Catherine Parr, persuaded him to restore Elizabeth and her older sister, Mary, to the line of succession. After her father's death in 1547, Elizabeth's half-brother, Edward, became king and Elizabeth went to live with Catherine for a while. While she was there, rumours grew of a relationship between the princess and Catherine's new husband, Thomas Seymour, and she was sent back to live at the royal estate at Hatfield. Seymour was later arrested for conspiring to marry Elizabeth to gain power and was executed.

After Edward's death in 1553, Elizabeth's half-sister, Mary, became queen. In 1554, a Protestant man named Thomas Wyatt formed a plot to replace the Catholic queen Mary with Elizabeth. The plot was discovered and the conspirators were arrested, along with Elizabeth, and imprisoned. Wyatt was executed and Elizabeth, who had denied any knowledge of the plot, was released. She returned to Hatfield, where she remained until her sister's death on 17th November 1558.

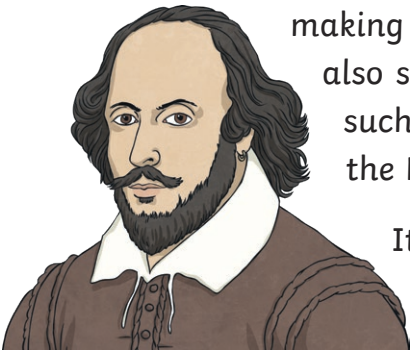
The Virgin Queen

After Mary's death, Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen of England at the age of 25. Her coronation took place on 15th January 1559 at Westminster Abbey. Afterwards, she was presented to the public in a celebration including trumpets, drums and bells. The people welcomed their new queen, although they were concerned about unrest with Catholics in England and abroad.

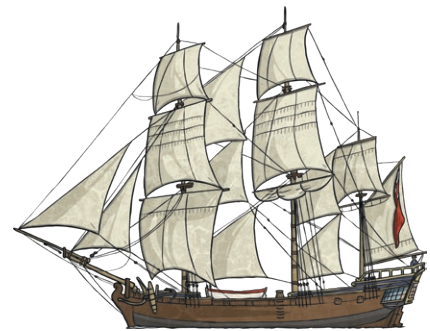
Throughout her reign, Elizabeth's legitimacy was often under question due to her father's marriage to Anne Boleyn being declared null and void. She was regularly asked to choose a suitor to marry, though Elizabeth felt a marriage would diminish her power as queen as it had done when her sister Mary had married her husband, King Phillip II of Spain. She continued to consider marriage until her fifties but by 1570, her government had privately accepted that Elizabeth would not marry. Because Elizabeth never married or had children, she is often referred to as 'The Virgin Queen'.

A Golden Age

Elizabeth's reign is said to have been the 'Golden Age'. England flourished in a time of peace and prosperity and William Shakespeare wrote his famous plays making the country a cultural centre of Europe. England was also seen as a rising power on the seas, with English sailors, such as Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh exploring the New World.



It was not all happy times during Elizabeth's reign, however. In 1588, King Phillip II of Spain, a staunch Catholic, ordered a fleet of 130 warships to invade England and restore it to the Catholic faith. This is known as the Spanish Armada. The ships were soundly defeated by the English fleet, which engaged the Spanish in battle in order to use up their ammunition and sent ships full of gunpowder into their fleet to explode and cause devastation. After this and having being battered by storms, the Spanish fleet retreated. They had lost over half their ships and over 20,000 men. The victory over the Armada was seen as God's approval for England being Protestant.



Later Life

As she grew older, Elizabeth became referred to as 'Gloriana', the Faerie Queene that stays eternally youthful from a poem by Edmund Spenser. Contrary to this, she had contracted smallpox in 1562, leaving her half bald and her skin scarred so she wore wigs and heavy make-up. Despite this, her health remained good until the autumn of 1602 when she fell sick and began to keep to herself.



She died on 24th March 1603 at the age of 69. She was buried in Westminster Abbey alongside her sister, Mary I.

After her death, King James VI of Scotland inherited the English throne, becoming King James I of England, uniting both countries.



Queen Elizabeth I - Questions

1. How many English monarchs were there in the House of Tudor?

2. How did King Henry VIII feel when Elizabeth was born? Why?

3. Look at the paragraph called Early Life.

Find and **copy** one word which means the same as widespread.

4. Who was the leader of the protestant plot to replace Mary with Elizabeth as queen?

Tick **one**.

Thomas Seymour

Catherine Parr

Sir Francis Drake

Thomas Wyatt

5. When was Elizabeth's coronation? Tick **one**.

17th November 1558

15th January 1559

15th January 1588

24th March 1603

6. Why did Elizabeth choose not to marry? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

7. The text says that people saw England's victory over the Armada as God's approval for England being Protestant. Why do you think they thought this?

8. Do you think Elizabeth was intelligent? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

9. Why do you think Elizabeth wanted to appear younger as she got older?

10. Why do you think Elizabeth is so fondly remembered as one of England's greatest monarchs? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Queen Elizabeth I Answers

1. How many English monarchs were there in the House of Tudor?
There were five English monarchs in the House of Tudor.
2. How did King Henry VIII feel when Elizabeth was born? Why?
Henry was disappointed when Elizabeth was born because he was desperate for a son to be his heir.
3. Look at the paragraph called Early Life.
Find and copy one word which means the same as widespread.
extensive
4. Who was the leader of the protestant plot to replace Mary with Elizabeth as queen?
Tick **one**.

<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Seymour	<input type="checkbox"/> Catherine Parr
<input type="checkbox"/> Sir Francis Drake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas Wyatt
5. When was Elizabeth's coronation? Tick **one**.

<input type="checkbox"/> 17 th November 1558	<input type="checkbox"/> 15 th January 1559
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15th January 1588	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 th March 1603
6. Why did Elizabeth choose not to marry? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
Pupil's own response, such as: Elizabeth chose not to marry as she thought it would make her less powerful as queen, as it had done with her sister, Mary. She wanted to make sure that she was the most powerful in the country and so didn't want to share her power with a husband, as men were seen as more important than women at the time.
7. The text says that people saw England's victory over the Armada as God's approval for England being Protestant. Why do you think they thought this?
Pupil's own response, such as: I think people saw England's victory as God's approval as at the time, religion was a very important factor in people's lives. They believed that things that happened were because God wanted them to happen, so their victory would have been what God wanted.
8. Do you think Elizabeth was intelligent? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
Pupil's own response, such as: I think Elizabeth was very intelligent because at the start of the text, it says that she was well educated and fluent in many languages, as well as being queen during a time of prosperity for England, keeping the peace and making sure she was respected as a queen.

9. Why do you think Elizabeth wanted to appear younger as she got older?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Elizabeth wanted to look younger so that people would still see her as beautiful and strong. If she was seen to be getting older, people may have thought she was getting weaker.

10. Why do you think Elizabeth is so fondly remembered as one of England's greatest monarchs? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Elizabeth is so fondly remembered as she was queen during the Golden Age of England. During her reign, England became richer and more powerful and she was seen as a strong female monarch in a time when men were considered superior. She oversaw military victories and exploration. She also named James VI of Scotland as her heir, leading to England and Scotland becoming united.