

Elizabeth I: Power and Politics (Elizabethan Crisis)

Teacher notes

Duration: 60 minutes

Meeting Point: Clock Court

In 1562 Elizabeth I contracted smallpox at Hampton Court Palace and lay delirious, apparently on the point of death. Who would rule next? The Court faces a terrible dilemma – deciding the next monarch.

Students will take on the role of the Queen's counsellors at this time of great danger. Through examination of the evidence and debating the major contenders for the throne, they will make the ultimate decision on the future of England.

Learning Objectives:

Students will:

- Investigate what would have happened had Elizabeth I died, and the motivations behind the developments that did take place.
- Develop their skills in use of source evidence to inform historical debate through the issue of succession.

National Curriculum Links

This session supports:

- The development of Church, state and society in Britain 1509-1745.
- Understanding historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and using them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends and frame historically-valid questions.
- Understanding how different types of historical sources are used rigorously to make historical claims and discerning how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.



During your session:

Please note that the 1:10 staff to pupil ratio which we ask for throughout your visit still applies during your learning session. We ask that sufficient adults remain with the group as they will be encouraged to join in with the session activities. For Health & Safety reason, our sessions are for a maximum of 35 pupils.



The session your group has booked with us takes place in one of our Learning Spaces.

Please meet your workshop presenter by the colonnades in Clock Court, shown as a star on the map above. This is where your costumed session presenter will meet you at your allocated start time. We recommend being there a few minutes early.

For your information, parts of this session may include time outside so please encourage your pupils to dress accordingly.