

# Queen Elizabeth I

## Key Terms:

**Virgin Queen** Name given to Elizabeth as she didn't marry.

**Phillip II of Spain:** Catholic King of Spain who asked Elizabeth to marry.

**Spanish Armada** – Spain sent ships to England to invade.

**1588**– The year of the Spanish Armada

**William Shakespeare** – Famous Elizabethan playwright.



## Queen Elizabeth I

Elizabeth became queen in 1558 after her half sister Mary died. She was 25 years old.

She faced a country that was divided over religion and so she had to win the support of her people, both Roman Catholics and Protestants.

Many people believed a woman could not rule England by herself. Elizabeth would prove them wrong. She is England's only unmarried Queen. Some people said she loved her country more than she could ever love a man

The Elizabethan Era is seen as a 'Golden Age' in England. It was a time of great painters, poets, musicians and playwrights.

William Shakespeare wrote plays and performed them for the Queen at the Globe theatre.

The Spanish Armada was defeated and sailors like Sir Francis Drake brought back treasure from their voyages.

One of the best ways to win support was by touring the country.

This was dangerous so Elizabeth chose to send portraits around to show the people.

It was vital these portraits impressed the people and so they were packed with symbols and images.