

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The English Monarchy

In the early 1500s, England and Spain were strongly connected by their dedication to the Roman Catholic Church and the fact that Henry VIII of England married Catherine of Aragon of Spain. In the 1530s, Henry VIII broke away from the Roman Catholic Church so that he could divorce Catherine of Aragon. The Roman Catholic Church had refused to allow the divorce or to annul the marriage, which is why Henry VIII turned his back on the Catholic Church. As a result, the efforts of English Protestant reformers gained official support and the once close relations between England and Spain broke down.

Henry VIII wanted to annul his 20 year marriage to Catherine of Aragon because she had only provided him with daughters, and he wanted a male heir. Catherine was the aunt to the King of Spain, Charles V. Charles V's support was vital to the Holy Roman Empire, so the pope refused the annulment. In a political move, Henry severed the connection with Rome. Henry VIII declared himself the head of the Church of England. He then named a new archbishop who granted his annulment. Henry VIII then married Anne Boleyn. Ironically, Anne Boleyn did not give him the male heir he wanted either. Instead, they had a daughter named Elizabeth who later reigned from 1558 to 1603.

Mary Tudor, the daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, became queen after her father's death. She attempted to bring England back into the Catholic fold. Following the unpopular reign of Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth I came to power and was both ambitious in world affairs and was a strong Protestant. This renewed the tensions between England and Spain. The English, quietly backed by Queen Elizabeth, began to plunder Spanish merchant ships. The most famous of these pirates (who were sometimes called "sea dogs") was Captain Francis Drake. He captured a Spanish treasure ship and profited roughly 4,600 percent for his financial backers.

King Philip II of Spain was angered by the English raids on his ships and began to assemble an Armada of ships to invade England. He wanted to bring England back into the Roman Catholic Church once and for all. In 1588, the Spanish Armada, consisting of about 130 ships and 30,000 men, sailed into the English Channel. The Dutch were also resisting Spanish rule, so they helped the English disrupt the Armada's plans. The English fleet fought back with faster ships that more easily maneuvered. As a result, the English defeated the Spanish Armada. A series of storms scattered the remainder of the Spanish fleet as it attempted to circle the British Isles. This completed the destruction of the Armada. This historically significant win for England ensured their naval dominance in the North Atlantic and built their confidence. It also built their ambition to secure settlements in the New World.

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## **The English Monarchy (Cont'd)**

Although Elizabeth produced no heirs to the throne, the influence of her reign continued. In 1603, James VI of Scotland became James I of Great Britain, which united Scotland and England under one monarchy. This was an era of great social, economic, and political development for England. William Shakespeare produced plays for London's Globe Theatre. The Crown's patronage of scholars resulted in the King James translation of the Bible in 1611. Investors and companies such as the Muscovy Company and the East India Company tapped into the world's developing trade networks. Where networks were established, the English built ties to local merchants and set up new trade routes and port facilities with the goal of building wealth for England.

The English Monarchy has undergone many changes throughout the years. There have been several rulers. Each has brought changes to their country and to the world, which is why it is important to study the different monarchs and periods of English history.

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## The English Monarchy Questions

### Multiple Choice:

1. Henry VIII married this woman after he divorced Catherine of Aragon:
  - a. Queen Elizabeth
  - b. Mary Tudor
  - c. Anne Boleyn
  - d. Victoria Hartford
  
2. This is the main reason that Henry VIII wanted to divorce Catherine of Aragon:
  - a. because she was always angry
  - b. because she spent too much money
  - c. because she had an affair
  - d. because she did not bear any sons
  
3. Henry VIII broke away from this church:
  - a. the Protestant Church
  - b. the Roman Catholic Church
  - c. the Anglican Church
  - d. the Lutheran Church

### Fill In:

4. \_\_\_\_\_, the daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, became queen after her father's death.
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ captured a Spanish treasure ship and profited roughly 4,600 percent for his financial backers.
  
6. In 1588, the \_\_\_\_\_, consisting of about 130 ships and 30,000 men, sailed into the English Channel.
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ declared himself the head of the Church of England.

### True or False:

- \_\_\_ 8. Pirates were sometimes called "sea dogs."
- \_\_\_ 9. Queen Elizabeth produced many heirs to the throne.
- \_\_\_ 10. Queen Elizabeth was a strong Catholic.

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## The English Monarchy Answers

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