**Elizabeth I Home Learning: Elizabeth’s family background**

**Read the information below at least twice and try to answer the questions which follow it.**

Henry VIII was married six times in total. His first marriage was to Catherine of Aragon and resulted in the birth of a daughter called Mary. After divorcing Catherine of Aragon, Henry married Anne Boleyn which resulted in the birth of a second daughter Elizabeth. Henry grew tired of Anne Boleyn and after accusing her of various crimes such as adultery, he had her executed. Henry’s third wife was Jane Seymour and this marriage resulted in the birth of a son called Edward. Unfortunately, Jane Seymour died days after the birth of Edward. Henry VIII married a further three times to Anne of Cleves (divorced), Catherine Howard (executed) and finally Catherine Parr who outlived Henry.

In order for Henry to be able to gain a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, he had to make significant changes to religion in England. Henry was a Catholic and due to this was forbidden from getting a divorce. Henry broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and made himself head of the Church of England. In a practical sense, religion carried on as it had before in England during the reign of Henry VIII.

Upon the death of Henry, his son Edward became King Edward VI. Edward was only nine years old when he became King of England. Due to his young age, Edward ruled on the advice of close advisors like his uncles. Edward has been raised as a Protestant and began to make religious changes in England and persecuted Catholics who would not conform to the new church. Edward was a sickly child and died at the age of fourteen. Edward tried to avoid the crown of England passing to his sister Mary as he feared that she would return England to Catholicism. He appointed a distant cousin Lady Jane Grey as his successor.

When Edward died in 1553, Lady Jane Grey took the throne of England. She was seen by many as an illegitimate queen and was overthrown by an army loyal to Mary after just nine days. Jane was later executed. Mary I subsequently became Queen of England. Mary was married to King Phillip II of Spain and he had great influence over her decisions. This was unpopular as many English people resented being effectively ruled by a foreigner. Mary returned England to Catholicism and began to persecute and execute Protestants earning her the nickname of Bloody Mary. Despite many pregnancies, Mary unable to produce an heir and died childless in 1558. This led to Elizabeth I taking the throne of England.

**Now answer these questions in full sentences:**

1. What were the names of Henry VIII’s six wives? What happened to each of them?
2. What big changes did Henry VIII have to make in order to end his first marriage?
3. What were the names of Elizabeth I’s siblings?
4. How did religion change in England under Henry VIII?
5. Why couldn’t Edward VI rule England by himself?
6. What religious changes were made during the reign of Edward VI?
7. Why didn’t Edward want Mary to succeed him? How did he try to avoid this?
8. How did Mary I reclaim the throne of England?
9. What religious changes occurred in England during the reign of Mary I?
10. Why was Mary I’s husband unpopular with the English people?

Extension: Research the Tudor Family Tree. Pay particular attention to Mary Queen of Scots.

**Elizabeth I Home Learning: Elizabeth I’s early problems**

**Read the information below at least twice and try to answer the questions which follow it.**

When Elizabeth became queen, she had many problems to deal with. One problem in itself was that she was a woman. Many people in England at the time did not think that a woman would be strong enough or capable enough to rule without a man to guide them. Elizabeth had to deal with this problem throughout her reign.

Another issue that she had to deal with was that of religion. The reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I had caused huge amounts of religious turmoil in England with Catholics and Protestants persecuting each other at various points. There remained a huge amount of distrust and even hatred between the two sides. Elizabeth had to find a way to show that she was in charge and keep both sides loyal to her at the same time as trying to keep both Catholics and Protestants happy. It did not help her cause as many Catholics questioned her legitimacy as queen due to not recognising her father’s marriage to Anne Boleyn. (They believed that his divorce from Catherine of Aragon was illegal and therefore his marriage to Anne Boleyn was not legitimate). A person with unmarried parents was not allowed to be monarch.

A further problem was the question of marriage and succession. When she became queen, Elizabeth was twenty-five years old and unmarried. Almost immediately people began to ask when she would get married and who would she marry? One major reason for this was the doubts that existed about a woman’s ability to rule by herself. Probably a bigger concern was that Elizabeth was the last of Tudors so without an heir it could lead to violence over who would succeed her as monarch of England.

Additional problems facing Elizabeth were taxation and Ireland. When Elizabeth became queen, England was desperately short of money. The only way for Elizabeth to raise money was through taxes. This was a problem as in order to create new taxes, Elizabeth needed the approval of Parliament. She might have to make a deal with Parliament that she didn’t really want to make in order to get the taxes approved. An additional issue with this was that rich members of the nobility who didn’t really want Elizabeth as queen could be further angered by having to pay more tax.

Ireland was also a problem for Elizabeth. English monarchs had traditionally seen Ireland as part of their kingdom. The majority Catholic Irish people did not want to be ruled by England. There were regular uprisings in Ireland against English rule which monarchs had to be seen to deal with strongly. Elizabeth did not want to be perceived as weak in the way that she dealt with Ireland.

**Now answer these questions in full sentences:**

1. Why was Elizabeth’s gender a problem for some people in England?
2. Why was there so much religious turmoil in England?
3. How was Elizabeth going to have to try to deal with religion in England?
4. Why did some Catholics see Elizabeth as an illegitimate queen?
5. Why did people see it as important for Elizabeth to get married?
6. What might happen if Elizabeth died childless?
7. What financial state was England in when Elizabeth became queen?
8. Why was Elizabeth concerned about raising taxes?
9. Why was Ireland a problem for Elizabeth?
10. Why was it seen as important for Elizabeth to deal with Ireland strongly?

Extension: Research the Elizabethan Religious Settlement. How did Elizabeth try to manage religion in England?