



Spanish Armada - 1588

Causes: Make a list of as many reasons why Philip sent the Armada



Of course, Mary, Queen of Scots was important in the straining of relationships, BUT, the Armada was already being prepared since 1585!

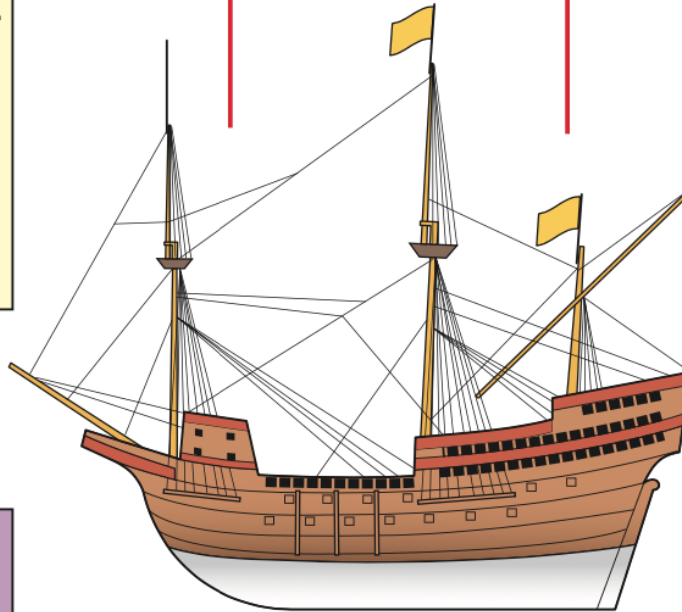


Religion

- Philip II was Catholic and hated Protestants.
- The pope had urged Catholics to overthrow Elizabeth since 1570. He promised to forgive the sins of those taking part in the Armada.
- Spain and the pope had backed Catholic plots against Elizabeth I.

Politics

- Treaty of Joinville in 1584 made France and Spain allies against Protestantism.
- Treaty of Nonsuch in 1585 meant that Spain and England were at war in the Netherlands. The Armada was part of that war.
- England would be a useful addition to Spain's empire.



Provocation*

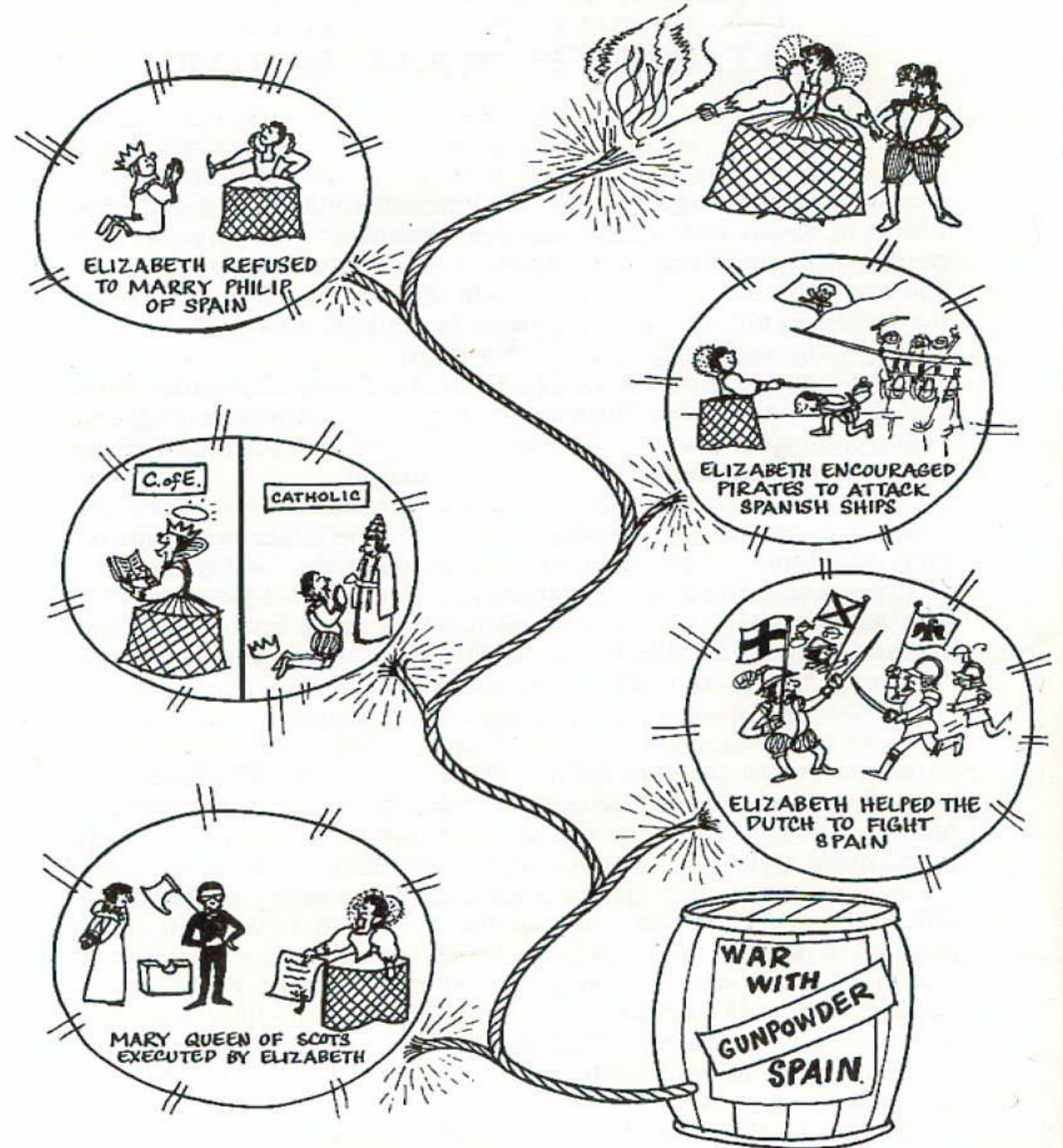
- Drake's actions in the New World angered Philip II.
- Elizabeth I's support for Dutch rebels angered Philip II.

Circumstances

- Spain acquired Portugal in 1580, increasing Spain's power and wealth.
- Spain's success in the Netherlands since 1579 gave them confidence.
- Elizabeth's hesitation to fight in the Netherlands showed weakness.

Create a little revision cartoon like this one adding some facts and detail to each circle...

ELIZABETH AND SPAIN



Possible Exam Questions

Explain why Philip II launched the Armada in 1588 [12]

'The actions of Sir Francis Drake were the main cause of the Spanish Armada' How far do you agree? [16]



Explain why Philip II launched the Armada against England in 1588. [12]

You **may use the following in your answer:**

- **England's involvement in the Netherlands**
- **Drake's attacks on Spanish colonies in America**

You **must also use information of your own.**

Have a go at answering this question before continuing this online lesson... about 18 minutes

One reason why Philip launched the Armada in 1588 was because of England's involvement in the Netherlands, which was a Spanish Colony. The Dutch Protestants had rebelled against the Spanish starting in 1568 and after several years of indirect intervention. Initially Elizabeth secretly sent money to the Dutch to help them in their revolt as she couldn't directly intervene due to having no money or adequate resources. Another example of her indirectly getting involved in the Netherlands was allowing the Sea Beggars to dock in English waters. John Casimir also took 6000 volunteers to the Netherlands with Philip fully believing Elizabeth as behind, despite them being volunteers. In 1585, Elizabeth signed the Treaty of Nonsuch, formally and directly intervening in the Netherlands. She sent an English army of 7400 soldiers to aid the Protestants against the Spanish Duke of Parma. Philip was furious with this invasion as he saw it, therefore clearly a contributing factor to his sending the Armada in 1588. Elizabeth had wanted to help establish a friendly protestant nation in the Netherlands to limit the threat of Catholic invasion from Europe. This had only been made worse by the treaty of Joinville in 1584, where the French King had agreed to aid the Spanish in ridding Protestantism in France effectively making them allies against Protestantism and consequently Elizabeth. Although Elizabeth's attempts to aid the protestants were not as successful as they could have been, it still greatly angered Philip who did not want Elizabeth interfering in his own affairs and by sending the Armada to England he would be able to stop her interference once and for all and concentrate his whole efforts on subjugating the Dutch and ending the spread of Protestantism.

Another reason Philip launched the Armada was because of the actions of Francis Drake. Sir Francis Drake had been constantly attacking Spanish ships and Spanish Colonies in the Americas and throughout Philip's empire. Drake stole £400,000 worth of gold and cargo that was coming from Philip's territories in the New World in 1580, following a further £40,000 earlier in the 1570s. Drake posed a serious challenge to Philip both militarily and publicly. Upon returning to England in 1580 with the £400,000, Elizabeth publicly knighted Drake on his ship the Golden Hinde, which further infuriated Philip leading to him sending the Armada. Drake's exploits exposed some of the weaknesses of Spain and how a small nation could defy such a powerful country as Spain. Drake's actions made the entire Spanish Empire look foolish as during his circumnavigation of the World, something he had not even attempted to do, he had sacked many Spanish ports and colonies as well as claimed land for Elizabeth in California called New Albion. This demonstrated to the world how powerful England had become and what a good sea faring nation England was as well. Drake was constantly causing the Spanish to lose money and prestige so by sending the Armada to attack England, he would both eliminate any future threat from Drake and his pirates as well as show the world what happens to any country that dares to stand up to the Spanish Empire.

Another reason that Philip launched the Spanish Armada was because of Religion. Although sending the Armada to England was a good idea politically as it would end any further English threat in the Netherlands and to shipping it would also allow Philip to reestablish the Catholic faith in England again which as an extremely devout Catholic Monarch, would have been his main aim. The Catholic Counter-reformation had been underway since the 1560's and it was only a matter of time before Philip turned his attention to England. Despite the other political benefits to conquering England, Philip was an extremely religious man and he believed that he was completing the work of the Lord by eliminating Elizabeth and restoring the true faith in England. Despite his earlier offers of marriage to Elizabeth he still saw her as a heretic that would go to hell when she died due to her Protestant beliefs. This belief was enhanced by the fact that the Pope had excommunicated Elizabeth in 1570 meaning that it was not only no longer a sin to kill Elizabeth but it would mean eternal salvation for anyone who did so. Philip had backed many plots to kill Elizabeth before in order to put Mary Queen of Scots on the throne, Elizabeth's Catholic cousin and heir, but these had been unsuccessful due to the machinations of Elizabeth's councillors William Cecil and Francis Walsingham. With Mary finally executed by Elizabeth, there was no longer a clear Catholic heir to the throne and so by sending the Armada he could take over the country himself and install a Catholic monarch there to restore the true religion of England.

This might be a helpful way to do your notes from this online lesson...

Creating a detailed mind map from each of the circles...



The Enterprise of England!

My plan is simple, I will build 130 ships, 2431 guns and 30,000 soldiers. I will sail along the English Channel to the Netherlands, pick up Parma and 27000 more soldiers and sail to Kent, then on to London. Once in London, we will depose of Elizabeth and bring Catholicism back to England

Summarise Philip's plan for England...

The Duke of Medina Sidonia was put in charge of the Spanish Armada! He had no experience and suffered from sea sickness!





Philip thinks this will be easy! My ships will lead us to victory and we have been planning this for years! John Hawkins told me years ago that we'd need smaller, faster warships making them more manoeuvrable to turn our guns on the enemy quicker! I've been building my new galleons since the 1570s!



WHY did Spain lose?

Spanish ships

- A collection of ships from across his empire
- Had more priests on their ships than gunners
- Most ships were carrying soldiers and supplies for when they got to England
- They had a 1000 guns of different sizes, most of which were too big for their ships
- Relied heavily on picking up more troops from the Netherlands...
- Medina Sidonia was a poor sailor and made poor decisions.



WHY did Spain lose?

Spanish supplies

- The Armada was not as well supplied as it should have been, they were stored in poor wooden barrels because Drake destroyed the good barrels at Cadiz
- Delays due to weather meant when the Armada met English ships it had already been at sea for 10 weeks with rotting food
- The Armada was also low on cannon balls as well as low quality cannon balls



WHY did Spain lose?

Poor communication & planning

- They were supposed to join a fleet with **Parma** in the Netherlands but they didn't hold any deep seaports for their larger ships, this led to longer preparation time
- Communication was by sea, so was slow and unreliable, it took a week for Parma to be told the Armada had arrived in the Channel and was ready, by then it was too late! It would take a further 48 hours to get ready

Write a paragraph explaining why the Armada failed due to Spanish tactics / ships

On the one hand, the Armada failed due to Spanish tactics / ships...



Why did England win?

English Galleons / Superior Technology

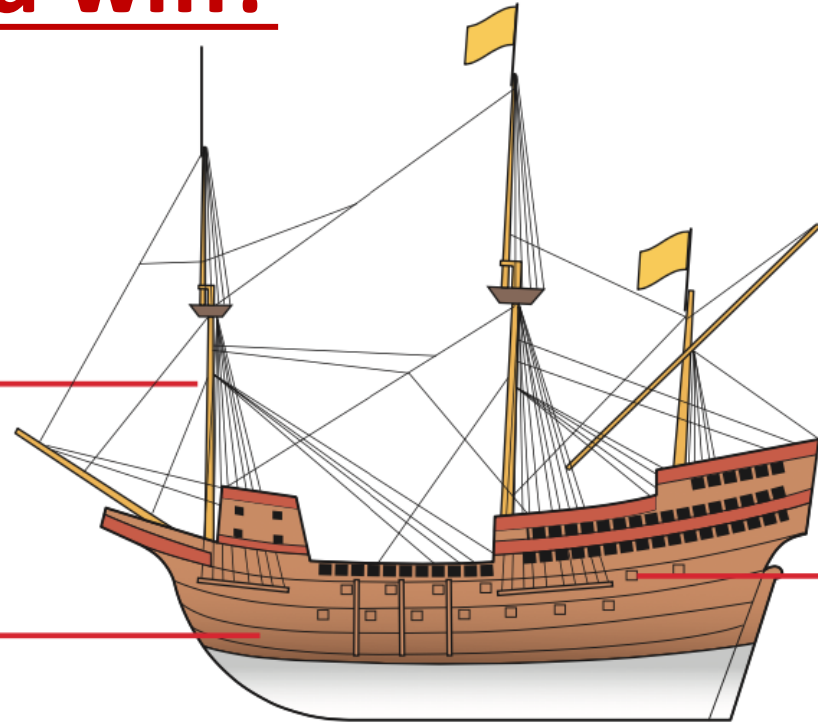
- Cannons were mounted on smaller gun carriages than on Spanish ships allowing further recoil
- They could be quickly reloaded and fired again by a small team of men and then pushed back through the port
- English ships could fire more cannon balls at the Spanish with more speed
- John Hawkins tactics to be quick and nimble really paid off



Why did England win?

English ships were smaller and could change direction quicker than Spanish ones.

English ships were faster than Spanish ones.



English guns took up less space, so there was enough room to fire and reload cannon quickly. The English were able to fire more cannonballs than the Spanish.

Why did England win?

However, England only had **24** of these new galleons, so what else led to victory?

Tactics

- The Armada was spotted in the Channel and were attacked from Plymouth losing 2 ships to the English
- English ships stayed a safe distance but chased Spanish ships into the narrow English Channel, better equipped for smaller ships,
- The Armada had hoped to anchor off the Isle of Wight and wait for Palma, being chased didn't allow for this.



Battle of Gravelines

The Armada sailed in a near perfect **CRESCENT** formation that would engulf anything inside it.

What would you do as an English captain?



Battle of Gravelines

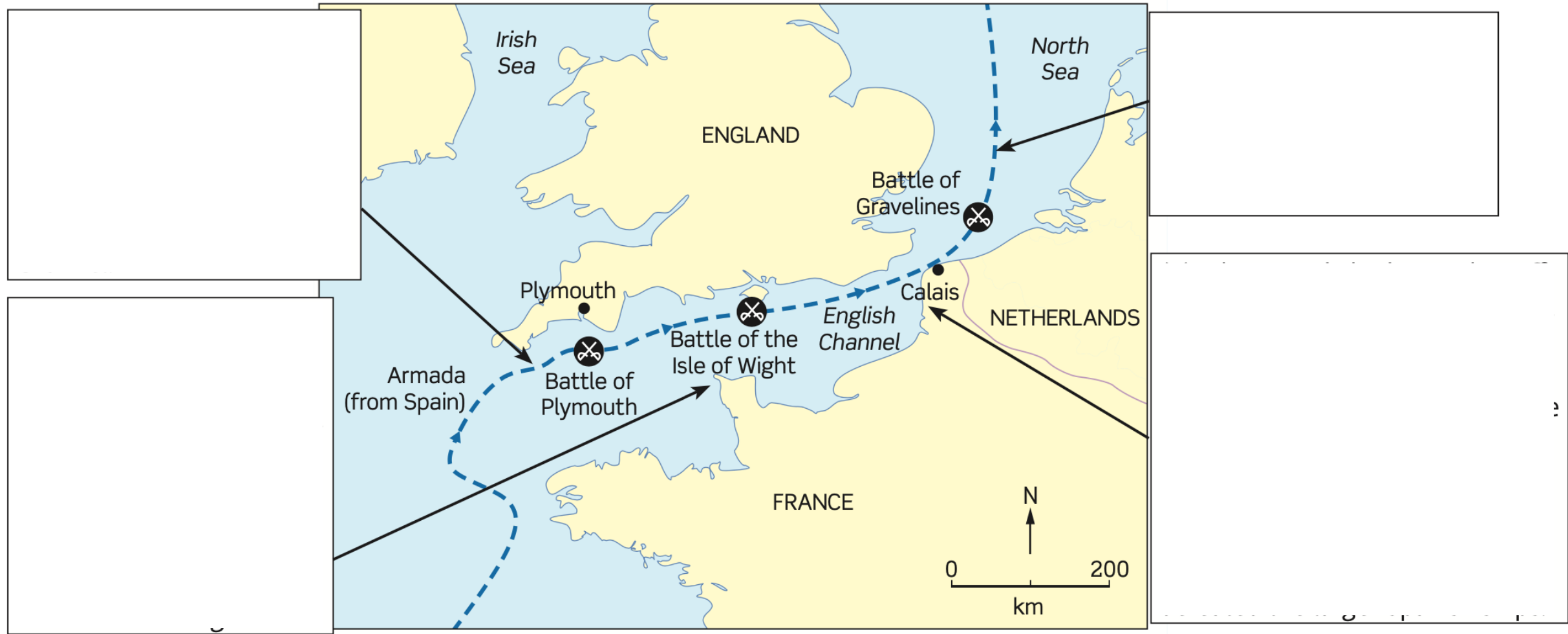
The English sent **8 empty fire ships** into the Armada's crescent formation causing havoc and scattering the Spanish ships out of formation.

By the time it regrouped at the Battle of Gravelines, the Armada was fighting without the support of Palma's ships from the Netherlands

Up against faster, more mobile ships with faster cannon fire the Armada was defeated and scattered by the winds – Elizabeth had won! Most ships were destroyed by the weather as they escaped around Britain



Summary of what happened to the Spanish Armada...



England wins!

*“God blew and they were scattered,
proving the true religion is that of our
Protestantism”*



Interpretation 1

One interpretation discussing why Philip II failed to invade England in 1588 from 'Why The Armada Failed' in *History Today Magazine* (1988).

Here, then, lay Philip's true error: he was not only an armchair strategist, but an armchair tactician too [he had no experience of war at sea] ... the final version [of his plans] depended for success upon a tactical edge [superiority] which Spain's ships simply did not possess. In this disharmony [mismatch] between strategy and tactics, therefore, lies the true explanation of the Armada's fate.

What is the view of interpretation 1 relating to why the Armada failed?

Write a paragraph explaining why the Armada failed due to English tactics

On the OTHER hand, the Armada failed due to English tactics...



Significance of this victory

- Was a great form of Propaganda, it clearly seemed that God was more in favour of the Protestant religion.
- Elizabeth was more popular than ever as well as English pride
- Encouraged the Dutch rebels to renew their fight and Elizabeth's relations with the Dutch were never stronger
- The strength of the English Navy was now not in doubt leading to a new confidence to trade and explore more widely around the world
- Spain's power declined, the Armada was very costly but Philip continued fighting against Protestantism

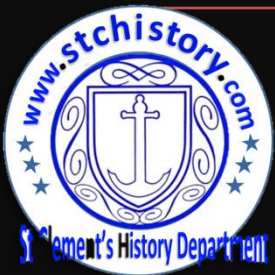


















Gloriana

1588 Armada FACT BANK

- 30,000 troops leave Spain to pick up 27,000 more from Netherlands with Duke of Parma
- Armada – 130 ships, c.2500 guns / cannons
- Armada had been at sea for 10 weeks before reaching the channel, rotting barrels
- English had 24 new ships smaller, quicker and fire 6x quicker
- 8 x Fire ships
- Only half of the Armada returned to Spain



Spain	England
	
Commanders	
	
x 130	x 200
Fleet	
 <p data-bbox="861 605 1047 629" style="text-align: center;">30,000 on ship</p>  <p data-bbox="861 676 1047 701" style="text-align: center;">20,000 on land</p>	 <p data-bbox="1421 605 1607 629" style="text-align: center;">14,000 on ship</p>  <p data-bbox="1421 676 1607 701" style="text-align: center;">20,000 on land</p>
Sailors and soldiers	
	
Food supplies	
 <p data-bbox="970 972 1047 996" style="text-align: center;">x2000</p>	 <p data-bbox="1447 972 1523 996" style="text-align: center;">x200</p>
Weapons	
	
Tactics for fighting at sea	

Possible Exam Questions

- *Describe one feature of... [2]*
 - Drake's attacks on Spanish shipping and trade
 - The English navy sent against the Spanish Armada
 - The Naval battle off Gravelines
- Explain why the Spanish Armada failed [12]
- 'English tactics were the reason why the Armada failed' How far do you agree? [16]



REVISION TASKS

A features Q – Describe one feature of the Spanish Armada invasion in 1588

A 16 mark Q – The Spanish Armada failed due to English superior technology, how far do you agree?...

- A piece of work on Philip's plan
- A diagram comparing the ships of the two sides
- A piece of work on the Battle of Gravelines
- A piece of work on the importance of the weather
- A picture of what you think the coin celebrating the armada would have looked like.
- An annotation of the propaganda painting produced by Elizabeth



Summary

- The Armada was the Spanish fleet sent to invade England in 1588.
- The English fleet set out from Plymouth and followed the Armada up the English Channel.
- The Armada had problems with supplies and communications.
- The English had faster ships that could fire more cannonballs from a greater distance.
- The Battle of Gravelines did substantial damage to the Armada.
- After Gravelines, the Armada headed north and thousands lost their lives in shipwrecks.
- The defeat of the Armada was a great boost for Elizabeth I, England and Protestantism in Europe.

Checkpoint

Strengthen

- S1** Describe the key features of Philip II's plan to invade England.
- S2** Give two advantages English ships had over Spanish ships.
- S3** Give one example of how the Armada benefitted Elizabeth I.

Challenge

- C1** Explain the importance of each of the following in the defeat of the Armada.
- Philip II
 - English cannon.

If you are not confident about any of these questions, form a group with other students, discuss the answers and then record your conclusions. Your teacher can give you some hints.