



## Autumn Term - Year 5

# The Elizabethans

### General Information:


The Elizabethan era is the time in the Tudor period during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558 – 1603). Historians often depict it as the 'golden age' in English history. During this era, England experienced peace and prosperity and became rich and powerful. The era is named after Queen Elizabeth who was the last of the Tudor monarchs. Elizabeth's father was Henry VIII and her mother was Anne Boleyn. In a time when female monarchs were rare, she proved that women could not only rule, but could rule successfully.



### Elizabethan age of exploration.



### Timeline:



1066	Battle of Hastings, making William the Conqueror King.
1399	Henry IV became King, ending the rule of the Normans.
1485	Henry VII wins the Battle of Bosworth.
1509	Henry VIII becomes King after the death of his brother, Arthur.
1534	Henry VIII forms the Church of England.
1547	Henry VIII dies and is succeeded by Edward VI aged nine.
1553	Succeeded by Lady Jane Grey but her reigns lasted only days. Mary I becomes queen, the first women crowned monarch'
1558	Elizabeth I becomes the Queen of England.
1564	William Shakespeare is born.
1570	Elizabeth is excommunicated from the Catholic Church by Pope.
1577	Francis Drake sets out on his first circumnavigation of the globe.
1588	Defeat of the Spanish Armada.
1603	Death of Elizabeth I and accession of King James I.

### Key Vocabulary:

**Armada** - A Spanish word that originally meant 'armed' now used to describe an invasion fleet.

**Annul** - To declare invalid.

**Monarch** - A leader of a country, for example a King or Queen

**Heir** - The next person in line to throne who will take over when the current King or Queen dies

**Reign** - The period of time that a Monarch rules

**Pope** - Head of the Roman Catholic church

**Catholicism** - A branch of the Christian Religion headed by the Pope in Rome.

**Protestantism** - A branch of the Christian religion

## **Tudors**

The Tudor family ruled England from 1485 – 1603. During this time, people were discovering more about the world through exploration, the Church of England was founded and art and music became an important part of culture. The Tudor reign started after the House of York won the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, which ended the War of the Roses between the House of Lancaster and the House of York. It was called this because each side were represented by a different colour rose- red for Lancaster and white for York. The House of Tudor had five monarchs who succeeded one another directly, Henry VII, Henry VIII Edward VI, Mary and finally Elizabeth I. During their reigns Tudor monarchs oversaw some of the most dramatic changes in English history.

Henry VIII's divorce from his first wife was opposed by the Catholic church which was headed by the Pope. In order to achieve the divorce, Henry broke ties with the Catholic church and founded the Protestant Church of England. Henry VIII appointed himself as head of the new Church of England. The establishment of the Church of England was not supported by everybody and this led to turbulent times in the country. The monarch often led the countries religious direction through the religion that they personally followed. Queen Elizabeth and her brother King Edward VI were protestants, whereas her sister Queen Mary was a catholic.

## **Sir Francis Drake and The Spanish Armada.**

Sir Francis Drake was a British explorer and navy captain, who circumnavigated the globe between 1577 and 1580 aboard his ship, the Golden Hind. Drake brought riches back to England from his travels. For this reason, Elizabeth chose him to lead the English forces in defending the country against Spanish invasion.

The Spanish Armada was an invasion fleet sent by King Phillip II of Spain, who wanted to conquer England and restore the country to the Catholic religion that he followed. King Phillip II had been married to Elizabeth's sister Mary at the time when England had followed the Catholic religion. The Spanish Armada represented the height of the long struggle between Protestant England and Catholic Spain. Drakes victory over the Spanish Armada redefined the power map of Europe with Spain losing their superior position and England starting its journey to becoming the greatest empire in the world.

## **Websites you can visit:**

<http://schoolshistory.org.uk/topics/england-reign-elizabeth/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/tudors/elizabeth\\_i\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/tudors/elizabeth_i_01.shtml)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Elizabeth-I>

Remember: if you add "Key Stage 2" to your google search, you will get results aimed at junior school children!

Always check with an adult if there is a website that you are unsure about.

## **Enquiry Questions**

Why were the Elizabethans so influential?

How well did Elizabeth I deal with the countries religious problems?

Was Elizabeth's reign a cultural 'Golden Age'?

Why is the defeat of the Spanish Armada so significant?