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# Week 19 - Elizabethan England and the Scottish Reformation

## General Information for All Grades

This week, we will turn our eyes back to Great Britain and learn what hap-pened after the death of Mary I of England. Uncertainty and changes in religious thinking did indeed result from Henry's lack of a healthy male heir, just as he had feared. However, God provided a capable, solid leader in Queen Elizabeth I, the daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Elizabeth exhibited both strengths and weaknesses as a person, but as a ruler, she presided over (and came to symbolize) a "golden age" of English stability, peace, growth, and culture. Elizabeth was so successful that the years in which she ruled came to be known as the Elizabethan Age, and she is the focus for this week's study.

Elizabeth was important to her own countrymen and also effected the destinies of other lands. Though Elizabeth was always prudent and conservative, she nonetheless helped the rebellious Dutch Republic to resist their Spanish overlords. Under her leadership, Sir Francis Drake harried Spanish ships mercilessly. She also presided over the first attempts at English colonization of the New World. And, of course, her leadership during the greatest crisis of her reign—the menace of Spanish invasion via her mighty Armada—is legendary. After its defeat, England was secure from foreign aggression, and her culture flourished. The famous Shakespeare may well represent the most beautiful flower of the northern Renaissance.

During this period, another British country also underwent significant changes. Scotland, which shares the isle of Great Britain with the kingdom of England, had its own leaders with their own struggles. We have mentioned Scotland off and on in previous weeks, but mostly as a satellite of England. Before Elizabeth came to the throne, her first cousin, Mary I of Scotland (commonly referred to as Mary, Queen of Scots), became queen as a six-day-old infant upon the death of her father, James V. As a Catholic monarch, Mary was sent at the age of fifteen to wed the crown prince of France, Francis II, who died just a year after he became king. Mary returned to Scotland and married her cousin, Henry Stuart, and they later had a son, James. Shortly after, Mary became involved in both political and personal scandals for which she was driven our of her country into exile in England. There she continued to be the center of much scandal as the nearest Catholic heir to the throne; in the end, she was executed for conspiring against the Protestant Elizabeth. Her Protestant son grew up to become king of Scotland and England, when Elizabeth died without an heir. You will meet him in the first week of our next unit as James I of England and James VI of Scotland.

John Knox, a fiery Scottish preacher who had been greatly influenced by John Calvin, boldly preached to Mary, Queen of Scots, before she was forced to leave Scotland. Knox then went on to become the most powerful political and religious leader of Scotland, helping to establish the country as a Reformed Protestant nation. The Reformed church there was called "Presbyterian."

During the Elizabethan Era, the Protestant faith made significant inroads into England also. In England, Elizabeth spent her first years establishing a political and religious compromise that proved durable, though theologically insufficient in the eyes of some English Reformers, whose desire to purify the church led them to be labeled "Puritans." Elizabeth's compromise, which allowed for the least possible open persecution on religious grounds, gave the moderate Church of England a chance to develop popular support, and allowed for the Puritan movement to grow. We will learn more in Unit 3 about this group of dissatisfied Calvinist believers living and working for reform within Elizabeth's Anglican Church.

In addition to learning about the Elizabethan Age, this week you will also spend time polishing up your work and getting ready for your Unit Celebration: Renaissance & Reformation Night. Your teacher will need your help with preparations, so be alert and ready to serve! You may also need to study for an exam on what you have learned so far this year, with special emphasis on this unit. Your teacher will help you prepare by sharing review strategies with you.

#### READING

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|       | Famous Men of the Renaissance & Reformation by Rob Shearer Read   |
|       | Chapter 29  |
|       | Mr. Pipes and Psalms and Hymns of the Reformation by Douglas Bond |
|       | Chapters 8-10   |
|       | Elizabeth I by Stephanie Turnbull                                 |
|       | Trial and Triumph, by Richard Hannula chapter 24                  |
|       | Kings and Queens of England by John Green.                        |

### **DIALECTIC & RHET Reading**

- □ The Story of Liberty by Charles Coffin, chapters XXI, XXVI
  □ Famous Men of the Renaissance and Reformation Chapter 29
  □ The World of Captain John Smith by Genevieve Foster p viii-11, 21-31, 44-51, 55-90
- ☐ Church History in Plain Language by Bruce Shelley p 262-263
- Philosophy Elective Read Supplements on Bacon and Magee

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| Upper Grammar People (All LG people +) |  |
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| Rhetoric and Dialectic Biography |  |

John Knox Elizabeth I

Mary Stuart Philip II