

Henry VIII

Elizabeth's father. He begins the religious problems in England by splitting from the Catholic church to divorce Catherine of Aragon (1st wife) so he can marry Anne Boleyn (2nd wife) Dead.



Anne Boleyn

Elizabeth's mother. Marriage to Henry VIII does not last long. He soon tires of her and accuses her of having affairs. Executed when Elizabeth was only 2. Dead.

Edward VI

Elizabeth's half brother. Henry VIII's son from his third marriage to Jane Seymour. Edward rules after Henry dies and makes England much more Protestant but dies young (15)



Mary I

Elizabeth's half sister. Henry VIII's daughter from his first marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Mary rules after Edward dies but is a strict Catholic and makes England much more Catholic again. Marries King Philip of Spain. Dies after 5 years of being queen.





King Philip II of Spain

Previously married to Mary I. When Elizabeth becomes Queen he asks to marry her. Elizabeth refuses. Spain and England had traditionally been allies but fall out over religion, competition over trade in the new world and the rebellion in the Netherlands. Phillip send the Armada to defeat Elizabeth in 1588. He fails.

Sir William Cecil

Also known as **Lord Burghley**. Elizabeth's closest and most trusted advisor until he died in 1573. Protestant and loyal to Elizabeth they ran the country together for 40 years until he died in 1598.



Sir Robert Dudley

Also known as **Earl of Leicester** Elizabeth's favourite and childhood friend (and possible lover). He was in charge of the English campaign supporting the Dutch rebels against the Spanish in the Netherlands. Strict Protestant (Puritan). Was one of Elizabeth's trusted councillors.

Who's Who in Elizabethan Times – Learn these people!



Mary Queen of Scots

Queen of Scotland with strong links with France (French mother and Mary had previously been the wife of the French king until he died.) She was related to Elizabeth and was her closest living relative when Flizabeth became Queen and was therefore her probable heir. In Scotland she made unwise marriage choices that resulted in a scandal that meant she lost her throne and had to flee to England. Elizabeth had her under house arrest for nearly 20 years but Mary was involved and implicated in so many plots against Elizabeth she was executed in 1587 after the Babington plot was discovered. Elizabeth was extremely reluctant to do this though.



The Pope (Pius V)

Leader of the Catholic church. Excommunicated Elizabeth in 1570 (expelled her from belonging to the Catholic church) which increased the danger on Elizabeth. Loyal Catholics would now feel it was their religious duty to kill Elizabeth and destroy her 'wicked' Protestant church. The plots against Elizabeth increased dramatically in the 1570s and 1580s (Ridolfi, Throckmorton, Babington)







Francis Walsingham

Member of Elizabeth's government and her 'spy master general'. Established a network of spies and uncovered the Babington plot which led to Mary Queen of Scot's execution in 1587. Loyal to Elizabeth.

Sir Francis Drake

Hero to the English, villain to the Spanish. Pirate and Privateer who robbed many Spanish ships with Elizabeth's permission and split the profits with her.

Also circumnavigated the earth (only 2nd person in history to do so), landed on the west coast of America and claimed land in California for the queen. He also burnt Spanish boats in their home port as Philip was preparing the Armada (the *singeing of the King's beard*) and played a leading role the Armada too. Elizabeth knighted him.

Sir Walter Raleigh

Another favourite of Elizabeth. He planned and organised the two voyages that sailed in his name to establish English colonies in America on the East coast in 1585 and 1587. Both attempts to establish a colony (at Roanoke) failed. He named the area of America Virginia in Elizabeth's honour and later did go there himself but he was not present on the first two attempts.

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Duke of Norfolk

Most powerful English nobleman. Involved in a plan to marry Mary Queen of Scots (this got him in trouble with Elizabeth and imprisoned for a while.) Later found guilty of being involved in the Ridolfi Plot against Elizabeth in 1571. Executed.



Earl of Westmorland

One of the Northern, Catholic Earls involved in the Revolt against Elizabeth in 1569. After the revolt was defeated, Westmorland managed to escape abroad.



Roberto Ridolfi

An Italian banker, part of the Ridolfi plot to free Mary Q of S, overthrow Elizabeth and for Mary then to marry the Duke of Norfolk. The plot failed, Norfolk was executed but Ridolfi went to Rome and worked for the Pope.

Francis Throckmorton

Young English Catholic who confessed under torture that there was a plan in the north of England, supported by the Spanish, to free M Q of S and restore the Catholic faith in England.. It failed. He was executed.

Anthony Babington

A 25 year old Catholic who worked for the Earl of Shrewsbury when the earl was responsible for Mary's custody. He was involved in a plot (which he wrote to Mary about in code)to free her with foreign help (probably Spain) and replace Elizabeth. Letters intercepted by Walsingham. Babington executed for treason.



Earl of Northumberland

One of the Northern, Catholic Earls involved in the Revolt against Elizabeth in 1569. After the revolt was defeated, he was executed.

Plotter!

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