THE GOLDEN AGE



- 0. THE GOLDEN AGE Story Preface
- 1. PRINCESS ELIZABETH
- 2. PHILIP II: KING CONSORT of BRITAIN
- 3. ELIZABETH BECOMES QUEEN
- 4. THE TROUBLE WITH MARY
- 5. THE BABINGTON PLOT
- 6. A QUEEN LOSES HER HEAD
- 7. SIR WALTER RALEIGH
- 8. PHILIP II and the ARMADA
- 9. THE ARMADA SAILS
- 10. NEGOTIATIONS FAIL
- 11. BRITISH SHIPS
- 12. THE FLEETS ENGAGE
- 13. FIRE SHIPS and the BATTLE OF GRAVELINES
- 14. PARMA'S NO-SHOW
- 15. PUSHED TO THE NORTH SEA
- 16. ELIZABETH'S SPEECH to her PEOPLE
- 17. SAILING HOME by a NORTHERN ROUTE
- 18. SPANISH SHIPS on IRISH ROCKS
- 19. MISERY IN IRELAND
- 20. CELEBRATING THE VICTORY
- 21. THE DEATH OF RALEIGH

22. THE GOLDEN AGE



When Elizabeth died - in 1603 - her country was a different place than it was when she took the throne. Smart enough to know that she should not take extreme positions, the Queen created an atmosphere in which Britain <u>prospered</u>.

As <u>England flourished</u>, so did the arts. <u>Will Shakespeare</u> and Christopher Marlowe were just two of the great writers who created <u>masterpieces</u> during the Elizabethan era.

As Her Majesty's navy grew more powerful, so did the country. Explorers like <u>Francis Drake</u>, <u>John Hawkins</u> (who engaged in the <u>slave trade</u>) and Richard Grenville are just a few examples of people who contributed to the great <u>wealth</u> of the Golden Age.

By 1603, Elizabeth Tudor was nearly seventy years old. Historians tell us the queen was growing tired. She had outlived most of her trusted advisors and was feeling increasingly alone.

Two years before, one of her favorites - <u>Robert Devereux</u>, the Earl of Essex - had <u>betrayed her</u> and was executed on the Tower Green. Scholars believe she never got over that loss.

By March of her final year, Elizabeth seemed depressed. She refused to allow her physicians to examine her and spent her final days (this is a PDF link) at Richmond Palace.

She quietly stood - for hours on end - as though she were deep in thought. Sometimes she would sit in a chair, but she refused to spend her days in bed. After her ladies-in-waiting spread cushions around the floor, she



rested there - for four, mostly silent days.

Then, too weak to argue, she allowed her servants to help her to bed. Still, the Queen had not named her successor. As her councilors gathered around her, that important topic was raised. So was the name of James I, her second-cousin and current King of Scotland. She made a sign which Robert Cecil, her secretary, interpreted as an agreement: James I of Scotland would also become James VI of England.

Archbishop Whitgift was summoned to offer prayers. The Queen fell asleep. She never woke up. On the 24th of March, 1603, she was dead.

Although historians have speculated on her cause of death - including blood poisoning - no one can be sure since there was no post mortem. Whether the Queen directed it - or her ladies-in-waiting decided on her behalf - her body was not embalmed. She was so revered by her people that her date of accession was a national holiday for the next 200 years.

Rulers, like kings and queens, make all kinds of pronouncements while they are alive. But when they are gone, decisions are made by others. When it came time to decide where <u>Elizabeth I would be buried</u>, those in charge of such things made an interesting judgment call. They determined her remains would be placed <u>next to</u> the woman who had disliked her in life and had imprisoned her in the Tower of London: <u>Mary I</u>, her half-sister.

There was one final twist to Elizabeth's final <u>resting place</u> at Westminster Abbey. Her tomb is not far from <u>that of Mary, Queen of Scots</u>. Although <u>Elizabeth</u> refused to ever meet her cousin in life, their bodies are near each other in death.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-GOLDEN-AGE-Elizabeth-I-The-Golden-Age

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-GOLDEN-AGE-Elizabeth-I-The-Golden-Age

Media Stream



Robert Devereux

Image online, courtesy the $\underline{\text{National Portrait Gallery}}$ website.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Robert-Devereux



Elizabeth I - Burial Site

Image online, courtesy roberthouse.com website.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Elizabeth-I-Burial-Site



Elizabeth I and Mary I - Together at Westminster Abbey

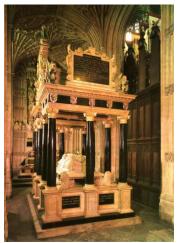
Image online, courtesy <u>tudorhistory.org</u> website.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Elizabeth-l-and-Mary-l-Together-at-Westminster-Abbey



Mary I Image online, courtesy the National Portrait Gallery website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mary-I



<u>Elizabeth I - Final Resting Place</u>
Image online, courtesy the <u>tudorhistory.org</u> website.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Elizabeth-I-Final-Resting-Place



Mary, Queen of Scots - Tomb
Image online, courtesy <u>tudorplace.com</u> website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mary-Queen-of-Scots-Tomb



 $\frac{\text{THE GOLDEN AGE}}{\text{View this asset at: } \underline{\text{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/THE-GOLDEN-AGE}}$



<u>Trailer - Elizabeth I: The Golden Age</u>
Trailer for "Elizabeth I: The Golden Age," by Universal and Working Title. Copyright, Working Title, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.