

COOL QUEENS

Elizabeth I (born 1533, Queen from 1558 to 1603)

Elizabeth's sister, Mary, was the Queen of England from 1553 to 1558. She locked Elizabeth in the Tower of London. When Mary died, Elizabeth became queen. She spoke five languages, was tall and thin, and had fair skin and red hair. The Spanish King and a French Prince wanted to marry her when she was young. But she said 'no' to them. She said, 'I am married to England.' She painted her face white with a very dangerous ointment that made her skin awful and she had to wear a red wig. But painters had to paint Elizabeth as a beautiful young woman even when she was old and ugly. She was a popular queen. Elizabethan England was famous for writers like Shakespeare, and for sailors like Francis Drake, and Walter Raleigh.



Victoria (born 1818, Queen from 1837 to 1901)

Queen Victoria was queen of the United Kingdom for 64 years!. She married her German cousin, Prince Albert. He worked hard to help her. (He also brought the idea of Christmas trees to Britain from Germany!) Victoria loved Albert, and they had nine children. When Albert died in 1861, Victoria wore black clothes for the rest of her life. Victoria was very popular with the British. In 1887 there were big street parties for her. Signs everywhere said, '50 Years Our Queen'. In 1897 there were more parties for her after 60 years as queen. Victoria was a small woman - only 5 feet (1.5 metres) tall. And when she was old she got very fat. But she was a great queen. In the Victorian age Britain had a large Empire* - with lands in Africa, India, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

