



The Spanish Armada

What was the Spanish Armada?

A fleet of 130 Spanish ships were sent to invade England under the command of the Duke of Medina Sidonia.

The Events of the Armada



1. Armada sets sail for England.
2. The Armada is sighted and beacons are lit along the English coast.



3. The Armada sails through the English Channel - little damage inflicted.
4. The Armada anchors near Calais and the English send in fireships. The Armada panics and scatter out of their crescent formation.

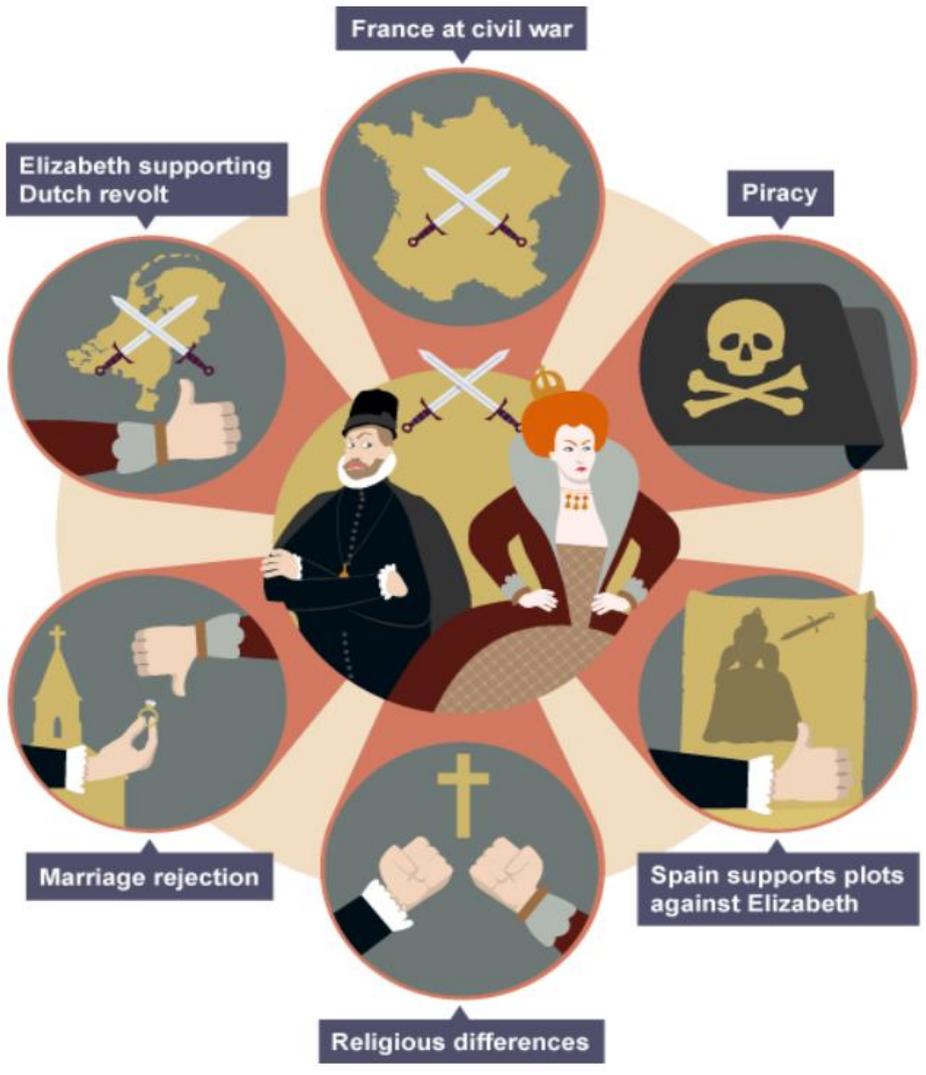


5. Strong storms/wind push the Spanish fleet towards Gravelines where 'The Battle of Gravelines' takes place. The English inflict heavy damage here.
6. The wind/ storm forces the Spanish fleet north and the English turn back.



7. The Armada sails home but has to go around Scotland and Ireland - and many ships are wrecked.
8. The Spanish fleet arrives back home but most ships are lost.

Why was the Spanish Armada sent?



Key People



Queen Elizabeth I
Queen of England



King Philip II
King of Spain



Lord Howard of Effingham
Lord Admiral of England



Sir Francis Drake
Vice Admiral of Navy



Duke of Medina Sidonia
Spanish Commander of Armada

Key Vocabulary

armada	a fleet of warships
navy	sea-borne branch of the armed forces
revolt	take violent action against the government or ruler
civil war	a war between people from the same country.
invade	to go into a place by force to try and take possession of it.
fireship	a ship loaded with burning material and explosives and set adrift to ignite and blow up an enemy's ships
crescent formation	The ships were grouped into a curved line which was wide in the middle and tapered at each end
New World	North and South America
privateer	sailor employed by the crown to attack or capture foreign ships

The ships of the Armada, lined up in a convoy, stretched for over two miles!

The only ships that the English fleet lost were the eight fire ships which they had deliberately set against the Spanish at Calais.

Sir Francis Drake was allegedly playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe when the Armada was sighted. He is said to have remarked that there was plenty of time to finish the game before tackling the Spanish fleet.

The Spanish Admiral Medina Sidonia had never commanded a navy and was unhappy about taking up his post.