

# THE SPANISH ARMADA



## QUIZ

1. Why is Sir Walter Raleigh considered to be a key Tudor explorer?

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2. Why is Sir Francis Drake considered to be a key Tudor explorer?

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3. How long did it take Sir Francis Drake to circumnavigate the globe?

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4. How did sailors share jobs while they were on board ship?

- they drew straws
- they worked in 4 hour shifts
- whoever woke up last got the worst job

4. Why was food often in short supply on board ships during a long voyage?

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## GLOSSARY

**Armada** the name given to a group of Spanish warships

**invasion** an unwelcome intrusion on somebody else's territory

**empire** a large group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch

**plunder** steal goods from a place or person, usually by force



## THE SPANISH ARMADA

During his exploration by sea, Francis Drake had angered Spain by raiding their colonies for treasure. They considered him to be a pirate: he was a wanted man!

The King of Spain (Phillip II) was determined to overthrow Elizabeth I because she had funded Drake's travels all around the globe. At this time, Phillip II was one of the most powerful men in the world. He ruled over Spain's huge Empire and had a very strong navy called the Spanish Armada.

Phillip II prepared his fleet ready to sail and it was up to Sir Francis Drake and the English navy to try and defend the Queen and English territory.

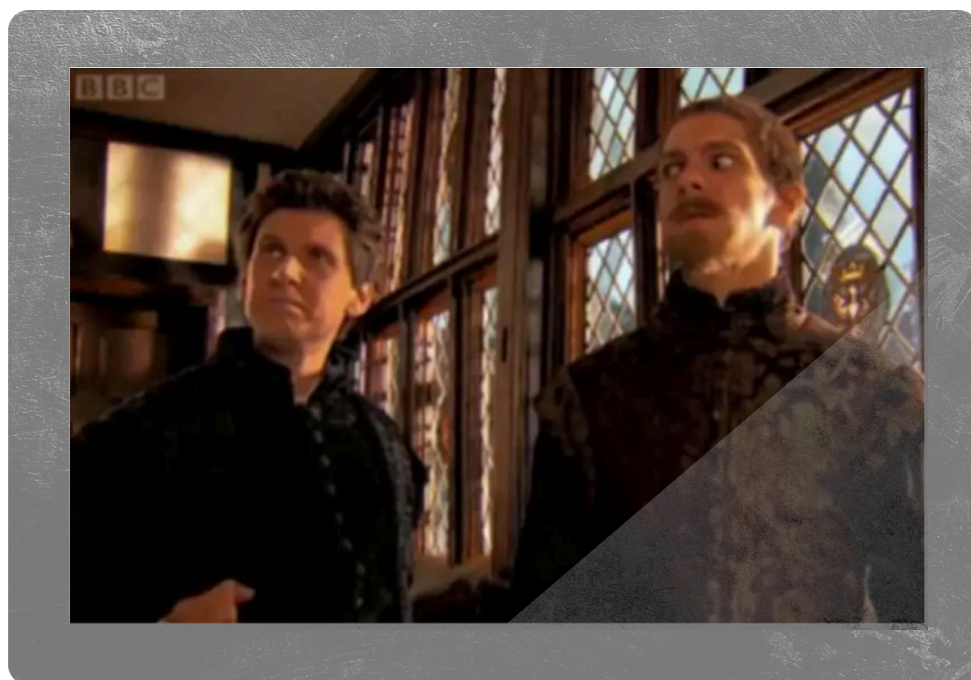
The year was 1588 and Sir Francis Drake had a fairly strange idea. He decided to set fire to some English ships and sail them towards the Armada. With the wind on their side, the burning ships sailed very quickly into the ongoing Spanish fleet and over 50 of the Armada's ships were lost.

The English managed to block the remaining Armada's route back to Spain.

They couldn't go the short way back so they had to settle for the long way! The Spanish fleet were battered by a storm when they rerouted and many died of starvation due to their resources running out.



## HORRIBLE HISTORIES



Watch: <https://bit.ly/2XakidA>



#### KEY

1. The Spanish Armada set sail.
2. The English saw the Armada arriving.
3. English ships chased the Spanish up the channel.
4. The Spanish Armada anchored near Calais, in France. The English sent burning fire ships into the Armada. The Armada captains panicked and sailed away.
5. English ships attacked the Spanish near Gravelines.
6. The Spanish soldiers were left in the Netherlands.
7. The Armada tried to sail back to Spain by sailing North around Scotland.
8. Many Spanish ships were wrecked by storms along the West coast of Scotland and Ireland.
9. Only half of the Armada returned to Spain



## WHAT IS AN EMPIRE?

### What is an Empire?

When one monarch (in this case Elizabeth I) rules over other states and sometimes countries.

### What did the British Empire look like under Queen Elizabeth I's reign?

The Elizabethan era is often referred to as the Golden Age of empire. Exploration by ship meant that new lands were being explored by Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Francis Drake and the sailors on board their ships. England were keen to outdo Christopher Columbus, who had found the Americas.

Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake both ventured to the West Indies, and Drake sailed around the world.

Perhaps the greatest achievement for England at the time was the continuous defeat of Spanish fleets and the treasure and spices they brought back with them as a result of years of plundering..



Map showing the British Empire

The British Empire went from strength to strength as the years passed. When Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, Britain already governed Canada, large areas of India, Australia, and New Zealand, and small parts of South America and Africa.

Over 3 million soldiers from the British Empire fought for Britain during World War I in 1914-1918.

Queen Elizabeth II, our current reigning monarch, is head of State in 16 Commonwealth realms (or lands).

The Commonwealth is an association of 54 states. Most of these used to be territories that were colonised by Britain.

As of 2020, there are 16 Commonwealth realms: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and the United Kingdom.



## MAKE YOUR OWN TUDOR SHIP!



Watch: <https://bit.ly/368g22q>

### YOU WILL NEED:

CARDBOARD (FOR THE BASE OF THE SHIP)

PAPER (FOR THE SAILS)

COCKTAIL STICKS OR FINELY ROLLED PIECES OF PAPER (FOR THE MASTS)



Now that you have your Tudor ship, see if you can act out the defeat of the Spanish Armada!

You will need to have an English fleet and a Spanish fleet.

Use the information at the beginning of the lesson to help you recreate this key moment in history!