

LEVELED BOOK • Q

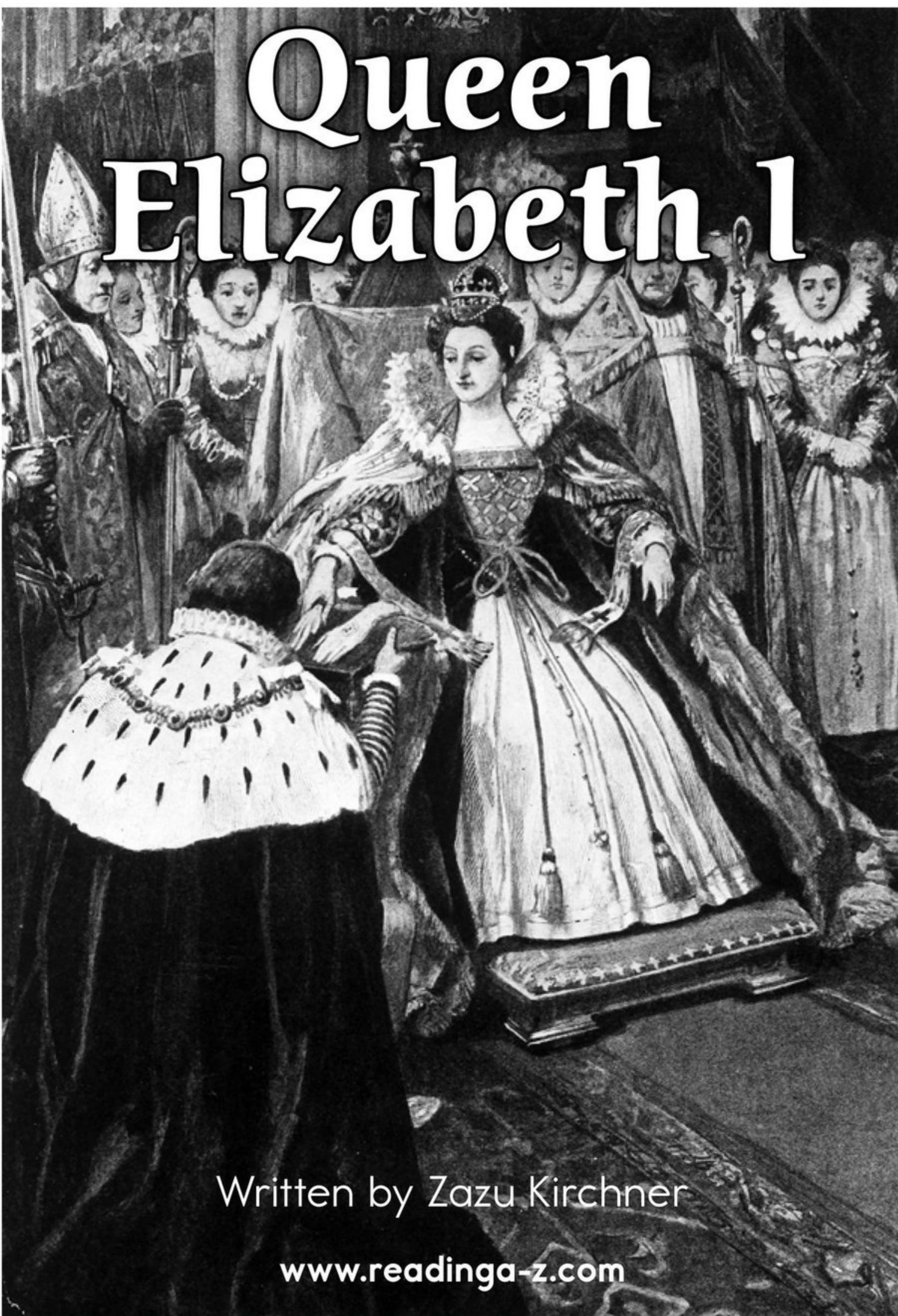
Queen Elizabeth I

Written by Zazu Kirchner

www.readinga-z.com



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Focus Question

How did Elizabeth set a strong example as queen of England?

Words to Know

Catholic
comedies
exploration
government
invade

official
plotted
Protestant
religion

Front cover: A portrait of Queen Elizabeth I shows her in ornate robes

Title page: Elizabeth I and her court receiving a visitor

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World Leaders
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England, Scotland, and Ireland, 1500s



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Anne Boleyn



Henry VIII

Elizabeth's Family

Many people think Elizabeth Tudor was the greatest English ruler of all time. She came from a powerful family.

Before Elizabeth was born, her father, King Henry VIII of England, fell in love with Anne Boleyn while he was still married to his first wife. Henry wanted to end his marriage and marry Anne. This was not allowed in the **Catholic Church** at the time.

Against the wishes of the Catholic Church, Henry started another church and ended his marriage. This church became known as the **Church of England**.

Henry was free of the Catholic Church. He married Anne Boleyn. Anne gave birth to Elizabeth Tudor on September 7, 1533.

Anne was worried after she gave birth to Elizabeth. She thought that Henry might be unhappy with her for not giving him a son. She was right. Henry already had a daughter, Mary, with his first wife. He wanted a son to take over as king when he died.

In time, Henry ended their marriage and had her put to death. Elizabeth was only three years old when her mother died.



Elizabeth was a good student. She enjoyed music, dancing, and horseback riding.

A painting of the Tudor family includes (from left to right) Lady Mary, Prince Edward, Henry VIII, Jane Seymour, and Lady Elizabeth.



Prince Edward

In 1537, Henry married his third wife, Jane, who gave birth to Prince Edward. At last, Henry had the son he always wanted. Jane, however, died a few days after Edward was born.

Henry's sixth and last wife was Catherine Parr. She told Henry to decide who would one day take over his throne, and finally he did. Prince Edward would be first in line, Mary would be second, and Elizabeth would be third.

When Henry VIII died in 1547, nine-year-old Prince Edward became king. His rule as king was short. Edward died when he was only fifteen years old. Elizabeth's older sister Mary became queen.

Mary and Elizabeth

Mary had been raised in the Catholic religion. In her time, some people began a new Protestant religion. Mary's goal as queen was to end the Protestant religion and make the Catholic religion England's main religion again.

Mary did not like people who did not follow the Catholic teachings. She was known for her strict punishments and often ordered Protestants to be put to death. This earned her the nickname "Bloody Mary."

Elizabeth, on the other hand, was Protestant. The faith was important to her, but Elizabeth attended Catholic church to please Mary.

Mary didn't trust Elizabeth and believed she was practicing the Protestant faith in secret. When some people plotted to remove Mary as queen, she was sure that Elizabeth was behind it.

Mary had Elizabeth arrested and put in jail for two months. When Elizabeth was let go, she remained under Mary's watch for a year.



Queen Elizabeth

In 1558, Mary became ill and died. Elizabeth, who was next in line to the throne, was crowned queen on January 15, 1559.

Elizabeth announced to the world that she was a Protestant. However, Elizabeth had an open mind. She worked with both Catholics and Protestants and tried to make peace.

She was not always successful. Protestants thought she was too easy on Catholics, and some Catholics felt she turned her back on them.

From the beginning of Elizabeth's time as queen, English leaders tried to find a husband for her. If Elizabeth married and had a child, England would have a future king or queen. Elizabeth received many offers to marry but did not accept any.

Elizabeth's Fashion

Elizabeth had fair skin and hair, features considered beautiful in Tudor England. As a young girl, Elizabeth dressed modestly, but as queen, she preferred to wear gowns of bright reds and oranges. Her robes were often decorated with rich pearls and jewels. Such elaborate clothing gave a sense of absolute royal power and authority.





Mary, Queen of Scots

Battles

Elizabeth faced many challenges, but one of her biggest problems came from Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary, Elizabeth's cousin, was the Catholic queen

of Scotland. Many Catholics didn't think Elizabeth should be queen. Different Catholic groups plotted to remove Elizabeth so Mary could be the English queen. They wanted England to be a Catholic country.

In 1586, Elizabeth learned that there was a plot to kill her. Mary was involved. Elizabeth had her put to death. Mary died on February 8, 1587. Her death angered Catholics everywhere.

King Philip II of Spain, a Catholic, was one of them. Philip thought that Queen Elizabeth had gone too far and should be removed as queen. He also wanted England to be a Catholic country again.

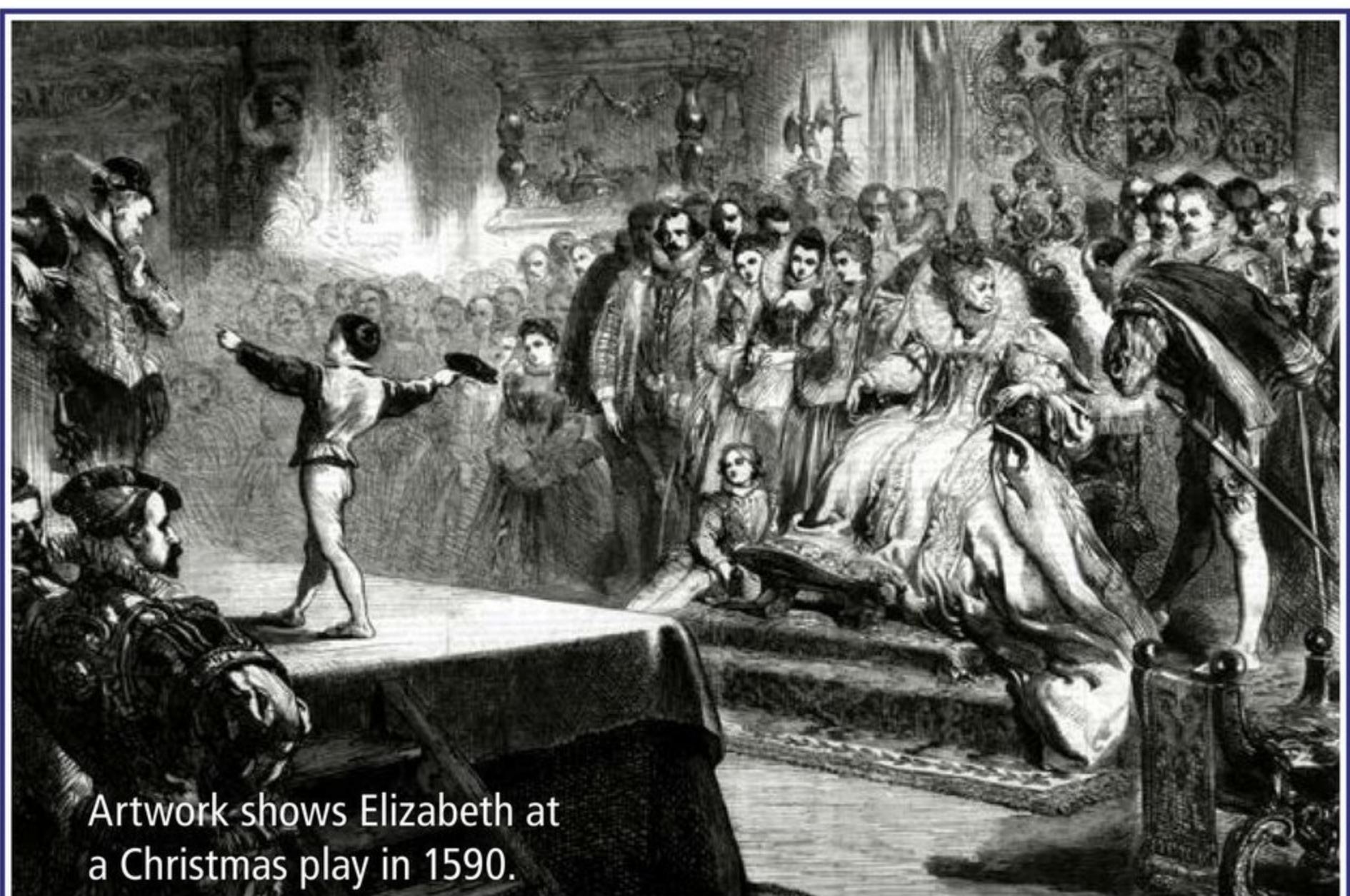
In 1588, Philip ordered a large group of ships to set sail and **invade** England. The ships were loaded with soldiers. Spain, however, was not prepared for the strength of the English. English ships forced the Spanish ships far to the north. Many Spanish ships crashed on the rocky shores, and many men died.



Elizabeth's Successes

Over time, Elizabeth reduced the religious fighting that had torn apart her country. The Protestant church became the **official** religion of England.

There was great growth in education and the arts. More people than ever before learned to read and write. Theater became very popular during Elizabeth's time and writers often brought plays and actors to her court. Some plays were about the events happening in England at the time, and some were **comedies** that Elizabeth enjoyed. She also loved poetry and playing music.



Artwork shows Elizabeth at a Christmas play in 1590.



Queen Elizabeth I knights English explorer Sir Francis Drake for his achievements in exploration.

During her time as queen, Elizabeth developed a strong **government** and a powerful navy. Wanting to bring good things to the country she loved, she encouraged **exploration** of new places and trade with foreign countries. Trade of goods such as silk and food made money for England.

England was set to become a global empire and the Elizabethan Age came to be known as the “Golden Age” in English history. As a result of growth during this time, England became one of the most important countries in the world.



Elizabeth I was the last monarch from the Tudor family. They had ruled England since 1485.

A Strong Leader

Elizabeth died in 1603 at the age of sixty-nine. She ruled England for forty-four years. She named Protestant James VI, the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, as the new king. By doing so, she united Scotland and England.

Elizabeth I was a well-educated, strong queen. She proved that a woman could be a successful ruler. At the same time, she earned the love and respect of her people.

Queen Elizabeth I

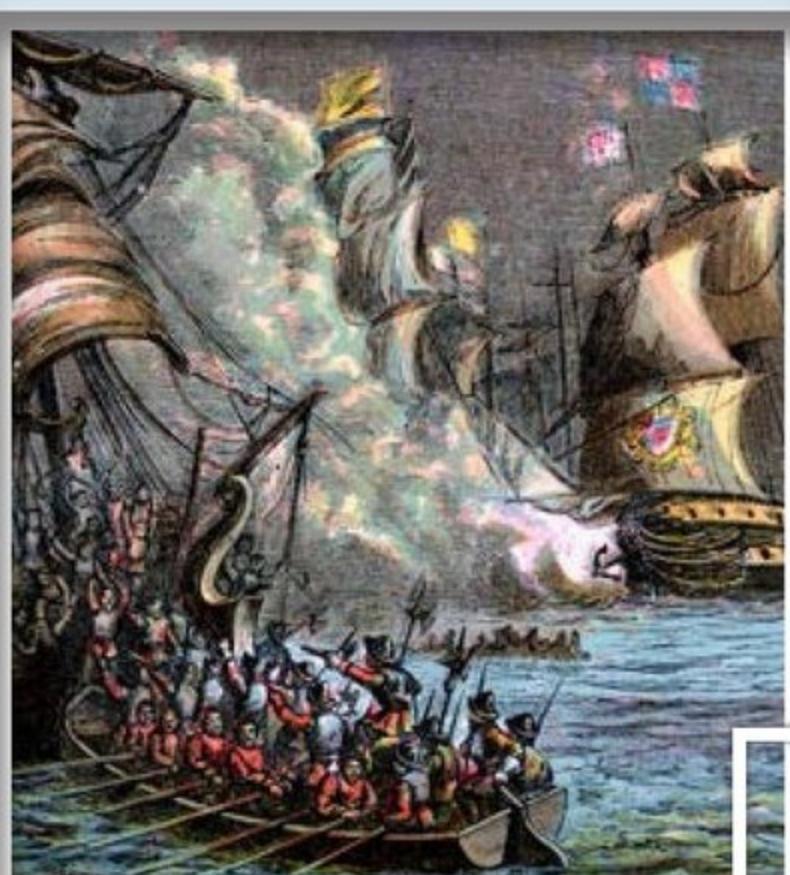
1533: Elizabeth born to Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn

1536: Anne Boleyn executed

1547: Henry VIII dies; Edward becomes king

1553: Mary crowned queen on October 1

1554: Mary orders Elizabeth jailed



1588: Elizabeth wins the fight against the Spanish

1590: The arts begin to grow due to the support of Elizabeth

1530
1540
1550
1560
1570
1580
1590
1600
1610



1558: Mary dies; Elizabeth becomes queen

1587: Mary, Queen of Scots dies

1603: Elizabeth dies on March 24; James I becomes king of England and Scotland, bringing the two countries together

Glossary

Catholic (<i>adj.</i>)	of or relating to the Roman Catholic Church, a branch of Christianity (p. 4)
comedies (<i>n.</i>)	types of entertainment with funny characters and happy endings (p. 12)
exploration (<i>n.</i>)	a journey through unfamiliar territory to learn more about it (p. 13)
government (<i>n.</i>)	a group of people who have the power to make and enforce laws for a country or area (p. 13)
invade (<i>v.</i>)	to enter aggressively to conquer, weaken, or injure (p. 11)
official (<i>adj.</i>)	accepted and approved by those in authority (p. 12)
plotted (<i>v.</i>)	secretly planned to do something, often something illegal or evil (p. 7)
Protestant (<i>adj.</i>)	of or relating to Protestantism, a branch of Christianity that grew out of a split from the Roman Catholic Church (p. 7)
religion (<i>n.</i>)	a system of beliefs and practices in service or worship of God or gods (p. 7)

Queen Elizabeth I

A Reading A-Z Level Q Leveled Book

Word Count: 971

Connections

Writing

Why do you think the Elizabethan Age is also known as the “Golden Age” in English history? Write an essay explaining your answer using facts from the book and outside resources.

Social Studies

Make a family tree for Elizabeth’s family, the Tudors. Include at least two generations before her.

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