

## Elizabeth's Religious Settlement

Elizabeth's Religious Settlement of 1559 was a compromise, although it did reflect that she had been brought up as a Protestant and that she liked decoration in churches. Her Church looked Catholic, even if many of its ideas were Protestant. *Learn its key features:*

### What was the new Church of England like?

Area of concern	What Elizabeth had ordered in the Religious Settlement of 1559	Impact
Head of the Church and the Bishops	Elizabeth, not the Pope, was now Head of the Church, but the title she gave herself was Supreme Governor.  All judges, government officials, MPs and clergy had to take an oath accepting Elizabeth's title. If they refused, they could be imprisoned. If they refused three times, they could be executed.  Bishops would run the Church.	This was acceptable to all but a few. Ordinary Catholics accepted the title Governor, as they could tell themselves that the Pope was still the Head of the Church.  All but one of Mary's Catholic bishops resigned rather than take the oath.
Church decoration and music	Ornaments and decoration were allowed in churches. The singing of hymns continued.	The appearance of the church was very important to the people. By making no changes, Elizabeth was winning many of them over, although the Puritan bishops always complained that the new Church looked too Catholic.
The Bible and church services	The Bible and church services had to be in English. Every church had to have a Bible written in English.  A new Protestant Prayer Book had to be used in every church. Bread and wine were to be offered during Holy Communion, but the reasons why were left vague (see page 11).	The omission of Latin Mass was unacceptable to Catholics. Many got round this, however, by going to the new Church on Sundays and then taking Mass secretly later. Elizabeth's government knew this was going on, but did nothing as long as Catholics appeared to be loyal.
The clergy	All clergy had to take an oath, recognising Elizabeth's title and agreeing to use the new Prayer Book.  The clergy had to wear a <b>surplice</b> , rather than the plain black gowns the Puritans preferred, but unlike Catholic priests, they were now allowed to marry.  All preachers had to have a licence and had to preach at least once a month.	Most churchmen took the oath of loyalty to the new Church. Only 250 out of 9,000 priests refused and lost their jobs. This meant that most people would go their usual church on a Sunday and hear services conducted by the same member of the clergy as before.

## Exploration 1558-88

Worksheets 4a and 4b (Pages 35-36 of your Elizabeth homework booklet) give you more information about why there was an increase in exploration between 1558-88. Make sure you know about:

- Expanding trade (luxury goods)
- New technology for navigation
- Maps
- Better ship design

## Attitudes towards the poor in Elizabeth times

Use Pages 8-9 of your Elizabeth homework booklet to learn about attitudes and policies towards poor people in Elizabethan times.

## The Spanish Armada

In 1588 King Philip II of Spain attacked England with a fleet of ships (The Spanish Armada). The Spanish were defeated. *What do you think are the most important reasons for this English victory?*

# Reasons for the English victory

The Spanish Armada was defeated for a number of reasons.

## What happened to the Armada of 1588?

**29 July** – the Armada is spotted in the English Channel.

**31 July** – Battle of Plymouth. Two Spanish ships are captured.

**3–4 August** – Battle of the Isle of Wight. Spanish ships are outgunned by the English and forced to move further up the channel towards Calais.

**8 August** – Battle of Gravelines. Fireships cause the Spanish to panic. The Spanish fleet never links up with the Duke of Parma and is scattered.



The course of the Spanish Armada, 1588.

### Communication problems:

- There was no communication between the Duke of Parma and the Duke of Medina-Sidonia.
- No deep-water ports. The Dutch rebels still possessed Ostend. This meant the Spanish Armada could not stop at any ports in the Spanish Netherlands, but had to meet up with the Duke of Parma's army at sea after it had embarked on a series of smaller ships. This made communications very difficult.

Spanish ships lacked supplies and provisions, including food, for a long voyage. The Spanish fleet was at sea for 10 weeks and by early August the food had rotted. This damaged Spanish morale and their ability to fight the English.

### English tactics were superior:

- The English got close enough to the Spanish ships to fire on them, but stayed far away enough to prevent Spanish sailors and soldiers from boarding. This destroyed and damaged a number of Spanish ships while ensuring that English losses were minimal.
- Drake's use of fireships at the Battle of Gravelines was also important as it caused the Spanish to panic.

### English ships were better armed and equipped.

In English ships, cannons were mounted on smaller gun carriages than on Spanish ships. This meant they could be reloaded and fired more quickly than the Spanish cannons. This damaged many Spanish ships and undermined their chances of linking up with the Duke of Parma and invading England.

### The Spanish panicked.

The key turning point seems to have been the Battle of Gravelines, where the English used fireships. Many Spanish captains panicked, cut their anchors and allowed their ships to drift into the North Sea.

### The weather:

Gale force winds caused most of the destruction to the Spanish ships as they retreated home. Many Spanish ships were destroyed off the west of Ireland.

## Reasons for the English victory