



ELIZABETH I KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview

Elizabeth I (1533-1603) was the Queen of England and Ireland from 17th November 1558 until her death on 24th March 1603.

She is one of the most **famous queens** that Britain has ever had. She was the **youngest daughter of Henry VIII**. Her mother was Anne Boleyn.

The time at which Elizabeth reigned is called the **Elizabethan era**.

The 44 years that she ruled for are also known as the golden age, because **England was a rich and powerful country**, which did very well in lots of areas. In a time in which men doubted that a woman could lead the country, **Elizabeth proved them wrong**.

A portrait of Elizabeth I from around 1575.



Answers to Important Questions and Key Vocabulary

What did Elizabeth do before she was Queen?



-After her mother was executed, Elizabeth was removed from the line of succession (who would be king/queen after Henry VIII).
-After the birth of her half-brother Edward, she was placed in his household and expected to help him.
-She was taught by several different tutors – by the time she was an adult, she was one of the best-educated women in the world.
-She won the respect of those around her.

Key Vocabulary

- Crowned
- Coronated
- Traitor
- Assassinated
- Executed
- Public Speaker

Why did some people want to assassinate Elizabeth?



-People across Europe were deeply religious at the time. Some were Protestant and Catholic – two different types of Christianity.
-Elizabeth was Protestant, and some Catholics wanted a Catholic in charge. They were prepared to kill Elizabeth to achieve this!

Why was Elizabeth's reign known as a Golden Age?



-The country enjoyed peace and prosperity (there were not many wars people had enough money).
-Elizabeth was seen as a strong leader, which made people feel more safe and secure.
-It was also a great time for art and literature. Some of the best works were created around this time, including by William Shakespeare.

- Parliament
- Armada
- Government

How did Elizabeth die?



-It is thought that Elizabeth died of some kind of blood poisoning.
-However, it was not allowed to check the body of a king or queen at the time, and so no one is sure.
-Elizabeth lived to the age of 69, which was a very long life back then!
She reigned for over 44 years.

- Catholic
- Protestant
- Prosperity

Times in Her Life

Early Life



-Elizabeth was born on 7th September 1533. Her mother was Anne Boleyn – Henry VIII's 2nd wife.

-Her mother was executed when she was only 3 years old, and so she never really knew her.

-Her half-siblings (Edward and Mary) both ruled before her.

Early Reign



-She lived in a time in which men believed they were stronger than women. Even her own father (Henry VIII), had really wanted a son to take his throne.

-So, in the early part of her reign, she had to prove that she was a strong leader.

Strengthening Her Position

-There were several plots by traitors to have Elizabeth I assassinated. She survived them all!

-Both the Thockmorton Plot in the early 1580s and the Babington Plot in 1586 tried to put Elizabeth's cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, onto the throne. Mary Queen of Scots was a Catholic and Elizabeth I was a Protestant. Some Catholics wanted Mary to rule, and not Elizabeth.

-It was punishable by death to be involved with any plots against the Queen. This meant that lots of people involved were executed – including Mary Queen of Scots!



The Spanish Armada

-Philip II of Spain was another person involved in the plots, who wanted England to become Catholic.

-In 1588, Philip II sent an armada of 130 ships to attack and invade England. However, spurred on by a great speech by Elizabeth, the English defeated them at sea.



Golden Speech



-Elizabeth had enjoyed a long, successful reign, but by November 1601 her health had started to fail her.

-She gave one last famous speech to Parliament, sharing her love and respect for her country.

Top 10 Facts!

- Elizabeth could speak six different languages!
- Elizabeth had red hair, like her father Henry VIII. Like lots of rich people at the time, she wore a wig – it was red too!
- Elizabeth travelled to many places in the UK.
- Elizabeth never married or had children – she became known as the Virgin Queen.
- Lots of people at the time desired her. Many love poems from the time are written to her.
- Smallpox gave Elizabeth bad facial scars.
- Elizabeth passed laws to help poor people and children have better lives. She set up a number of new hospitals and orphanages.
- Elizabeth knighted Francis Drake – he was one of the first people to sail around the world!
- William Shakespeare, who many think is the best writer of all time, lived in Elizabeth's reign.
- Because she didn't have children, James VI of Scotland (her first cousin) succeeded her.

Elizabeth I Timeline

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| 7 th September 1533: Elizabeth I is born. | 17 th November 1558: Elizabeth's half-sister, Queen Mary, dies. | 15 th January 1559: Elizabeth I is officially crowned. | 1562: Elizabeth becomes very ill with smallpox. | 1581: Elizabeth knights Sir Francis Drake. | 1586: Babington plot discovered. | 8 th February 1587: Mary Queen of Scots is executed. | 1588: The English defeat the Spanish Armada. | 1597: Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet first performed. | 30 th November 1601: Gives her golden speech to Parliament. | 24 th March 1603: Queen Elizabeth I dies. |
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