

LISTENING

SCRIPT

**Listen to the text called “the Elizabethan Age” In the passage below fill in the spaces with the words from the story. You will hear the text twice.
First, you have some time to look at Questions 1-15.**

Pause 1 min

Now listen and complete the passage below.

THE VIRGIN QUEEN

Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She became Queen of England in 1558 when she was 25 years old. Queen Elizabeth was a strong, intelligent and dedicated queen. She is remembered as one of England's greatest monarchs. She never married and was called the Virgin Queen. She brought peace, unity and progress to England. Elizabeth commissioned a great number of portraits of herself. These portraits contributed to ensuring the loyal devotion of her subjects and to her popularity.

At that time the English often had portraits of Elizabeth in their homes and some wore miniatures of the Queen on necklaces! By analysing Elizabeth's portraits we can learn many things about her personality and her historical period.

During the Elizabethan Age many important events took place. English explorers sailed the seas of the world to look for new lands to set up colonies. In 1584 Sir Walter Raleigh's ships explored the southern part of the east coast of North America. His men founded the new colony of Virginia in honour of Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen. They brought tobacco, potatoes and other riches back to England.

Sir Francis Drake was a sea captain and a great explorer. He became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world between 1577 and 1580. Drake was also a 'privateer'; he took treasures from Spanish ships that returned from America and then gave the riches to Queen Elizabeth. She was very pleased and made him a knight!

Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, was Elizabeth's cousin and a devout Catholic. Elizabeth knew that many Catholics in England wanted Mary Stuart to be their queen so she put Mary in prison for 19 years. In 1587, Mary was accused of treason and was beheaded.

THE SPANISH ARMADA

When the Catholic King Philip II of Spain heard this news he was furious. He decided to invade England and take the throne from Elizabeth.

In May 1588 an Armada of 130 ships and about 28,000 men left Spain for England. Duke Medina of Sidonia commanded the Spanish Armada. There were bad storms at sea and many ships lost their supplies.

England had a fleet of 160 smaller ships and about 14,000 men. The English ships were faster and had better guns. Lord Howard of Effingham commanded the English fleet. Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Hawkins and Martin Frobisher were the other captains. The English fleet attacked the Spanish Armada at Plymouth, after which the Armada went to Calais, France. The English sent 8 fireships into Calais harbour. When the Spanish saw the blazing fireships they escaped from Calais and the English attacked the Armada again. The battle was a long, difficult one. In the end, the Armada was defeated and returned to Spain with only 67 ships. This was a glorious victory for the English, but it was a tremendous humiliation for the Spanish. After this defeat Spain slowly lost its sea power.

During part of her reign Elizabeth was at war with other countries to defend England's grandeur and power. However, above all else, Elizabeth loved the arts and the refined life of her court, which prospered during times of peace.

THE 'RAINBOW PORTRAIT'

In keeping with her elegant taste, Elizabeth commissioned the 'Rainbow Portrait', one of her most astonishing portraits. The portrait itself is a bit of a riddle where every detail has a symbolic meaning. The rainbow that the Queen holds in her hand is accompanied by the Latin motto *Non sine sole iris* ('No rainbow without the sun'). The sun is the symbol of peace, under which beauty

can flourish.

QUEEN ELIZABETH AND THE ARTS

Queen Elizabeth was a patron of the theatre and the arts. Her court became a centre for musicians, playwrights and artists. Theatres opened in London. People from all social classes went to the theatre, which became a popular form of entertainment. William Shakespeare (1564-1616), the famous English poet and playwright, lived during the Elizabethan Age. His theatrical company performed at the famous Globe Theatre and at Elizabeth's court. Shakespeare was the most popular playwright of his time. Other important poets and writers were Edmund Spenser, Ben Jonson and Christopher Marlowe.

During Elizabeth's rule the English economy expanded. London, Liverpool, Bristol and other seaports grew in size and importance. The cloth and coal industries became a substantial part of the economy. Coal was used in the production of iron, bricks and glass. Queen Elizabeth died in 1603. She was the last Tudor monarch. She named Mary Stuart's son, King James VI of Scotland, as her successor. England was now a prosperous and respected European power.

Pause 10 sec.

Now listen to the text again.

Text repeated.

Now you have 2 minutes to complete the task and write down answers on the answer sheet.

Pause 2 min

This is the end of the listening task.