



THIS IS THE KEY KNOWLEDGE  
NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND THIS  
UNIT

A bit of background...



### MUM AND DAD!

Henry VIII's second  
child with second  
wife, Anne Boleyn

**GOLDEN  
AGE**

Crowned: 1558

Died: 1603



## ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND UNIT 1: COURT AND PARLIAMENT

Many people felt that she was **ILLEGITIMATE** (born when parents are not legally married) as Henry VIII had divorced Catherine of Aragon to marry Anne. Divorce was forbidden by the **Catholic** church so many Catholics believed that Henry's marriage to Anne was not valid so she was therefore illegitimate. Some thought that Mary, Queen of Scots (Elizabeth's cousin) had more right to rule.

## How the country was run

### THE ROYAL COURT

The Royal Court was a large group of people who surrounded the monarch (1000) including personal servants through to members of the **Privy Council** to nobility, ambassadors and Elizabeth's favourites! (**Dudley, Walter Raleigh**)

Place where plays were performed and other entertainments took place

Often travelled the country with her (on progresses)

Because the power rested with the Queen, the court was a place to get close to her and exert influence

She used **PATRONAGE** (giving land and titles to people) to create loyalty and ensure stability



Centre of Government

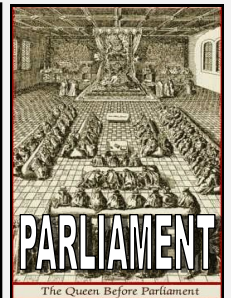
Two roles – to advise and to manage the country

Made up of 20 men – her most trusted advisors

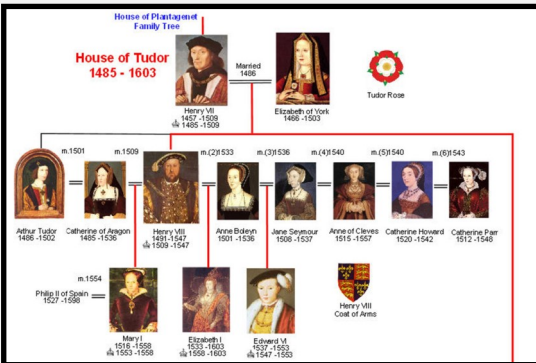
Mainly involved in collecting taxes and passing laws

Divided into House of Lords (made up of churchmen and Nobility) and the House of Commons (elected men who owned property)

When she needed money she had to go to parliament to ask to raise taxes



The Queen Before Parliament



3rd in line to throne after **Edward and Mary**— she was never really expected to be Queen

Difficult up-bringing – was accused of conspiring against sister Mary and she was placed under house arrest for nearly a year

Intelligent, confident and well educated – good preparation for future rule and was to shape many of her decisions in the future

Left with many problems from her predecessors and she was faced with many problems when she came to the throne



**MARRIED  
TO THE  
PEOPLE**

Privy Council and Parliament deeply concerned about **succession** and she was therefore under constant pressure to marry and produce an **heir**. Reasons not to marry a **foreigner** – loss of power and too much influence on England. Reasons not to marry and **Englishman** – might create jealousy then anger amongst those not chosen

The religious settlement had made England Protestant so difficult for her to marry a Catholic, such as **Phillip II of Spain** (he proposed a number of times) . Perhaps in love with **Dudley** – Privy council very against this. **Duke Francis of Anjou** (Brother of King of France) – seriously considered in the 1570s but abandoned mainly because he was Catholic. Perhaps used the idea of marriage a source of power. 1570s too old to have children anyway.

In 1601 the **Earl of Essex** tried to challenge her authority with a rebellion—led to his **EXECUTION**