

# History Knowledge Organiser 1 Elizabethan England c.1558 -1588 Elizabeth's court and Parliament

# Who had the power?

#### **Parliament**

House of Lords - Lords, bishops and members of the nobility. House of Commons - 'common' people but wealthy and educated Less powerful than today but had an influence over tax and passed laws. The queen decided when to call them and how much to listen.

#### Lord Lieutenants

Appointed by the queen to be responsible for an area of the country. They solved disputes and collected taxes. If a militia was needed to fight for the queen it was their job to raise it. Many of them were also Lord Lieutenants. It could lead to great power and influence.

Who had the power in Elizabethan England?

### The Royal Court

Around 1000 nobles, government officials, ladies-in-waiting, servants and advisors who surrounded Elizabeth. It was a centre of political power, trends and fashions. The Privy Council was a key part of the court. Elizabeth could ensure loyalty through patronage ing titles, places, power and rewards

#### Privy Council

Usually 12 men who took responsibility for the day-to-day running of the country and were her main advisers. Elizabeth chose who was a member so picked men of power and influence to avoid rebellion. They dealt with issues including religious, military, foreign affairs and the queen's security. They rarely agreed but if they did it was hard for Elizabeth to refuse. It was led by the Secretary of State.

#### Justices of the Peace

Also known as JPs. Each county had several to keep order. They were selected from local gentry and their job was to enforce the laws passed by Parliament. They could send a person to prison but more than one had to agree to a death penalty. They swore to treat rich and poor equally.

# Elizabeth's problems

#### Mary Queen of Scots

Until Elizabeth had an heir Mary was the next heir to the throne of England. She was Elizabeth's cousin, catholic but exiled from Scotland in 1568. While she was alive she was a threat to Elizabeth and the subject of potential plots to replace Elizabeth.

#### Ireland

Elizabeth considered herself to be Queen of Ireland. Many os the Irish disagreed and in 1559 there was the first of several revolts in Northern Ireland. She spent thousands and sent many of her best soldiers to deal with this but without success.

#### Succession

A successful monarch produces heirs but for them to be legitimate Elizabeth would have to marry. In 1562 Elizabeth nearly died of smallpox. This drew attention to the marriage and succession question. Parliament were worried about what would happen if a Elizabeth died without an heir. Who should she marry?

#### Elizabeth's problems

#### **Taxation**

During Elizabeth's reign there was a time of great poverty. This made it difficult to collect the taxes she needed to run the county. New taxes would be unpopular and she had to consider how dangerous it could be for her as a new

#### Religion

Her father Henry had broken from Rome to get a divorce. Her brother Edward had been a strict Protestant. Her sister Mary (bloody) executed 300 Protestants for refusing to change their faith. She was a Protestant who wanted to settle the religious problems but had to deal vith Catholics, Protestants and Puritans

#### Foreign policy

France and Spain were both Catholic, had the support of the Pope and wanted influence over England. They saw Protestant England as a threat. King Philip of Spain had ruled England when he was married to Mary Tudor. The Netherlands was a Protestant population in conflict with Catholic Spain. Should she help them? These were issues she would have to deal with

# Key individuals



Queen Elizabeth I single female ruler at a time when men had the power. Was very intelligent but had a difficult childhood.

William Cecil Secretary of State twice. Most trusted advisor. Key





Francis Walsingham -Secretary of State and one of her closest

advisors until his death in 1573. Elizabeth's spymaster with 'eyes and ears' everywhere. Played role in the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

# **Key dates**

1533	Elizabeth born to Anne
	Boleyn

1558	Crowned Queen of	
	England following the	
	death of her sister Mary	

1569	The Northern Rebellion
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15/1	The Ridolfi Plot

#### 1586 The Babington Plot

#### 1587 Mary Queen of Scots executed

#### The Spanish Armada 1588

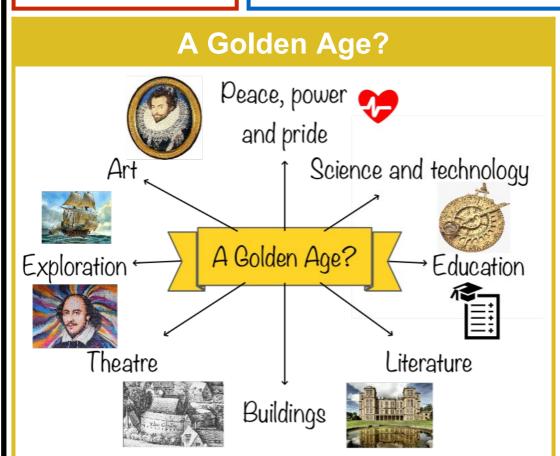
1603	Elizabeth	dies
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### **KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS**

Inherit, treason, privy council, Secretary of State, patronage, succession, heir, rebellion, Catholic, Protestant, Puritan, Foreign policy, JPs, taxation, Lord Lieutenants, Royal Court.



# History Knowledge Organiser 2 Elizabethan England c.1558 -1588 Life in Elizabethan times



# Voyages of exploration

Several European countries were investigating the new world, bringing home treasures and claiming land. Drake circumnavigated the globe from 1577-80. He and his cousin John Hawkins made one of the first voyages

to sell slaves. New technology such as the and astrolabe helped make this possible. Spain was often the target of the privateers 'sea dogs'



# **Key individuals**



John Hawkins was a key figure at court. He was responsible for

building up the Royal Navy. Was also involved in the slave America. He was banished for trade and introduced tobacco

William Shakespeare was the most celebrated playwright of all time with 38 plays. Wrote for the Lord Chamberlain's Men



Sir Walter Raleigh very loyal to Elizabeth and a favourite. Attempted

to establish a colony in North 5 years (secret marriage)

Francis Drake was an English hero but the Spanish called him a pirate. Led the defeat of the Armada. Was a privateer.

# **Poverty**

Not everyone in Elizabethan England benefited from the increased prosperity and trade. A growing population, bad harvests and enclosure created a very poor group at the bottom of society. The poor were categorised into; the deserving poor who could not help themselves, the undeserving poor who were untrustworthy and did not want honest work, the idle poor seen as lazy and the able poor. Beggars could be whipped, branded, have a hole burned in the ear or hung. Towns such as York, Ipswich and Norwich had their own ways to deal with the poor. The 1601 Poor Law taxed the wealthy to care and support the old, sick and vulnerable. The fit and healthy were to be given work. The idle could be whipped and placed in the house of correction.

# **Key dates**

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1576	The Theatre was opened by James Burbage
1587	The Rose opened
1588	The Spanish Armada
1599	The Globe opened

## **KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS**

Tier 2 - significant, conclude, attitude, contrast, overall, furthermore, convincing, involve, feature, impact, previous, contribute, demonstrate, illustrate, participate, despite, hence, facilitate, nevertheless, globe, exploit, likewise.

Tier 3 - exploration, theatre, poverty, beggars, vagabond, Armada, privateers, circumnavigation, voyages, enclosure.



# History Knowledge Organiser 3 Elizabethan England c1558 - 1588 - Troubles at home and abroad

# Key individuals

Mary Queen of Scots - heir to the throne of England Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth Sir William Cecil -Secretary of State Cardinal William -Allen - involved in the Throckmorton Plot and Spanish Armada **Edmund Campion**  Jesuit **Anthony Babington** Sir Francis Walsingham -Secretary of State and Spymaster King Philip of Spain **Duke Medina** Sidonia - in charge of the Spanish Armada William of Orange - Protestant who led a rebellion against Spain in

the Netherlands.

# Religion

Elizabeth was Protestant but inherited the upheaval of the Reformation and her families changes. As a practical monarch she tried to bring compromise with her 'religious settlement'. This included priests could marry, book of common prayer and she declared herself 'governor'. Catholics - recusancy fines were low and many kept their own beliefs. Following the Papal Bull which excommunicated Elizabeth, Catholics were encouraged to rise against her. There was a change in policy clamping down on them - see dates. Jesuits were sent to convert Protestants back to Catholic including Edmund Campion who was executed becoming a martyr. Puritans - strict protestants were disappointed in the settlement. Their prophesyings criticised Elizabeth's church and in 1583 they were banned from unlicensed preaching and imposed recusancy fines.

# Mary Queen of Scots

Mary was Queen of Scotland from 8 days old but was brought up in France. She returned to Scotland in 1560 but was very unpopular. It was suggested that she had been involved in the murder of her second husband Lord Darnley. In 1567 she fled from Scotland and her son James became King of Scotland. Mary was placed under house arrest and was moved around for 19 years. Mary was the legitimate heir to the English throne and was Catholic, this made her a threat to the childless Elizabeth. Several plots planned to put her on the throne but during the Babington Plot Walsingham found evidence that she knew of the plot. Mary was put on trial in October 1586 and found guilty of treason even though she argued that as she was not English and a Queen they had no right. On 8/2/1587 Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle making her a martyr.

# Conflict with Spain

Causes - Philip had been married to Mary Tudor and wanted England to be Catholic again. He had asked Elizabeth to marry him but she married England. Elizabeth authorised the sea dogs to steal Spanish Silver. Elizabeth also sent troops to help with William of Orange's rebellion against Spain. in naval warfare meant ships were faster and more maneuverable. They had more powerful weapons and more accurate navigation with the astrolabe. The Armada failed because of poor tactics by the Spanish including having a seasick man in charge - Duke Medina Sidonia. The English tactics including the use of fire ships. This was then followed by terrible storms that wrecked many of the Spanish ships on their way back round Scotland.

	Key dates
1567	Mary Queen of Scots comes to England.
1569	The Northern Rebellion
27 April 1570	Pope Pius V issued the Papal Bull and excommunicated
1571	The Ridolfi Plot. Recusancy fines.
1581	Treason to attend Catholic mass. Recusancy fines increased.
1583	The Throckmorton Plot. Rules to crack down on Puritanism.
1585	Treason to have a Catholic priest in your home. Act against Jesuits and Seminary Priests
1586	The Babington Plot. Mary Queen of Scots put on trial.
8/2/ 1587	Mary Queen of Scots executed.
1588	The Spanish Armada
1593	Statute of Confinement - Catholics could not travel more than five miles from home.

## **KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS - Tier 3**

Protestant, Catholic, Puritan, recusancy, Papal Bull, excommunicate, Jesuits, missionary, martyr, rosary beads, plot, prophes ying, treason, iconoclasm, astrolabe, fireship, line of battle, armada, propaganda.