

Topic one knowledge organiser: Key question: What problems did Elizabeth face when she became queen?

Lesson 1: Did Elizabeth's upbringing prepare her to become Queen?

Key words for this lesson:

Infer: Suggesting what evidence shows: Reading between the lines

Symbolism: Where images in portraits have a hidden meaning. Elizabeth to show her wealth and power in portraits. Snakes meant wisdom.

Propaganda: Using misleading information to give a specific view

Elizabeth may not have been expecting to become queen as her brother, Edward and sister, Mary were monarchs (king and queen) before her. However, she was well prepared to become queen as she studied many languages like Latin, French and Italian. Her father had executed her mother and she had to work hard as a girl to impress him. This would have made her resilient. Her sister had made the country Catholic, however she was a Protestant. She also faced the problem that many still did not see a woman as strong enough to rule.



Lesson 3: Why did Queen Elizabeth kill her cousin?

Key words for this lesson:

Death warrant – a piece of paper ordering someone's execution.

Execution – the process of killing or beheading a convicted criminal

Treason – the crime of betraying your country, especially by trying to kill the Monarch.

Mary Queen of Scots was the Catholic cousin of Elizabeth I. She had to flee Scotland when she was accused of involvement in her husband's murder. Elizabeth kept Mary in prison when Mary fled to England. Here, Mary was involved in the Babington Plot to kill Elizabeth and become queen. It was uncovered by spymaster Francis Walsingham. Elizabeth was reluctant (unwilling) to kill Mary as she was her cousin and of royal blood. Parliament encouraged her to kill her as she would always be a threat whilst she was alive.

Lesson 2: Did Elizabeth's Middle Way work?

Key words for this lesson:

Excommunicate – To expel from the Christian Church

Recusant- A Catholic who refused to accept the authority of the Church of England

Puritan – Extreme Protestant who protested against the Catholic Church

Elizabeth's 'Middle Way' or 'Religious Settlement'; was a compromise between Catholics and Protestants by trying to keep them both happy. She gave herself the title 'Supreme Governor' of the Church, which allowed Catholics to see the Pope as the head of the church but Protestants still saw her as the head. The Pope was not happy and excommunicated Elizabeth. Catholic priests were smuggled into the country in priest holes. Puritans were not happy as they wanted no Catholic things in their church. Most people were accepting of it, which let Elizabeth meet her aim of uniting the country.



Lesson 4: Why was the Spanish Armada sent and why did it fail?

Key words for this lesson:

Beacon – set fire in a high place as a warning signal

Crescent – curved moon like shape

Colony – an area of land controlled by another country.

Phillip of Spain was a Catholic and had been encouraged by the Pope to invade England. He was also annoyed that Francis Drake had attacked and robbed his ships and the English had helped the Dutch against the Spanish. The Armada failed as it had the wrong size cannon balls, had a sea sick captain and the ships were damaged in a storm. As a result of defeating the Spanish, people saw it as a sign that Elizabeth had been chosen to win by God, strengthening her position. England had defeated its main rival in their quest to gain more American colonies.

