

Mary Queen of Scots

In our previous study we have seen how Elizabeth faced danger from extreme Catholics and Protestants. Many Catholics wanted to kill Elizabeth and make Mary, Queen of Scots, rulers of England. Mary was Elizabeth's Catholic cousin.



Why did the Catholics want Mary?

- Mary was next in line to the throne.
- Mary was Catholic

Protestant nobles forced Mary to leave Scotland. She fled to England in 1568. Mary was taken prisoner for 19 years.

Elizabeth was under pressure to execute Mary. Parliament wanted Mary to be put to death. They thought she was dangerous - they said as long as Mary was alive, plots against Elizabeth would go on. Elizabeth wasn't so sure.

Tasks to complete

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1. Answer these questions in full sentences

Why did Catholics want to kill Elizabeth and replace her with Mary?

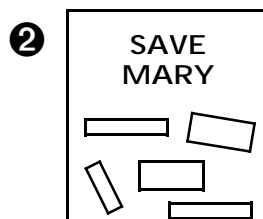
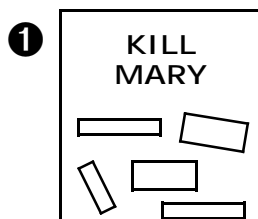
Who forced Mary to flee to England?

Why was Mary dangerous for Elizabeth?

2. Using the ideas on the other side list reasons why Elizabeth should execute Mary. [There are five reasons].

3. Using the ideas on the other side, list reasons why Elizabeth shouldn't execute Mary. [There are five reasons].

4. Using your answers to Questions 3 and 4, create two posters in your book. One should argue for Mary's execution, one should argue against.



Make sure you put all your arguments in!

Mary said she knew nothing about the plots against Elizabeth.

Mary was a Queen - chosen by God.

Mary was Scottish so couldn't be tried by an English court

Mary was a Catholic queen who threatened the English church.

As long as Mary was alive, plots against Elizabeth would continue.

Parliament wanted Mary Queen of Scots to be put to death.

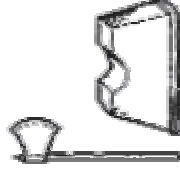
Great concern about the reaction of powerful Catholic countries such as Spain if Mary was executed.

In 1586, Elizabeth's spies found evidence that Mary had been involved in plots.

Elizabeth didn't really believe the 1586 evidence - it may have been forged or Mary may have been tricked.

Mary had written letters to powerful people abroad. She asked for help to escape.

Should Mary be executed?



The ideas on this page are all jumbled up.