



Mary Queen of Scots





Who was she?



- Mary was the queen of France and Scotland in the 16th Century. She also had a right to become the queen of England.
- She was related to the Tudor royal family. King Henry VIII was her great uncle.
- She married three times and had one son who became King James VI of Scotland and King James I of England.
- She was executed for plotting against Elizabeth I.





Early Life



- Mary was born in Scotland on the 8th December 1542. She was the daughter of King James V of Scotland and Mary of Guise.
- Her father died soon after Mary was born, making Mary the Queen of Scots when she was only a baby.
- Mary's mother knew that her daughter would need to marry. King Henry VIII wanted Mary to marry his son Edward. Many Scots hated this idea, as it was Henry's idea to rule Scotland as well.

- Mary's mother was French, so it was decided that Mary should marry a French prince. France and Scotland were allies (friends).
- This made King Henry angry, and when he sent an English army to Scotland, 5 year old Mary was sent away in a ship to France.





Queen of France

- When Mary lived in France she learned to become a princess. She learned how to speak Italian, Spanish and Latin. She could speak French very well.
- Mary wrote poetry and loved music and dancing. She learned to sew and was very good at needlework. In her spare time she went hunting and horse riding.
- Mary grew up with Prince Francis, the son of the French king. Francis was a year younger than Mary.
- Mary and Francis were married in 1558. Mary was 15 and Francis was 14. This was the year when Elizabeth I became queen.



- In 1559 the king of France was badly injured while jousting. He died soon after. This meant that Francis became the King of France.
- Mary was now the Queen of France and the Queen of Scotland.





Returning to Scotland

- After only a few months of being king, Francis became ill of an ear infection. He died on the 15th December 1560.
- Mary's mother had also died. Mary did not know what to do, and she was very sad, so she returned to Scotland.
- Scotland was very strange to Mary. She spoke French and could not understand the Scots. She went to live in the Holyroodhouse Palace in Edinburgh. Her mother and father made the palace like a French castle. Mary was very happy here.
- The preacher John Knox tried to persuade Mary to become a Protestant, but she refused as she was a Catholic.
- In England, Elizabeth I refused to marry. Mary wanted to marry again and she chose to marry Lord Darnley. Darnley was a nobleman who, like Mary, was related to the Tudor royal family.
- Not many people liked the idea of Mary marrying Lord Darnley.





Lord Darnley

- Darnley was jealous of David Rizzio, Mary's Italian secretary and most trusted friend. One evening, Darnley and his friends seized Rizzio and killed him.
- Mary no longer loved Darnley, she was scared of him. She gave birth to their son in 1566. She named him James. He would one day become the King of Scotland.
- Mary wanted to end her marriage to Darnley.
- On the night of February 10th 1567, there was a loud explosion. A house had been blown up. Darnley's body was found in the garden outside of the house. It seemed he had ran out of the house and had been murdered.



- People were suspicious of James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell. Bothwell was one of Mary's advisors and had dreams of becoming the King of Scotland.
- Bothwell was sent to court for Darnley's murder, but his soldiers scared everyone and he walked away a free man.





Earl of Bothwell

- Bothwell now wanted to marry Mary. At first she said no, but eventually she agreed to marry him.
- They married on 15th May 1567 in Holyroodhouse Palace.
- Many people did not want Bothwell to be their king and accused them both of Darnley's murder. Mary had made a big mistake.
- People turned against Mary. The Scots nobles gathered an army and the two sides met at Carberry Hill. However there was no battle and Mary was taken prisoner.
- Bothwell fled to Denmark where he died in 1578.
- Mary was held in Lochleven Castle. In 1567, she agreed to give up the crown to her son, who became King James VI.
- After 10 months as prisoner in the castle, Mary escaped with the help of Willie Douglas and his brother. She disguised herself as a servant and escaped the castle.





Fleeing to England

- Mary fled south to England. She never returned to Scotland or saw her son again. Mary hoped that Queen Elizabeth I would help her. Mary had made another mistake, Queen Elizabeth did not want to help Mary and did not know what to do with her.
- The English government saw Mary as a threat to their Queen. Elizabeth had many enemies. Spain was her biggest enemy, and they might try to remove her from the throne and make Mary Queen of England.
- If Elizabeth died without a child to succeed her, Mary and her son were next in line for the throne.
- Elizabeth kept Mary a prisoner in England for 18 years. Mary wrote to Elizabeth asking to be set free.
- In 1570 the Pope in Rome said Elizabeth was no longer the rightful queen of England. Many Catholics now believed Mary was England's lawful queen.

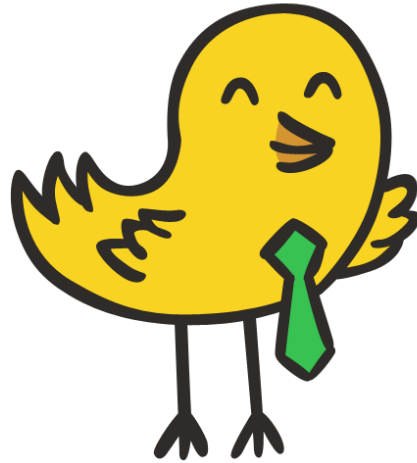




Mary's trial and death

- English Catholics were blamed for plots to get rid of Elizabeth. There were spies and plotters everywhere.
- In 1586, English spies uncovered a new plot to make Mary queen by killing Queen Elizabeth with the help from Spain.
- The plotters were rounded up and executed. Letters from Mary seemed to link her to the plot.
- In Scotland, her son James did little to help her. Mary was found guilty of treason and was sentenced to death.
- At Fotheringhay Castle, Mary Queen of Scots was executed.
- Elizabeth I never married. She died in 1603 and James VI of Scotland became James I of England too.
- Mary was buried in Peterborough Cathedral, but had a new tomb made for her in Westminster Abbey in London.





THE END

