

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Mary, Queen of Scots

Born in 1542 in Linlithgow Palace, Mary was the only daughter of James V of Scotland and his wife, Mary of Guise. Mary was the third child of this union, but the first two children died in infancy. James V died only days after Mary's birth, and Mary was crowned Queen of Scotland on September 9, 1542. Since she was still a baby, Lord Erskine and Lord Livingstone were entrusted with her care and charged with protecting her.

King Henry VIII of England wanted to create an alliance with Scotland, so he proposed a marriage between the infant Mary and his son, Edward. This proposal failed, and King Henry went to war with Scotland. This war came to be known as "The Rough Wooing" and lasted from 1544 to 1551. After Henry VIII's death, the Duke of Somerset continued to try to force an alliance with Scotland, which continued the battles between the two countries.

Eventually, Mary did marry. She married the Francis. Francis was the son of the king of France, Henry II. This marriage did not last because Francis died only two years after they were married.

Mary's second marriage was to Lord Darnley, an English nobleman. Lord Darnley was then called Henry, King of Scots. Mary and Henry had only one child, who eventually became James I of England. Eventually, Mary tired of her union with Henry. Henry made enemies out of some of the powerful nobles of the time, and there was a plot to kill him. Henry died by strangulation after a gunpowder blast designed to kill him failed.

Mary's displeasure with Henry was public knowledge. She had turned to James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, for support. Hepburn and other Scottish noblemen supported the queen and were responsible for the plot to kill Darnley and for his strangulation. After Darnley's murder, Mary married the Earl of Bothwell. The public suspected the Earl's participation in the plot to murder the king and suspected that Mary was aware of the plot. As a result, Mary's subjects turned against her. The Scots forced Mary to give up her throne and locked her in a castle.

Mary eventually escaped and fled to England, where her cousin Elizabeth I ruled as Queen. While Mary may have hoped to receive help from Elizabeth, Elizabeth was not pleased to see Mary. Mary was a threat to the throne of England because Mary was an anointed queen. Many people believed that the right of an anointed queen to rule came directly from God. Elizabeth feared that Mary would form an alliance with Catholic forces and seek to take over England. As a result, Elizabeth had her imprisoned.

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## Mary, Queen of Scots (Cont'd)

In 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots, was found guilty of plotting to overthrow the English throne by killing Elizabeth. As a result, Elizabeth ordered Mary to be executed. At the age of 44, Mary was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in 1587. Mary's execution surprised many throughout Europe, because the idea of beheading an anointed queen was a shocking concept. By ordering Mary's execution, Elizabeth ensured that Mary would never again be a threat to England's monarch.

## Mary, Queen of Scots Questions

### Multiple Choice:

1. This man proposed a marriage between Mary and his son, Edward:
  - a. James V
  - b. Henry VIII
  - c. Lord Darnley
  - d. Henry V
  
2. The war that resulted from Mary's not marrying Edward was called:
  - a. The Scottish War
  - b. The Ten Years War
  - c. The Rough Wooing
  - d. The War of Lost Love
  
3. This husband of Mary was strangled:
  - a. Lord Darnley
  - b. The Earl of Bothwell
  - c. James Hepburn
  - d. Henry II
  
4. Mary's relation to Queen Elizabeth was:
  - a. They were sisters.
  - b. Elizabeth was Mary's mother.
  - c. They were cousins.
  - d. Mary was Elizabeth's niece.

### True or False:

- \_\_\_\_ 5. Lord Erskine and Lord Livingstone were entrusted with Mary's care and charged with protecting her.
- \_\_\_\_ 6. Mary, Queen of Scots, was found innocent of plotting to overthrow the English throne by killing Elizabeth.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. The Scots forced Mary to give up her throne and locked her in a castle.
- \_\_\_\_ 8. Mary was a threat to the throne of England because Mary was an anointed queen.
- \_\_\_\_ 9. At the age of 44, Mary quietly died in her sleep while at Fotheringhay Castle in 1587.

## Mary, Queen of Scots Answers

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