

Learning Objective

- To understand why the Privy council wanted Elizabeth I to marry and who the potential suitors were.

Success Criteria

- To understand the reasons why the Privy Council wanted Elizabeth to marry.
- To analyse the eligibility of each of Elizabeth's five suitors.
- To make a judgement on who you think would be best suited to be the Queen's husband.

Starter: Love and Marriage?



1. Does the Queen need a husband?
2. Why would the Privy Council want the Queen to marry?
3. What five qualities should the Queen's new potential husband have?



Elizabeth's Suitors Task Part 1



Read through the resource entitled **Elizabeth I Suitors Information Activity Sheet** and complete the **Elizabeth I Suitors Information Collection Sheet**.

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.

Elizabeth I Suitors Information Collection

Instructions: You need to read through the information about Queen Elizabeth's suitors and answer the following questions. Ensure you provide reasons for your opinion.

1. Do you think Elizabeth should get married?

2. Which man would be best suited to provide the wealth which England needs?

3. England is Protestant, which potential husband would be best at ensuring England is safe as a Protestant country?

4. Elizabeth wants to develop good relationships with other countries – which marriage would help this best?

5. The Privy Council would like Elizabeth to marry a powerful man- who would you choose and why?

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Francis, Duke of Alencon



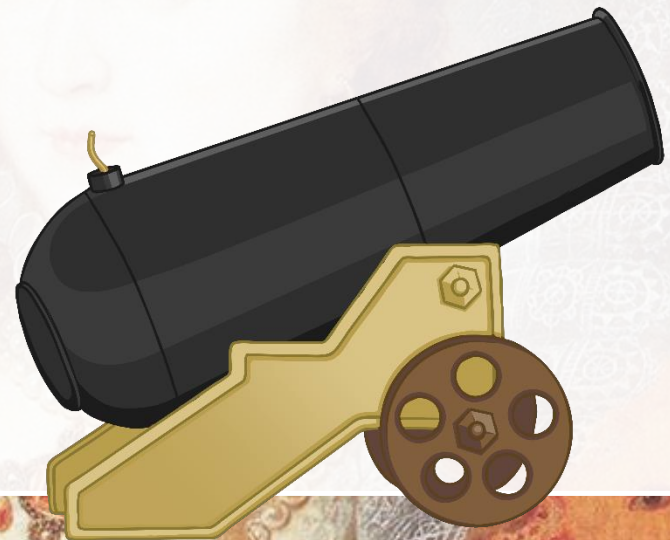
- He is a French Catholic.
- He is rich and from a very wealthy family, however, his older brother inherited most of the family land.
- He would not be a popular choice with most people because he is French, but the English do hate the French less than they hate the Spanish.



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.



Elizabeth's Suitors Task Part 2



As a group, you must choose who you think Elizabeth should marry.

You need to discuss this as a group, all agree on the decision and be able to explain the reasons to the rest of the class.



Elizabeth's Suitors Task Part 3



In your group you will write five letters, one to each suitor, from Queen Elizabeth to...

- Robert Devereux;
- Robert Dudley;
- Phillip II;
- Francis, Duke of Alencon;
- Prince William of Orange.



Dear _____,

I am writing to inform you that...

Queen Elizabeth of England.

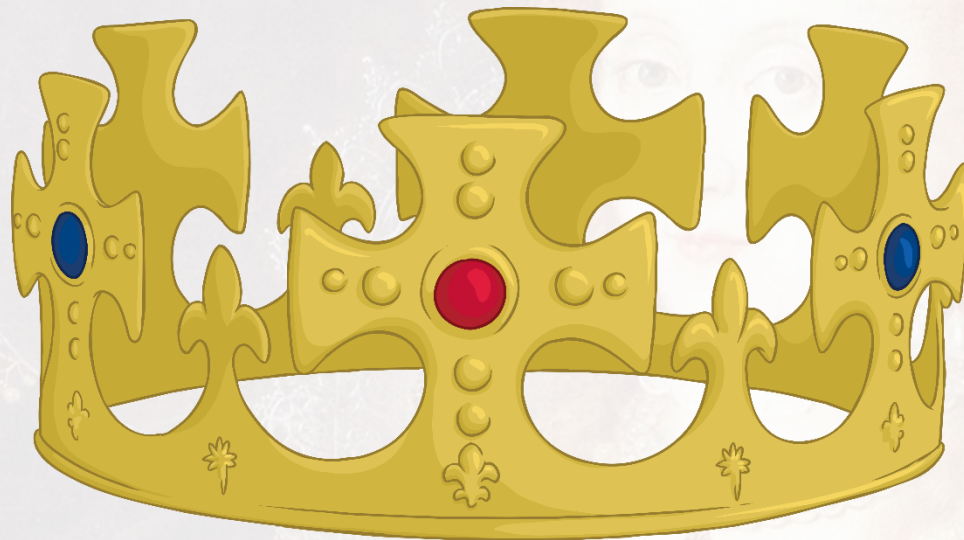
You are writing to tell them that they have/have not been chosen to be her future husband. You need to explain the reasons why.

Who Did Elizabeth Marry?

In the end, Queen Elizabeth never did marry or have any children.
She died on March 24th 1603.

Pause for Thought

What impact will this have on the Tudor dynasty?



Plenary: 2 Stars and a Wish



Write down two things you have learnt today and one thing you would like to know more about.

