

# Elizabethan England knowledge organiser

## Key dates

<b>1533</b>	Birth of Elizabeth to Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn
<b>1558</b>	Elizabeth accedes to the throne on the death of her sister, Mary Tudor
<b>1559</b>	The Elizabethan religious settlement: the Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity
<b>1568</b>	Mary, Queen of Scots flees to England
<b>1569</b>	Revolt of the Northern Earls aims at placing Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne
<b>1570</b>	Pope Pius V excommunicates Elizabeth from the Catholic Church, declaring her deposed from the throne
<b>1571</b>	The Ridolfi Plot, the second major Catholic threat to Elizabeth and the first plot.
<b>1572</b>	Act for the Punishment of Vagabonds (poor) establishes harsh treatment of offenders
<b>1576</b>	Act for Setting the Poor to Work displays a more enlightened attitude towards poverty
<b>1577</b>	Drake begins his circumnavigation of the globe: the expedition lasts three years
<b>1583</b>	The Throckmorton Plot, a further Catholic plot against Elizabeth
<b>1584</b>	Bond of Association - passed by Francis Walsingham, Mary will be blamed for any plot against Elizabeth
<b>1585</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-War begins between England and Spain</li> <li>-The Treaty of Nonsuch</li> <li>-Dudley's disastrous expedition to the Netherland</li> <li>-All Catholic priests ordered to leave the country</li> <li>- First English colony in Virginia is established</li> </ul>
<b>1586</b>	The Babington Plot. Ciphered letters prove that Mary, Queen of Scots was directly implicated in the plot
<b>1587</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots</li> <li>- Drake's assault on the Spanish fleet in Cadiz harbour</li> </ul>
<b>1588</b>	The Spanish Armada sent against England. The Spanish suffer serious losses at Calais, leading to the failure of the whole enterprise.
<b>1590</b>	English sailors arrive at Roanoke to find it abandoned.

## Key Individuals

Elizabeth I	Elizabeth I was the second daughter of Henry VIII. Her mother was Henry VIII's second wife Anne Boleyn. She became queen in 1558 and ruled until 1603.
Henry VIII	Henry VIII was King of England before Elizabeth I. He established Protestantism in England so that he could divorce his first wife and marry Anne Boleyn.
William Cecil	Secretary of state and member of the privy council. He advised the Queen on key issues.
Mary Queen of Scots	Mary, Queen of Scots was Elizabeth's cousin (not to be confused with Mary I, who was Elizabeth's sister), so she had a claim to the line of <b>succession</b> to the English throne. She was Catholic.
The pope	The pope was the head of the Catholic church. He ruled from Rome and expected loyalty from all Catholics.
Westmoreland and Northumberland	Catholic Northern Earls who led a revolt against Elizabeth in the hope of restoring the Catholic faith and placing Mary Queen of Scots on the throne.
Francis Walsingham	Member of the privy council and a spy for Elizabeth. He was responsible for uncovering the plots against her.
Francis Drake	An English explorer and merchant who became rich and famous trading in the New World. He fought the Spanish Armada and was knighted by Elizabeth. Circumnavigated the globe.
Phillip II of Spain	The King of Spain. He was a Catholic and supported Mary Queen of Scots claim to the throne after Elizabeth I introduced the Religious Settlement and rejected his proposal. He launched the Spanish Armada.
Duke of Orleans	Led Elizabeth's support for the Dutch rebels in the Netherlands.
Walter Raleigh	Attempted to establish the colony of Virginia.
William Shakespeare	An English playwright who became famous during the Elizabethan period as theatre became increasingly popular. He wrote non-religious plays to perform in the Elizabethan court.

## Key terms

<b>Protestant</b>	A branch of Christianity that support simple churches, an English Bible and the English monarch as its leader. Puritans were a more extreme strand of Protestantism. Both Henry VIII and Elizabeth were Protestants.
<b>Catholic</b>	The Pope is the leader of the Catholic church where all services were in Latin. Before Henry VIII all English people were Catholic and supported the church fully. During Elizabeth's reign, Scotland and the north remained Catholic.
<b>Privy Council</b>	A group of 19 men tasked with advising Elizabeth about key decisions. They could only influence her choices as she had ultimate power due to the divine right of kings. Cecil and Walsingham were members of the privy council.
<b>Illegitimate</b>	Elizabeth was not accepted as a legitimate (rightful) queen by all. Her mother Anne Boleyn was beheaded for treason and she was declared illegitimate by Henry VIII in 1536. It was only when Henry VIII married his sixth wife Catherine Parr that Elizabeth was welcomed back to court in 1543 and was once again in the line of succession. Not everybody agreed with this decision as she was both an unmarried woman and a Protestant.
<b>Religious Settlement 1559</b>	This aimed to solve religious division in England between the Catholics and the Protestants. <b>The Act of Supremacy</b> made Elizabeth the Supreme Governor of the Church. The term 'Supreme Head' was avoided because Christ was seen as Head of the Church. <b>The Act of Uniformity</b> made Protestantism England's official faith and also set out rules of religious practice and worship in a revised prayer book. This retained some Catholic traditions which Elizabeth hoped would make a good compromise and keep her people happy.
<b>Claim to the throne- Mary Queen of Scots</b>	Many English Catholics supported the idea of Mary being named as Elizabeth's successor, if the queen did not marry and have children. A minority of Catholics supported the idea of Mary replacing Elizabeth as Queen of England, because they thought Elizabeth was <b>illegitimate</b> and Mary would restore the supremacy of the Catholic Church. Therefore some Catholics supported Mary's claim to the throne over Elizabeth's.
<b>Threats at home</b>	1569 The Northern Revolt: The Catholic Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland hatched a plan to get Mary, Queen of Scots out of jail and on to the throne. They gathered an army of 6,000 soldiers in their attempt to return England to Catholicism. Elizabeth got wind of the plan and sent a huge army to crush the rebellion. Elizabeth put 800 rebels to death and the two Earls fled to Scotland. 1871 The Ridolfi Plot: Roberto Ridolfi, an Italian banker, planned to assassinate Elizabeth and make Mary queen. He had the support of King Philip II of Spain, the Duke of Norfolk, and Mary, Queen of Scots herself. The plot was uncovered by Elizabeth's advisor, Cecil. Ridolfi and the Spanish ambassador were arrested and expelled from the country. 1583 The Throckmorton Plot: A young Catholic man, Francis Throckmorton, organised a plan for a French army (paid for by the Pope and King Philip II of Spain) to invade England and replace Elizabeth with Mary, Queen of Scots. Throckmorton was executed and Mary was moved to Tutbury Castle in Staffordshire, where she was held in isolation and allowed no visitors. 1586 The Babington Plot: Sir Anthony Babington planned to rescue Mary, Queen of Scots from jail and murder Elizabeth. Secret letters between the plotters and Mary were discovered which gave Elizabeth's advisers the evidence needed to prove Mary's guilt. This finally led to the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, Babington and six other plotters.
<b>Threats abroad</b>	The Spanish Armada: The greatest challenge to Elizabeth was first sighted in the English Channel on 29 July 1588. This was the Spanish Armada, a fleet of 130 armed ships sailing towards England in a crescent formation. The Spanish were met by 55 British ships all crewed by experienced sailors. The English attacked with 8 fire ships forcing the Spanish to break their formation. The battle of Gravelines began at daybreak on 8th August 1588 and lasted over a day. It was fought in tough weather conditions with poor visibility and rough seas. By the end of the battle the Spanish had lost many ships and 1000 Spanish sailors had been killed.
<b>Age of exploration</b>	Men from across Europe were attempting to make money for themselves and their country through conquest and trade, especially in the Americas. Elizabeth was keen for England to benefit and supported ventures to this end. This involved Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh.
<b>Colonisation of Virginia</b>	Walter Raleigh established a colony near Roanoke Island, which aimed to provide a base for trade and to attack the Spanish New World from. He named the colony "Virginia" in honour of the virgin queen, Elizabeth. Delays, quarrels, disorganization, and hostile Indians forced some of the colonists to return to England and ultimately the colony failed.
<b>Expansion of education</b>	There was an increasing acknowledgement of the value of education led to the growth of various types of schools including Dame Schools for girls and Petty Schools for boys, grammar schools for intelligent boys and new universities at Oxford and Cambridge. Between 1560 and 1580, 72 new grammar schools opened in England.
<b>Popularity of theatres</b>	Theatre had traditionally been based around religious stories. As a Protestant, Elizabeth allowed secular (non- religious) plays. William Shakespeare. Shakespeare wrote 28 plays and 156 poems which are still read today. There were also many new theatres built including the Red Lion (1567), the Rose (1587) and the Globe (1597), where Shakespeare and his company played.
<b>Poverty</b>	During the Elizabethan era, about one third of people were poor. This meant that they spent 80% or more of their income on food. Those who could not work for reasons viewed as legitimate were known as the 'Deserving Poor', this included the elderly, orphans, or widowed mothers. The 'Undeserving Poor', also known as 'sturdy beggars', were those who could work but chose not to.
<b>The Poor Laws</b>	The 1563 Poor Law gave JP's the power to collect funds to support the poor of the parish and to draw up lists of the deserving and undeserving poor to help in the distribution of this money. The 1572 Poor Law Act gave Justices of the Peace (JPs) the right to collect compulsory taxes to support the poor of the parish. They could also issue licences to beggars if these rates were not sufficient to support all of the local poor. The 1576 Poor Law Act declared that every town must provide work and relief for the unemployed, and a House of Correction for vagrants and beggars. The 1697 Poor Law Act was a response to the bad harvests of the 1690s. It gave the JP's more power to raise funds and created the job of Overseer of the Poor. The Overseer of the Poor was responsible for calculating, collecting, and distributing aid. The 1601 Poor Law formalised the existing local system into the first national system by enforcing taxation in every parish in order to provide work, relief, and work training for the deserving poor.