

Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I was Queen of England and Ireland from 1558. Also known as 'The Virgin Queen', she was the last monarch of the Tudor dynasty. Like her father, Henry VIII, Elizabeth was a writer and a poet and helped William Shakespeare in his career.

The Elizabethan Age

Elizabeth's reign is called the **Elizabethan Age**. Important people such as William Shakespeare, Francis Bacon and Francis Drake (the first Englishman to circumnavigate the Earth) lived at this time. Elizabeth's forty-five year reign gave England great stability, even if it was a period of deep religious division in the country.



Elizabeth was the child of Henry VIII and his second wife Anne Boleyn. At the age of three she witnessed the beheading of her mother in the Tower of London under the false accusations of treason and witchcraft!

The Virgin Queen

When Elizabeth became Queen, her nobles pressured her to marry and give birth to an heir to the throne. But Elizabeth never married at all, even though she received many proposals.

End of the Tudors

On March 21, 1603, only a few hours before her death, the Queen signed a paper designating James VI of Scotland as her heir. This was the end of the Tudor Dynasty and the start of the reign of the House of Stuart.

Speaking about her idea of love: "I do not want a husband who honours me as a queen, if he does not love me as a woman."

Speaking about herself: "I have the heart of a man, not a woman, and I am not afraid of anything."

1 Now answer these questions.

- 1 Who was Elizabeth's father?
- 2 What is the name given to the period when Elizabeth reigned?
- 3 Did Elizabeth like literature? How do you know?
- 4 What happened to Elizabeth when she was three?
- 5 Did the Queen ever marry?
- 6 Name a few famous people living in the same period as Elizabeth I and say why they were famous.
- 7 What did Elizabeth do to prevent problems after her death?
- 8 Who were the Tudors and the Stuarts?
- 9 How long did Elizabeth's reign last?
- 10 Is the Monarchy still as popular in the UK today as it was in the Elizabethan Age? Give your personal opinion about the matter.