

KO: To understand why Elizabeth I was such a successful Queen

Prior Learning Task

What has happened to the religion of England under the reign of Edward VI and Mary I?

Key Vocabulary:

- Elizabeth I
- settlement
- compromise
- Wyatt rebellion
- Elizabethan Religious Settlement
- Tudor dynasty

Why was Mary I such a ruthless queen?



Henry VIII
1509-1547



Anne Boleyn



Elizabeth I
1558-1603

Elizabeth was born in 1533 and she was the daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. When Elizabeth was just two years old, her mother was beheaded on the orders of her father and she was banished from court.

In later years, Catherine Parr, Henry's sixth wife, took a keen interest in the young Elizabeth and made sure that she was educated to the highest standards. Elizabeth was fluent in six languages. She could speak her native **English**, as well as **French, Italian, Spanish**, Greek, and **Latin**.

In 1554 Elizabeth was briefly imprisoned in the Tower of London by her sister Mary I, due to the Wyatt rebellion. The plan of the rebellion was to remove Mary I and make Elizabeth the Queen to put an end to the religious upheaval happening in the country because of Mary.

The fear of England becoming re-Catholicised combined with the proposed marriage between Mary and Philip of Spain, led to the Wyatt Rebellion of 1554.

This was a rebellion led by nobles – principally Sir Thomas Wyatt from Kent. However, it had one major weakness – it did not have the popular support of the people across the land and was doomed to failure.

It was soon proven that Elizabeth was not involved in the rebellion and she was soon released. Elizabeth I came to the throne in 1558 and ruled for 44-years. When she became queen, her first priority was to return England to a Protestant country.

Elizabeth helped to create a peaceful country by building the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, which established a form of Protestantism similar to Catholicism, which many former Catholics were willing to follow. It was an excellent example of compromise. For example, the new Book of Common Prayer was used, but priests could still wear the decorated vestments and crucifix of a Catholic Priest and the churches were still decorated.

Watch this video about the Elizabethan Religious Settlement

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GbkZ_Y1AeQ

Elizabeth had many other achievements, such as creating the first British colony in America. The only drawback to her reign was she never married, and had no children which meant that she did not leave an heir.

The Tudor dynasty that had ruled England for 118 years came to an end.

Task: Answer these questions.

1. How did Queen **Elizabeth I** settle the religious disputes in England?
2. What was the **Elizabethan Religious Settlement**?
3. Why was **Elizabeth's** reign so successful?

Step for depth:

Do you think **Elizabeth I** not marrying and having children had a positive or negative impact on her reign? Explain.