

Elizabeth I Suitors

Instructions: Read through this information sheet about Elizabeth's suitors and complete the activity sheet entitled 'Elizabeth I Suitors Information' and decide who you think would be best suited to marry the Queen.



Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex

- He is an English protestant.
- He made a lot of money importing wine but wasted a lot of it.
- He has fought many wars for the Queen.
- He is a member of the Privy Council and has shown his loyalty to Elizabeth on many occasions.



Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

- He is a protestant.
- He is an Englishman
- He is very rich.
- He has known the Queen since we were children and they are good friends.
- He is rumoured to have killed his first wife Amy, he denies this!



Philip II

- He is a Catholic.
- He is the King of Spain, they could be a very powerful couple
- Phillip II is very rich. He owns many other countries and had gold from South America.
- The pope would be against the marriage to a Protestant.
- Phillip II was Elizabeth's brother in law, he was previously married to Elizabeth's sister Mary.



Francis, Duke of Alencon

- He is a French Catholic.
- He is rich and from a very wealthy family, however, his older brother inherited most of the family land.
- He would not be a popular choice with most people because he is French, but the English do hate the French less than they hate the Spanish.



Prince William of Orange

- He is a Protestant from Holland.
- Currently at war with Spain to keep Holland protestant.
- He has a large family fortune as his mother is the Queen of Holland.
- He has alliances with England and would be liked by the people.