

Queen Elizabeth I Tudor (1533 - 1603)

Ex. 1 Match the subtitles (1-12) and the paragraphs (A-N)

1. Being Queen
2. Her father dies
3. Death
4. From prisoner to Queen
5. King Henry wanted a boy
6. No longer a Princess
7. Plots against the Queen
8. Growing up as a Princess
9. The Elizabethan Age
10. Sister to the Queen
11. War with Spain
12. The "Virgin Queen"



A. _____

Princess Elizabeth was born on September 7, 1533. Her father was Henry VIII, the King of England, and her mother was Queen Anne. She was heir to the throne of England.

B. _____

Unfortunately, King Henry did not want a daughter. He wanted a son who would be his heir and take over as king someday. He wanted a son so bad that he divorced his first wife, Catherine, when she didn't have a son. When Elizabeth was just three years old, the king had her mother, Queen Anne Boleyn, put to death for high treason (although it was really because she did not have a son). Then he married another wife, Jane, who finally gave him the son he wanted, Prince Edward.

C. _____

When the king remarried, Elizabeth was no longer heir to the throne or even a princess. She lived in her half-brother Edward's household. However, she still lived much like the daughter of a king. She had people who took good care of her and tutors who helped her with her studies. She was very bright and learned to read and write in many different languages. She also learned how to sew and play a piano-like musical instrument called the virginal. Elizabeth's father, King Henry VIII, continued to marry different wives. He married a total of six times. His last wife, Katherine Parr, was kind to Elizabeth. She made sure that Elizabeth had the best tutors and was raised in the Protestant faith.

D. _____

When Elizabeth was thirteen years old her father, King Henry, died. Her father left the throne to his son Edward, but he did leave Elizabeth a substantial income on which to live. While Edward was king she enjoyed living the life of a wealthy lady.

E. _____

Soon, however, young King Edward became sick and died at the age of fifteen. Elizabeth's half-sister Mary became Queen. Mary was a devout Catholic and demanded that all of England convert to the Catholic religion. Those that didn't were thrown in prison or even killed. Mary also married a Spanish prince named Philip. The people of England didn't like Queen Mary. Queen Mary became worried that Elizabeth would try and take over her throne. She had Elizabeth put in prison for being a Protestant. Elizabeth actually spent two months in a jail cell at the Tower of London.

F. _____

Elizabeth was under house arrest when Mary died. In just a few moments, she went from prisoner to Queen of England. She was crowned Queen of England on January 15, 1559 at the age of twenty-five.

G. _____

Elizabeth worked hard at being a good queen. She visited different towns and cities in England and tried to keep her people safe. She set up a council of advisors called the Privy Council. The Privy Council helped her when dealing with other countries, working with the army, and taking care of other important issues. Elizabeth's most trusted advisor was her Secretary of State William Cecil.

H. _____

Elizabeth never married. Staying single meant that she could keep sole control of English affairs, namely government and religion. Some historians think she chose not to marry in order to protect England's security – she wanted to remain independent of any foreign influence which marrying a foreign prince would have brought. She emphasized her "Virgin Queen" image portraying herself as a monarch who put the stability of England before her personal happiness. She would not marry anyone who might jeopardise England's position. At the same time, that situation made Elizabeth and England vulnerable.

I. _____

Throughout Elizabeth's long forty-four-year reign as queen, many people tried to have her assassinated and to take over her throne. This included her cousin Queen Mary of Scots who tried to have Elizabeth killed numerous times. Finally, Elizabeth had the Queen of Scots captured and put to death. In order to know who was plotting against her, Elizabeth set up a spy network throughout England. Her spy network was run by another member of her Privy Council, Sir Francis Walsingham.

L. _____

Elizabeth avoided fighting wars. She did not want to conquer other countries. She only wanted England to be safe and prosper. However, when she had the Catholic Queen Mary of Scots killed, the King of Spain would not stand for it. He sent the powerful Spanish Armada, a fleet of warships, to conquer England. The

outgunned English navy met the Armada and was able to set fire to many of their ships. Then a huge storm hit the Armada and caused many more of their ships to sink. The English somehow won the battle and less than half of the Spanish ships made it back to Spain.

M. _____

The defeat of the Spanish ushered England into an age of prosperity, peace, and expansion. This time is often referred to as the Elizabethan Age and is considered by many to be the golden age in the history of England. This era is perhaps most famous for the blossoming of English Theatre, especially the playwright William Shakespeare. It was also a time of exploration and the expansion of the British Empire into the New World.

N. _____

Queen Elizabeth died on March 24, 1603 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. She was succeeded by James VI of Scotland.



Ex. 2 Answer the quiz

1. Where was Queen Elizabeth I born?

- a. in Spain b. in France
- c. in England d. in Germany

2. Who was Queen Elizabeth I's father?

- a. Henry VIII b. George III
- c. Richard I d. Louis XIV

3. What happened to Queen Elizabeth's mother, Queen Anne Boleyn?

- a. She died in a horse carriage accident
- b. She died from the plague
- c. She was put to death for high treason
- d. She divorced the king and moved to Germany

4. What sibling of Queen Elizabeth I had her thrown into prison for being Protestant?

- a. King Edward VI b. Henry Fitzroy
- c. Queen Mary I d. None of the above

5. What was the Privy Council?

- a. The judicial branch of government
- b. A group of lords from foreign countries
- c. A small group of women related to the queen
- d. A group of advisors for the queen

6. There were many assassination attempts on Queen Elizabeth I including, several by her cousin Queen Mary of Scots.

- a. TRUE b. FALSE

7. How long did Queen Elizabeth I rule England ?

- a. 2 years b. 8 years
- c. 20 years d. 44 years

8. What European power sent a large armada of warships against England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I?

- a. Germany b. Spain
- c. France d. Italy

9. What English playwright became famous during the Elizabethan Age?

- a. Arthur Miller b. Oscar Wilde
- c. William Shakespeare
- d. Samuel Beckett

10. What nickname is commonly used to refer to Queen Elizabeth I?

- a. The Most Beautiful
- b. The Virgin Queen
- c. The Navigator
- d. Grandmother of Europe