**Spanish Armada (1588)**

Before Elizabeth was queen, her sister Mary’s husband, Philip II, the King of Spain controlled England. He was a Catholic. King Philip II was not happy with Elizabeth because she supported Protestants who went against him. As a result, Philip II invaded England with 130 ships, 8,000 sailors, and 19,000 soldiers. This force was known as the **Spanish Armada**.

**Elizabeth’s speech to encourage the men in her army, who stated that she is prepared to die in defense of the kingdom:**

*"I have always so behaved myself, that under God, I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and goodwill of my subjects (people who serve), and therefore I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my recreation, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live or die amongst you all, to lay down for my God, and for my Kingdom, and for my People, my honour, and my blood, even in the dust.* *I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a King, and of a King of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma of Spain (leader of the Spanish army), or any Prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm. I myself will be your general, judge and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field."*

Spain’s “Invincible Armada” set sail that May, but it was defeated by the English, then battered by storms while limping back to Spain with at least a third of its ships sunk or damaged. The defeat of the Spanish Armada led to a surge of national pride in England and was one of the most significant chapters of the Anglo-Spanish War.