Elizabeth - the Virgin Queen
Birth of a queen

- was born on the 7th of September in 1533 at Greenwich Palace
- father: Henry VIII of England
- mother: Ann Boleyn
- her birth was worst disappointment for her father
  - King had made big efforts to get rid of his first wife Catherine of Aragon to marry Ann
  - nevertheless, Elizabeth was given a magnificent christening on the 10th of September
The royal bastard

- Ann Boleyn became unpopular and a problem for Henry
  ▶ accused her of adultery and executed her on the 19th of May 1536
  ▶ As a consequence, the marriage between Henry and Ann Boleyn was annulled and Elizabeth was made illegitimate by Parliament
- Elizabeth enjoyed an excellent education
  - had a special skill for languages
  - also interested in arts, music, reading and writing
  - taught by the famous scholars William Grindal and Roger Asham
- extraordinary talented student
- learned the art of public speaking
  ▶ was very helpful later on
Family and friends

- the rapid change of the wifes of her father must have had a tremendous influence on young Elizabeth
- her governess Katherine Champernowne, called „Kat“, was a motherly figure, she later married Elizabeth´s cousin John Ashley
  - stayed very close friends
  - Robert Dudley was loyal to her since their earliest childhood
  - legends say, that when she was eight, she told him that she would never marry
  - was probably afraid of the destiny that some of her step-mothers faced after marriage
Elizabeth´s childhood

- on the 12th of October 1527 Elizabeth´s brother Edward was born
- son of Jane Seymour and Henry VIII, Jane died after the birth
- Edward and Elizabeth had a close relation right from the start, both had lost their mothers, both were Protestants and very smart students
- Elizabeth and her older sister Mary were never that close
- Elizabeth lived a rather quiet and hidden life until her father died in January 1547
  - she became vulnerable for those who saw her as a political threat, because Henry had reinstated his children in the line of succession in his last will
  - Edward > Mary > Elizabeth
Political plots 1.

• Edward was now to follow his father on the throne
• was only nine years old > his uncle Edward Seymour became Protector of England
• His brother Thomas was jealous of him > wanted to kidnap the „boy king“ and marry Elizabeth
• Elizabeth was suspected to be involved in this plans, but was able to defend her innocence
• but rumours occurred about an affair between Thomas and the fourteen-year-old Elizabeth, her reputation suffered
• Thomas was sentenced to death
Political plots 2.

- Edward Seymour was replaced by John Dudley, Earl of Warwick
  - father of Robert Dudley, Elizabeth’s childhood friend
  - John became Duke of Northumberland
  - in 1553 the „boy king“ Edward became ill, was not going to survive
  - preparations for the succession had to be made > heir was older sister Mary
- Dudley wanted to preserve Protestantism and his own power
  - solution: make Lady Jane Grey Queen of England
  - was his daughter-in-law and also a descendant of Mary, Henry VIII sister
The question of succession

- Edward died on the 6th of July 1553
- Lady Jane Grey was proclaimed Queen of England
  - but Elizabeth’s older sister Mary fought for her right to become Queen, she had the support of the English Nation
  - on the 19th of July Mary was proclaimed Queen in London
  - on the 24th John Dudley was arrested and executed
- Mary now wanted to restore the Catholicism and negotiated to marry Prince Philip of Spain
  - marriage was unpopular, fear of being dominated by Spain grew
Political plots 3.

- Thomas Wyatt, a gentlemen from Kent raised a rebellion against Mary
  - plan was to marry Elizabeth to Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, to ensure a native-born succession
  - not known if Elizabeth was involved in it > denied it
  - was send to Tower on the 18th of March 1554
  - her popularity helped her to be soon released
  - was then send to the manor of Woodstock as a prisoner for about a year, guarded by Sir Henry Bedingfield’s men
Queen Mary

- she was very unpopular > rumour of pregnancy proved untrue, burnt Protestants, involved England in a war with France > lost Calais

- Mary’s husband Philip wanted Elizabeth to follow her sister on the throne
  - reasons: Mary Queen of Scots was the next in the line of succession > was the granddaughter of Henry VIII sister Margaret and married to French heir
  - Spain and France were enemies, so Elizabeth was the smaller problem
  - Mary finally agreed before she died on the 17th of November 1558
Queen Elizabeth

- Elizabeth received the news at her childhood home Hatfield House
- was crowned on the 15th of January 1559 > people were thrilled
- made religion her priority, re-established the Protestant faith in England, became Supreme Governor of the Church of England
- was a pious person liked crucifixes and church music
Elizabeth and the men

- now that she was Queen, marriage proposals floated in
  - she refused them all
  - contenders were e.g.:
    - Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester sine 1564
    - Francis, Duke of Anjou, heir to the French throne
      - the welfare of her country was more important to her than marriage
      - ministers saw it as a big problem, because of the succession
    - Elizabeth wanted these talks to be suppressed
      - nevertheless, she knew how to use flirtation for her matters
  - surrounded herself with loyal people to be protected from plots
Elizabeth and the men

- Robert Dudley

Francis of Anjou
Political plots 4.

- Catholics wanted Mary Queen of Scots on the throne.
- She was forced to flee her country and came to England looking for help from Elizabeth.
  - Was immediately imprisoned (more from Patrick).
  - Relationship to Philip of Spain also became worse, which led to a Spanish invasion (more from Nina).
- Spent the 1590’s mainly by finding a way to govern Ireland.
  - This led to a nine years war in 1594.
  - Earl of Essex was sent, created only more problems.
  - Her trusted ministers Walsingham and Burghley passed away.
  - Robert Dudley died in 1588.
The final years

- Elizabeth had been very popular right from the beginning
  - had established a special relation to her people, for which she was loved
  - her reign is still seen as the "Golden Age"
  - had created a prosper England, major player in Europe, established Protestantism and a stable government, had passed Poor laws
  - she died on the 24th of March in 1603
  - was followed by King James VI of Scotland
Elizabeth’s government

- England was very structured in Elizabethan times
- government consisted of:
  - Monarch – Privy Council – Parliament

- Monarch:
  - Elizabeth was the ruler of the country, had to act in accordance with the law, decide when Parliament was going to sit, decide about religion, welfare, war, education etc.
  - had the help of powerful men around her, was also supported by the other governmental institutions
Parliament

- consisted like today of the „House of Lords“ (Upper House) and the „House of the Commons“ (Lower House)
  - in the Lords sat the bishops and aristocrats
  - in Common House sat common people, were elected by male, wealthy people
  - main function was to pass laws and grant money to the Queen
    - Elizabeth could also pass laws without the Parliament
  - Royal proclamations
  - Elizabeth summoned her Parliament mainly because of the money
Privy Council 1.

- main function: general administration of the country, matters of religion, military, queens security, economics, welfare of the people, give advice to the Queen
- Queen determined who was in
- work was delegated to secretaries
- William Cecil was leader of the council and secretary of the state, was effectively Elizabeth’s personal secretary
  - He was known for great administrative ability, wise and cautious, queens chief advisor
Privy Council 2.

- Sir Francis Walsingham was Cecil’s successor
  - he started as his servant in 1568
  - established a great spy network in England, defended Elizabeth against foreign powers
  - in 1570 he was nominated ambassador of France
  - in 1573 he was recalled and made secretary
  - the privy council was supported by national, regional, county and community bodies
  - royal representative in every county to ensure that laws are obeyed
  - nobility and gentry were also powerful > owning land meant power
King Philip II of Spain built 130 warships and organized 30,000 qualified soldiers to invade England. This massive fleet of ships is called The Spanish Armada.
Why did England and Spain go to war?

- Elizabeth’s rejection to Philip’s marriage proposal
- Religious differences
- Execution of Mary Queen of Scots
- English sailors robbing Spanish treasure ships
- Spanish aided plots
- French Civil War
- Dutch Revolt
- Elizabeth and the Netherlands
The Defeat of the Spanish Armada

- 1586 preparation for the Armada began
- start was delayed because of the attack by Sir Francis Drake
- May 9th, 1588 the Armada left the coast of Portugal
- commanded by the Duke of Medina Sidonia
- 130 ships and 30,000 men
- anchored in Calais to wait for the forces of the Duke of Parma
- English set some of their own boats on fire and sailed them over to the Armada
The Defeat of the Spanish Armada

- to get away from the burning ships they drove back in the English Channel.

- fights started

- wind blew them northward

- they were forced to sail around the tip of Scotland

- bad storms wrecked many ships

- only 69 ships returned
The Defeat of the Spanish Armada

- the mighty Spanish fleet was defeated
- the morale and international prestige of Elizabeth's England raised
- English believed: it was no ordinary storm but the work of God
- "God blew and they were scattered"
Cultural Developments

Music

- upper class: expected musical literacy
- labors: sang while working
- towns people: sang or played music after meals
- favored instruments: lute, viola, recorder, bagpipe, fiddle
- popular entertainment in the countryside: ringing church bells
- Waits
Cultural Developments

Dancing

- very popular activity
- mostly performed by couples
- dancing varied according to social class
- courtly dances: high social class
- country dances: ordinary people
- performances and ritual dances, most famous was Morris dancing
Cultural Developments

Literature

- technical works, political and religious tracts, ballads, almanacs, and histories.

- reading was affordable for everyone

- public readings
Cultural Developments

Theater

- 1567 first theater came to London
- three-story galleries
- people from every social class attended
- performances were held in the afternoon
- most popular playwrights: Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare
- women attended plays, but didn’t perform in plays
Cultural Developments

Feasts and festivals

- every season a celebration
- Mayday celebration
- Midsummer’s Eve on June 24th
- harvest festivals
- Christmas until the 5th of Jan.
Cultural Developments

Sports

- sports were regulated by government
- high ranked people were expected to do sports to be trained for war
- on Sundays the working class practiced archery
- war games were very popular, for example:
  - hunting
  - jousting-preparation is quintain
  - hawking
  - hurling, forerunner of rugby
Cultural Developments

Architecture

- Elizabethan architecture ranged from the 1500s-1600s
- most significant: traditional building of churches stopped, building of houses began
- use of classical symmetry (E and H style)
- walls and fireplaces were onated
- more windows
- Harwick Hall in Derbyshire
  “more glass than wall”
King Philip II
Sir Francis Drake
The Duke of Parma
Armada sets sail May 28, 1588

Bad weather, stops fleet until July

English fleet launches after spotting the Armada

Many battles were fought; the English were winning

The Spanish flee. They try to return home by going north of England because the English fleet was guarding the Channel.

More than 25 ships were lost. Some survivors to the wrecks made it to shore but were soon executed.

Remaining 60 ships return home. More than 15,000 Spanish lives were lost during the war.
Mary, Queen of Scots

Mary Stewart (reign: 1542 – 1567)
Mary, Queen of Scots

- Mary Stewart was born on December 8th, 1542 at Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian
- Daughter of James V of Scotland and Mary de Guise
- She was announced queen of Scotland only 6 days old, because her father died
- Scottish noblemen wanted to make peace with England and decided that Mary should marry the future Edward VI, son of Henry VIII
Mary, Queen of Scots

- Mary’s mother was chosen as regent
- She opposed to the plan of the Scottish nobility, and wanted to strengthen the relationship with France
- Mary was sent to France in 1548 to live with the French royal family
- She was also betrothed to the future king of France, the Dauphin Francis
- Stewart → Stuart?
- Henry VIII was furious about that and a number of attacks on scottish ground began, known as ‘The Rough Wooing’
Mary, Queen of Scots

- On April 24th, 1558 Mary and the Dauphin Francis married in Paris.
- One year later he succeeded to his father’s throne as Francois II so Mary was now queen of Scotland and of France.
- In 1560 Francois II died of an ear infection.
- In 1561 the catholic Mary returned to Scotland, now an officially Protestant country.
Mary, Queen of Scots

- She ruled successfully and with moderation
- In 1565 she married Henry, Lord Darnley, her second cousin, who was also catholic
- Darnley became tool of Mary’s enemies
- He and some other conspirators killed her Italian secretary David Rizzio (who was said to be her lover and a papal agent) in front of her when she was 6-month pregnant
- In summer 1566 Mary’s and Darnley’s son James was born
Mary, Queen of Scots

- Darnley was murdered in Kirk o’Field while Mary was on a party in 1567
- People suspected her to be implicated in that crime together with the Earl of Bothwell who was believed to be the principal murderer of Darnley
- 3 months later Mary and Bothwell married, he was therefore divorced from his wife!
- Scottish nobility could not stand that and she was forced to abdicate her throne in favour of her son James
Mary, Queen of Scots

- Her attempt to regain her throne ended with her getting captured and imprisoned at Lochleven Castle
Mary, Queen of Scots

- She could escape and fled to England, hoping her cousin Elizabeth I would help her.
- Mary was imprisoned for 19 years until her execution at Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire on February 8th, 1587, aged 44.
- She was wearing red as a sign of dying for her faith.
- She was first buried in Peterborough Cathedral, but her son James VI of Scotland and also I of England exhumed her in 1612 and placed her body in Westminster Abbey.
Mary Stewart vs. Elizabeth I

• Why should Elizabeth I want Mary to be executed?

Vs.
Mary Stewart vs. Elizabeth I

- Although Elizabeth wanted to sever ties with Rome, she needed the common people and the majority of them was Anti-Rome.
- Mary and Elizabeth were cousins. If Elizabeth had no children, Mary had a good claim on the English throne and England would become Catholic again.
- Catholics considered Elizabeth being illegitimate, because her mother, Ann Boleyn was married to Henry VIII illegally.
- Catholics plotted against Elizabeth.
Mary Stewart vs. Elizabeth I

- A long series of Catholic plots against Elizabeth in order to assassinate the English queen made her ministers state: `so long as there is life in her, there is hope; so as they live in hope, we live in fear`.
- Mary was executed.
- `In my end is my beginning`.
Mary Stewart vs. Elizabeth I