

101 Things to know about Elizabethan England

Question	Do I know it?	Answer
When was Elizabeth I born?		1533
Who were her parents?		Henry VIII & Anne Boleyn
When and why was her mother executed?		1536 – treason (adultery)
Who were her siblings and when did they reign?		Edward VI 1547 – 1553 and Mary I 1553 - 1558
When did Elizabeth I become Queen?		November 1558
What religion was Elizabeth I?		Protestant
What religion had Mary I made England and who was her husband?		Catholic and Philip, King of Spain
Who was Elizabeth I's tutor? Name 3 languages that he taught her		Roger Ascham – French, Spanish, Latin, Italian & Greek
Whish Protestant led a rebellion against Mary I that implicated Elizabeth I in 1554?		Sir Thomas Wyatt
At which palaces was Elizabeth I kept prisoner by Mary I?		Hatfield and Woodstock
List the many problems that Elizabeth I faced on becoming Queen in 1558?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A woman in a mans' world 2. Unmarried with no children 3. Irreconcilable differences between Catholics, Protestants and Puritans 4. At war with France with no allies 5. People questioned her legitimacy 6. Young and inexperienced 7. Hated by many powerful Catholics at home and abroad 8. Inherited massive debts 9. People living in poverty and liable to rebel
What was a Royal Progress? What advantages did it give her?		A royal tour where Elizabeth I visited her nobles – it allowed her to be 'seen' by her subjects, saved her money (nobles paid to entertain her) and kept her and her Court away from London during times of the Plague.
What is patronage and how did Elizabeth I use it to her advantage?		A system where those in power promote people who are loyal to them and have to stay loyal to maintain their positions.
What was the Privy Council?		A small committee that directly advised the Monarch
What role did Sir William Cecil, Lord Burghley, play for Elizabeth I?		Chief Advisor & Secretary of State – replaced in 1598 by his son, Robert Cecil. Died in 1598.
What role did Sir Francis Walsingham play for Elizabeth I?		In charge of Elizabeth I's 'secret service' – in charge of spying and security. A Puritan. Died in 1590.
What role did Sir Christopher Hatton play for Elizabeth I?		Became Elizabeth I's Lord Chancellor, great dancer and a Protestant who hated Puritans. Died in 1591.

What role did Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, play for Elizabeth I?		Puritan who was rumoured to have been Elizabeth I's lover – made Earl of Leicester in 1564. Died in 1588
How many times did Elizabeth I summon Parliament? Why did she need to summon Parliament? How much power did they have?		13 – to pass her laws (religion) and vote her money – not much (Nobles more than Commons) since she could veto any law they passed
What was the name of the Puritan MP who was imprisoned in 1576 and what was he arguing for?		Peter Wentworth – freedom of speech
Why did the 1590s present increased problems for Elizabeth I?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of money following war with Spain 2. Years of plague and poor famines led to mass poverty 3. Most of her leading councillors died or retired 4. Succession issue became more urgent as she aged 5. Walter Devereux, Earl of Essex and his rebellion of 1601
Why did Essex come to be powerful in the 1590s?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very wealthy 2. Dudley, was his step-father 3. Good-looking and caught Elizabeth I's 'eye' 4. Brave and successful soldier
Why did Elizabeth I banish Essex from court?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He married without Elizabeth I's permission 2. Lost his temper with her and said that 'her conditions are as crooked as her carcass.' 3. Broke into her bedchamber 4. Drew his sword after she had punched him 5. Made peace in Ireland with the Earl of Tyrone without Elizabeth's permission 6. Angry at losing his 'monopoly' on sweet wines he planned a rebellion and took 4 Privy Councillors hostage
When was Essex's rebellion and what happened to him?		1601 - Essex was executed in the Tower of London
What problems did Elizabeth I face in being a female monarch in the C16th?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women were believed to be weak, not as intelligent as men and not logical 2. It was believed that England needed a strong, martial and decisive King who command people and armies. 3. A weak monarch could result in Civil War (Wars of the Roses) 4. All other positions of power in the country were held by men 5. Whoever she married would be seen as the ruler of her and England. 6. Childbirth was dangerous
What were the arguments for Elizabeth I marrying?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possible foreign alliance 2. Guarantee the Tudor succession if she had children
What were the arguments for her not marrying?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A husband would limit her personal freedom and power 2. Most leading candidates were Catholic not Protestant 3. A foreign marriage would make both friends and enemies 4. Mary I's marriage had been so unpopular that he had led to a rebellion 5. An English husband would cause tension at Court 6. Henry VIII's failed marriages clearly created a negative impression of marriage

Who were Elizabeth I's foreign suitors?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prince Eric of Sweden 2. King Philip of Spain (her sister's widower) 3. Duke of Alencon (younger brother of King of France)
Who did she favour? Why didn't she marry him?		Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester – he was already married and then his wife, Amy Robsart, died in mysterious circumstances causing a scandal. He eventually married Elizabeth I's cousin in 1578 much to the Queen's fury
What did Elizabeth I claim to be married to?		England – she became known as the Virgin Queen
Why did the issue of the succession reach a crisis in 1562?		Elizabeth I contracted smallpox and nearly died
The possible successors to Elizabeth I were cousins and descendants of her father's two sisters. What were their names?		Margaret, Queen of Scotland (the Stuart dynasty) and Mary, Queen of France/Duchess of Suffolk (the Grey dynasty)
Who were the Stuart challengers to the throne?		Mary, Queen of Scots (then her son James VI) and Arabella Stuart
Who were the Grey family challengers to the throne?		Catherine Grey and Mary Grey (younger sisters of Lady Jane) and Edward Seymour (Catherine's son)
What did Elizabeth I do with the Greys?		Kept them both in prison
What did Elizabeth I do with the Stuarts?		She kept Mary, Queen of Scots a prisoner for 20 years and then had her executed
Who finally succeeded Elizabeth I?		James VI of Scotland
What does the phrase 'Golden Age' mean?		A period of rapid development in culture – including theatre, art, architecture, literature and music
What did the invention of the printing press in the C15th allow for?		Greater access to books improving levels of literacy and education and saw ideas spread faster
Name a famous Elizabethan musician		Orlando Gibbons, Thomas Tallis or William Byrd
Name a famous Elizabethan painter		Nicholas Hilliard
Name a famous Elizabethan 'thinkers'		John Dee (astrology), John Napier (Maths), Francis Bacon (Science)
Why did the Gentry rise in power during the Elizabethan period?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The nobility declined in power in the C16th – blamed for the Civil Wars of the previous century known as the Wars of the Roses 2. Councillors were increasingly chosen based on ability not status allowing for more gentry to rise to power 3. Gentry dominated the House of Commons which was growing in importance 4. The dissolution of the monasteries had seen ¼ of English land becoming available to purchase, much of this was bought by the Gentry. 5. The growth in trade and exploration saw many of the Gentry make vast fortunes.

What were the Sumptuary Laws passed in 1574?		These laws strictly controlled the clothes that people were allowed to wear depending on their social status
What was the 'Great Rebuilding'?		New wealth in England saw lots of new houses being built across the whole country – rooms were light because glass was widely used, bedrooms were placed upstairs, oak-panelled walls, tapestries, impressive fireplaces, libraries and decorative plasterwork used
Name a leading architect and a building he designed.		Robert Smythson designed Hardwick Hall & Longleat House
What was different about these new Elizabethan houses?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Built for comfort and not defence – moats, drawbridges and battlements were for display only 2. Houses replaced castles as residences for the nobility 3. Influenced by the Renaissance – symmetrical designs
Name 2 Elizabethan playwrights		Christopher Marlowe & William Shakespeare
Why did the Puritans and members of the government dislike actors?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Because they toured the country actors were seen as a threat to law and order especially as large crowds gathered to watch the shows 2. Acting was not a respectable profession, seen as little better than begging 3. Puritans believed that actors were 'devil worshipers' and encouraged sinful behaviour 4. Often they told religious stories with humour that was considered disrespectful
How did the government try and control actors?		In 1572 all actors had to have a licence
What happened as a result?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actors organised themselves into troupes (groups) 2. They built theatres to perform their plays in 3. The new theatres were built in the same areas as the bear pits, the gambling dens, the pubs and the brothels so did little to ease religious criticism 4. They became incredibly popular 5. In London, 7 major theatres were built including the Rose, the Globe and the Swan 6. By 1603 London had 40 theatre companies
Who went and what plays did they see?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyone in society went – the poor stood at the front (called groundlings) and the wealthy got seats in the galleries 2. Theatres could hold 2,000 people 3. No lighting so plays staged in the afternoon 4. Only men acted – girls' parts were played by young men 5. Audiences ate food and drank alcohol during performances – crime was common but people went because it was exciting 6. Plays were either histories, tragedies or comedies. Plays like Richard III were used to spread the Government's message (propaganda) 7. All plays were censored to control the message being presented to the people 8. Some special effects were used – cannon balls to create thunder, pigs' bladders filled with blood for fighting scenes
What else was censored?		All books, pamphlets and printing presses were licensed by the government

		A popular book was Foxe's 'Book of Martyrs' that championed Protestant Elizabeth and made Catholics look evil.
How did Elizabeth I control her image?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A cult of 'Gloriana' grew up around the 'Virgin Queen' 2. Her paintings reflected her beauty, her wisdom, her wealth, her strength and her power. Copies were made and circulated around the country. 3. Plays and poems were dedicated to her – the most famous was Edmund Spenser's poem, 'the Faerie Queen'
Why did poverty increase during Elizabeth I's reign?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The population rose by nearly 50% during her reign 2. This meant food and jobs became increasingly scarce. Therefore food became more expensive and wages went down. 3. Inflation saw prices of goods go up. 4. Wars fought by Henry VIII had emptied the Royal coffers of money 5. There were several poor harvests in the mid-1590s 6. Greedy landlords increased rents (rack renting) that forced many off the land 7. Sheep enclosures saw land fenced in and fewer workers required in the countryside. 8. The monasteries that had looked after the poor had been closed down
What attitudes towards the poor were there?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elizabethans believed that the poor could be split into 2 groups – those that needed help (old, ill and children) and those that didn't (the idle poor) 2. The idle poor were vagabonds and should be punished because they were criminals, spread disease, were lazy and conned people out of their money through trickery.
What was the Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All local people paid a tax called the poor rate that was collected by locally elected figures called Overseers 2. The idle poor were forced to work sometimes in Houses of Industry 3. Anyone caught begging would be whipped and returned to the parish of their birth. Persistent beggars were hung.
Was the Poor Law a success?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No rebellions during Elizabeth I's reign caused by poverty 2. The law lasted for over 200 years 3. First time that a government law had taken responsibility for individual people 4. However, poverty continued to increase after 1601 5. Many saw it as too harsh, dealing more with punishment rather than help
Why did the Elizabethans become interested in exploration?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lots of exotic and expensive goods (spices, cotton, silk, perfumes) were coming from the East 2. It was no longer widely believed that the world was flat 3. The printing press saw maps and ideas becoming more readily available 4. The Astrolabe allowed for a ship's position to be plotted more accurately 5. Ship design allowed for ships to travel greater distances and survive in more stormy seas 6. The Renaissance created a spirit of adventure and a desire for discovery 7. The Venetians and the Portuguese had sailed to 'new' parts of the world and opened up new sea routes. English explorers sailed these routes and tried to establish new ones.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. In 1492 Columbus had discovered America and this opened up a new continent to discover. The Spanish discovered large amounts of silver and gold in South America and began to colonise the Americas. The English wanted to join in. 9. Henry VIII had built up the English navy during his reign. 10. In 1522 Magellan completed the first circumnavigation of the world. 11. Trade was a risky way of becoming very wealthy relatively quickly
Which English sailor first circumnavigated the globe?		Sir Francis Drake in the Golden Hind 1577-80
Why was Drake knighted by Elizabeth I and why did the Spanish nickname him the 'Dragon'?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a Puritan Drake hated Spanish Catholics 2. As a younger man he had fought and lost against Spanish galleons. He wanted revenge. 3. In 1572 he captured £40,000 worth of Spanish silver – some of which he gave Elizabeth I 4. With Royal and private investment Drake set sail to circumnavigate the world in 1577. He returned 3-years later with an estimated fortune of £400,000 (£200 million in today's terms). He gave the vast majority of this to his investors including the Queen. She rewarded him by knighting him in 1581. 5. However, he was sworn to secrecy about his voyage for fear of further upsetting the Spanish
For what was Sir Walter Raleigh given royal permission?		To establish a colony in North America that he called Virginia
Was Raleigh successful?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failed in his attempts to establish a lasting colony 2. Did bring back potatoes and tobacco to England 3. Fell out with Elizabeth I when he married without her permission 4. Was forgiven but was later executed by James I in 1618
Was exploration successful?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Made heroes of men like Drake and Raleigh 2. Made those that sponsored them incredibly wealthy 3. Glory and riches increased Elizabeth I's reputation 4. The English navy and spirit of exploration would become the foundation for the British Empire which made Britain the world superpower. British navy dominated the seas until the C20th and its colonies would cover ¼ of the world's surface. 5. However, it helped make an enemy of Spain that nearly cost Elizabeth I her throne.
Was the 'Golden Age' really a golden age for England?		Consider the rise of the Gentry, all of the cultural developments and exploration and compare them with the increase in poverty and the number of beggars
What religion had England been under Mary I? Who was Head of the English Church under that religion?		Roman Catholic – the Pope
What religion was Elizabeth I? Who was Head of the English Church under that religion?		Protestant – the Monarch
What was Elizabeth I's aims regarding religion?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create a 'Middle Way' between Catholicism and Protestantism

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To create an English Church that could include the vast majority of English Catholics and Protestants To maximise her own power and wealth by taking as much control over the Church as she could
What law did she pass to achieve this?		The Act of Supremacy in 1559
What did the Act of Supremacy make law?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth I chose the title of 'Supreme Governor' of the Church rather than 'Head' to appease Catholics However, she maintained the 'Break with Rome' keeping all power over the Church in her hands All Clergy had to take an oath of loyalty to her Church kept Archbishops and Bishops
What did the Act of Uniformity of 1559 make law?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The English Church was Protestant The Prayer Book & the Bible were in English as were all Services. Catholic Mass was abolished as were Pilgrimages, making images of Saints and relics Crosses, candles, stained glass windows and music were all allowed Clergy had to wear traditional Catholic clothes not the plainer Protestant ones.
What was the Catholic reaction?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Pope ordered Catholics not to attend Church services In 1568 William Allen founded a school for Priests in the Netherlands who would secretly return to England to keep Catholicism alive. In 1569 there was a Northern rebellion against Elizabeth I In 1570 Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth I – this meant that loyal Catholics had to disobey Elizabeth or face excommunication themselves. It also gave them the permission to kill her.
What was a recusant?		A Catholics who didn't attend Church and listened to Mass instead had to pay a fine. They were called recusants.
Fear of Catholic plots saw Elizabeth I's government introduce the Treason Act What was the Treason Act of 1571?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing a copy of the Pope's excommunication (Papal Bull) into England was punishable by death. Anyone who left the country for more than six months had their property confiscated (this was to stop people training as Catholic priests).
When, what and where was the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre?		In 1572 in Paris the Catholic majority took to the streets and murdered 1,000s of the Protestant minority. People in England feared that it might happen in England.
Who were the Jesuits and why were they a threat?		They were an extreme religious group committed to risking their lives for their Catholic faith. They secretly came to England to encourage Catholics to rebel against Elizabeth I. they helped smuggle Priests into England.
Name a famous Jesuit Priest		Edward Campion and/or John Gerard
How did Catholic Priests avoid capture?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> They used disguises They hid in secret Priest Holes within Catholic family homes – many of these were designed by Nicholas Owen a Catholic carpenter
What was Elizabeth I's response?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> They increased the recusancy fines Converting or being converted to Catholicism was a treasonable act All Catholic priests were given 40 days to leave England or face death Priest hunters called Pursuivants were employed

		5. Known Catholics were banned from travelling more than 5 miles from their homes.
How well did Elizabeth I's government deal with the Catholic threat?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10% of subjects were Catholic by 1603 but only 2% were recusants Many Catholics wished to remain Catholic but disagreed with the Pope's active plotting against Elizabeth I and his insistence that they not attend church services in England which had cost them a fortune in fines.
What is a Puritan?		An extreme Protestant
Why were Puritans opposed to Elizabeth I?		They believed that the Acts of Uniformity and Supremacy gave too many concessions to Catholics. They wanted to abolish Bishops and remove all decoration and music from Churches.
Name some leading Puritans at court		Robert Dudley and Frances Walsingham were both Puritans
Who was Thomas Cartwright?		Cartwright was a Puritan who preached that the Bishops should be abolished.
How did Elizabeth I show her disapproval of Puritans?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Puritan printing presses were closed down in 1572 Elizabeth I rejected any Bills (laws) proposed by Puritans in Parliament. She banned Parliament from discussing religion and arrested Peter Wentworth when he challenged this. She imprisoned (in his own house) Edmund Grindal the Archbishop of Canterbury for 7 years because of his Puritan sympathies. She replaced Grindal with John Whitgift who was anti-Puritan. A Puritan called William Stubbs had his hand cut off for writing a Puritan pamphlet.
Who was Robert Browne?		Robert Browne, from Norwich, set up a separate church. In 1593 the government made setting up your own church a crime that was punished by death.
Elizabeth I claimed that she no desire 'to open windows into men's souls'. What did she mean by this and does the evidence support her intention?		The phrase meant that she didn't particularly care what religion people worshiped as long as they were loyal to her. The Acts of Uniformity and Supremacy do suggest an attempt at a 'Middle Way' but her persecution of both Catholics and Puritans suggests that she was intolerant of those who thought differently. However, no religious wars took place in England unlike other European countries.
Who was Mary, Queen of Scots?		Born in 1542, the only child of James V of Scotland she became Queen aged 6 days! She grew up in France and married the King, Francis II, returning to Scotland in 1561 when he died. Scotland was a Protestant kingdom while Mary was Catholic.
Why was Mary, Queen of Scots a threat to Elizabeth I?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> She was a cousin of Elizabeth I, claiming descent to the throne through her Grandmother, Margaret Tudor (Henry VIII's sister). She was a figure-head for Catholics who wished her to succeed/replace Elizabeth I She married Lord Darnley in 1565 a cousin to both her and Elizabeth I. they had a son, the future James VI, In 1567 Darnley was murdered and Mary was abducted by Earl Bothwell. The outraged Scottish nobles forced her to abdicate in favour of her son and flee to England. As a prisoner in England she became an even greater figure-head for discontented Catholics and so Elizabeth kept her locked up in a series of remote castles.

What was the Northern rebellion of 1569?		Backed by the Catholic Duke of Norfolk and Spain this was a plan to lessen the power and influence of William Cecil over Elizabeth I. Norfolk also hoped to marry Mary, Queen of Scots. The plan was initially supported by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester who later confessed all to Elizabeth I.
What happened during and after the Northern rebellion?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Norfolk was captured and imprisoned and called off the rebellion. 2. However, the northern Catholics rebelled anyway and captured parts of the north. They were relying on Spanish aid and support from the Pope that never arrived. 3. Most Catholics stayed loyal to Elizabeth I. 4. Some leaders were executed but not Norfolk who was kept as a prisoner in the Tower for 9 months.
What was the Ridolfi Plot of 1571		Ridolfi, an Italian banker, was supported by Norfolk, the Pope, Mary, Queen of Scots and Spain. He would assassinate Elizabeth I and 6,000 Spanish soldiers would invade and seize control as half the country rose in their support. Mary, Queen of Scots would succeed and marry Norfolk.
What happened during and after the Ridolfi Plot?		Walsingham's spy network discovered the plot. Ridolfi escaped abroad but Norfolk was captured and executed. Despite pressure from Parliament and her advisors Mary Queen of Scots was pardoned.
What was the Throckmorton Plot of 1583?		This was a plot for a French Catholic army backed by Spain and the Pope to invade England, free Mary, Queen of Scots and inspire a full Catholic uprising by angry English Catholics. Francis Throckmorton was the English coordinator and link between Mary, Queen of Scots and the Spanish Ambassador
What happened during and after the Throckmorton Plot?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Walsingham learnt about the plot and spied on Throckmorton for 6 months to gather information. 2. He then had him arrested and tortured. Throckmorton confessed and was executed in 1584 and the Spanish Ambassador, Mendoza, was expelled from England. 3. Despite trying Walsingham couldn't find enough evidence for Elizabeth I to have Mary, Queen of Scots executed.
What was the Babington Plot of 1586?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. After the Throckmorton Plot Mary, Queen of Scots was placed under stricter arrest and was allowed no visitors. 5. All her letters were read by Walsingham. 6. She had been a prisoner for 20 years and was losing hope, her health, her youth and her famed good looks. This made her desperate and more inclined to take risks. 7. She started what she thought was a secret correspondence with a Catholic English gentleman called Sir Anthony Babington who was secretly plotting with the French. 8. Babington's letters were written in code and smuggled into Mary in a beer barrel. 9. With Mary's agreement, they formed a plot to assassinate Elizabeth I, release Mary and start a Catholic uprising to place Mary on the throne.
What happened during and after the Babington Plot?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Walsingham discovered the secret letters and with the aid of a master decipherer, Thomas Phelippes and a double-agent, Gilbert Gifford he let the plot develop until he had enough evidence to condemn Mary, Queen of Scots.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 1586 Mary committed herself to the plot and the assassination of Elizabeth I. Babington was arrested and executed. Mary, Queen of Scots was placed on trial and found guilty of treason in October 1486. Parliament and Elizabeth I's Ministers insisted on her death. Elizabeth I refused to sign the death warrant until Walsingham and others 'faked' news of a Spanish uprising in February 1587. She insisted that the death warrant only be acted upon in an emergency. Her Council met without her knowledge and sent the death warrant to Fotheringhay castle where Mary was a prisoner. She was beheaded in February 1587
Why was Elizabeth I reluctant to execute Mary, Queen of Scots in 1587?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> When Elizabeth I found out she was furious. She refused to see Cecil for 6 months and sent others to the Tower. She had made herself a Regicide and Mary a Catholic martyr but had removed the biggest single threat to her throne.
What caused the war with Spain?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Philip II of Spain disliked Elizabeth I for refusing to marry him in 1559. As a devout Catholic he saw Elizabeth I as a heretic and the Pope's excommunication of Elizabeth made him believe that it was religious duty to remove her by force. Anglo-Spanish relations had been made worse by English soldiers fighting alongside Protestant Dutch rebels against the Spanish in the Netherlands. Attacks on Spanish treasure ships by Drake and others infuriated the Spanish. The Spanish had been involved in lots of plots to remove Elizabeth I The Spanish ambassador to England, Mendoza, had been expelled from England in 1584. Elizabeth I had killed an anointed Catholic Queen when she had Mary, Queen of Scots executed. From 1584 the Spanish had been at peace with France
What did the Spanish Armada plan to do in 1588?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Spain prepared a huge fleet of ships (an Armada) to sail from Spain up the English Channel. This was commanded by the Duke of Medina Sidonia. He was a soldier and not a man used to fighting at sea. At Calais, they would meet 30,000 soldiers under the command of the Duke of Parma. The Armada would escort this army to England. English Catholics would rise up in rebellion and Elizabeth I would be forced off the throne.
How did Drake and Howard defeat the Spanish Armada?		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lord Howard was Lord Admiral and Francis Drake was his second-in-command. They were both seasoned naval commanders who knew the waters of the Channel far better than the Spanish. The English army gathered at Tilbury in Essex but although 20,000 in number was poorly trained and equipped. From here, Elizabeth I made her famous speech about 'having the heart and stomach of a King'. The English navy consisted of c. 200 ships. The Armada launched in May 1588 but was immediately damaged by huge storms. On reaching the Channel they sailed in a defensive crescent formation towards Calais. Howard and Drake repeatedly attacked but made no real damage to the Armada.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The English ships were better designed and could fire their cannons from a greater distance. 8. When the Armada reached Calais the Duke of Parma's army was not ready. 9. Howard and Drake attacked the Armada with fireships at night. This broke the Spanish defensive formation. 10. The following day saw the Battle of Gravelines where a combination of the English and the weather defeated the Armada. About 1,000 Spanish sailors died, 5 ships were sunk and the rest scattered. 11. The Armada was forced to sail around Scotland and Ireland to get home. Over half of their ships were lost.
<p style="text-align: center;">What were the consequences of the defeat of the Spanish Armada?</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In England, this was a great boost for Elizabeth I and for national pride. 2. For the Spanish, it was a costly and terrible defeat. 3. The role of the wind was seen by both sides as God's judgement on the outcome. 4. England would become the naval power of the future. 5. Philip II tried two further Armadas in the 1590s but both failed. 6. The war dragged on until 1604 and was a huge drain on the finances of both countries. Neither side really won. 7. However, in avoiding defeat, Elizabeth I had secured her throne and the Protestant Church in England.