

Elizabeth I

7 key facts

She was held prisoner by her half sister

In 1554, she was tried and imprisoned on suspicion of abetting Wyatt's rebellion, a revolt against her Catholic sister and then queen, Mary I.

She managed her image

On claiming the throne, her advisors encouraged flattering portraits to be created by portrait artists.

She also travelled the country on 25 royal progresses, refusing to ride in a carriage, and instead appearing on horseback.

She was multilingual

Alongside English, Elizabeth spoke fluent French, Italian and Latin. She is also believed to have spoken Spanish, Welsh, Irish, Flemish, Greek and even Cornish.

She helped develop the Church of England

Taking over from her deeply Catholic sister, Elizabeth reinforced Protestantism in England. She introduced a new Book of Common Prayer and had an English translation of the bible.

She had her cousin executed

Many rebellions took place during her reign, attempting to make the country Catholic again. When support turned to her Catholic cousin, Mary, Queen of Scotland, Elizabeth imprisoned her rival. After keeping her imprisoned for 19 years, she eventually had her executed.

She was a talented public speaker

Educated by Henry VIII's final wife, Catherine Parr, Elizabeth would be known for her inspiring speeches, including a rousing speech outside Tilbury in 1588 right before her men set out to defeat the Spanish Armada.

She was the final Tudor Monarch

Elizabeth never married, despite protests from parliament, requests for betrothal and rumours of love affairs. With no children to succeed her, the crown passed to James VI of Scotland, son of her executed cousin Mary, beginning the Stuart dynasty.

