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1547

Henry VIII dies on 28th January and Edward accedes to the throne, aged 9.

1553

Lady Jane Grey rules for nine days between 10th and 19th July before a rebellion removes her from power. Many people feel that Henry VIII's eldest daughter, Mary, is the rightful heir to the throne.

1558

On 17th November, Mary I dies and Elizabeth accedes to the throne, aged 25. She is a Protestant. Her distant cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots also has a claim to the throne. Elizabeth imprisons her Catholic cousin for 19 years before she is executed.

1603

On 24th March, Elizabeth I dies without an heir, aged 69. The throne of England passes to the Protestant King of Scotland, James VI, who becomes James I of England. James is the son of Mary, Queen of Scots. This gives rise to a new dynasty – the Stuarts.

1537

Henry marries his third wife, Jane Seymour. She gives birth to a son, Edward, but she dies 12 days later.

1553

On 6th July, Edward VI dies, aged 15, leaving no direct heir to the throne. Before his death, Edward had chosen his Protestant cousin, Lady Jane Grey, to accede to the throne ahead of his half-sisters Mary and Elizabeth.

1553

Edward's half-sister Mary accedes to the throne on the 19th July, at the age of 37, and tries to restore the country to Catholicism. She has no children and no heir to the throne.

1588

Royal Navy ships defeat the Spanish Armada, which is then destroyed by storms. The goal of the Armada was to invade England and reinstall Catholicism.



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