

# Queen Elizabeth I

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Tudor women were supposed to get married, have babies and generally look up to men as their betters. How does Elizabeth stand up to this image.

## Profile of the Queen.

FULL NAME: Elizabeth Tudor

BORN: Greenwich Palace, 7 September 1533

PARENTS: Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn (*Executed 19 May 1536, when Elizabeth was 2 years old*)

SUCCEEDED TO THE THRONE: Thursday 17 November 1558, aged 25

CROWNED: Westminster Abbey, Sunday 15 January 1559

HEIGHT: Estimated between 5ft 3in - 5ft 5in

EYES: Brown

HAIR: A curly golden red

NATIONALITY: English

RELIGION: Protestant

MARITAL STATUS: Never married or had children

DIED: Richmond Palace on Lady Day, Thursday 24 March 1603, aged 69

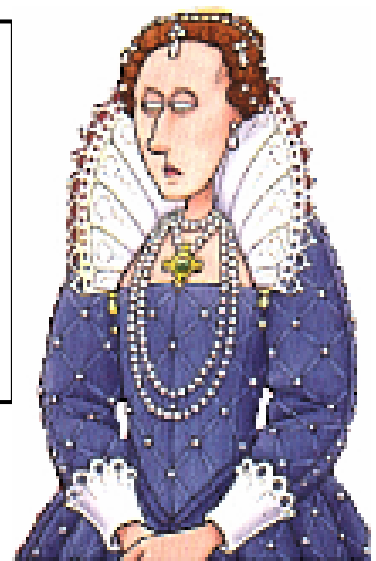
REIGNED: 44 years, 4 months

BURIED: Westminster Abbey, London

REMEMBERED AS: The Virgin Queen, Good Queen Bess, Gloriana

Although generally good natured, if provoked, Queen Elizabeth could display a show of right royal anger! Once she threw her slipper at one of her advisors. Elizabeth usually only got angry if there was good cause.

Elizabeth took the title 'Supreme Governor' rather than 'Supreme Leader' of the Church of England because the Bishops objected to a woman leader.



Elizabeth ruled the country without Parliament for most of the time. In her 44 year reign Parliament met for only 36 months.

Elizabeth always claimed the title The Virgin Queen. It was important she was not suspected to having lovers.

A speech given by Elizabeth to her troops in 1558.

I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a King.....a King of England.....I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your General.

Elizabeth used paintings of herself to send messages to her people. This is known as gloriana. The pictures told of a good, wonderful, wise, beautiful ruler.

Elizabeth's tutor said that her mind had "no womanly weakness". Her industry was "equal to that of a man and her memory retains what it quickly picks up". She was as fluent in French and Italian as in English. She conversed "readily and well in Latin, moderately in Greek".

During the reign of her brother Edward Elizabeth wore plain and simple clothes and no jewellery. She was young unmarried and third in line to the throne.

### Tasks:

1: Make a list of all the things about Elizabeth that agree with the Tudor image of the role of women.

2: Now make a list of the things that go against this image.

Think: Which list is the longest? Why?

3: Elizabeth never married. This was unusual for high class wealthy Tudor woman. Can you think of reasons for this?

**EXT:** Write a biography about Elizabeth. This is an account of what a person is like and what they have achieved.