

# The Renaissance: 1485–1660

## Introduction to the Literary Period

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### Interactive Time Line

Milestone: Humanism

Milestone: Henry VIII Breaks with the Church

Milestone: The Reign of Elizabeth I

Milestone: The Defeat of the Spanish Armada

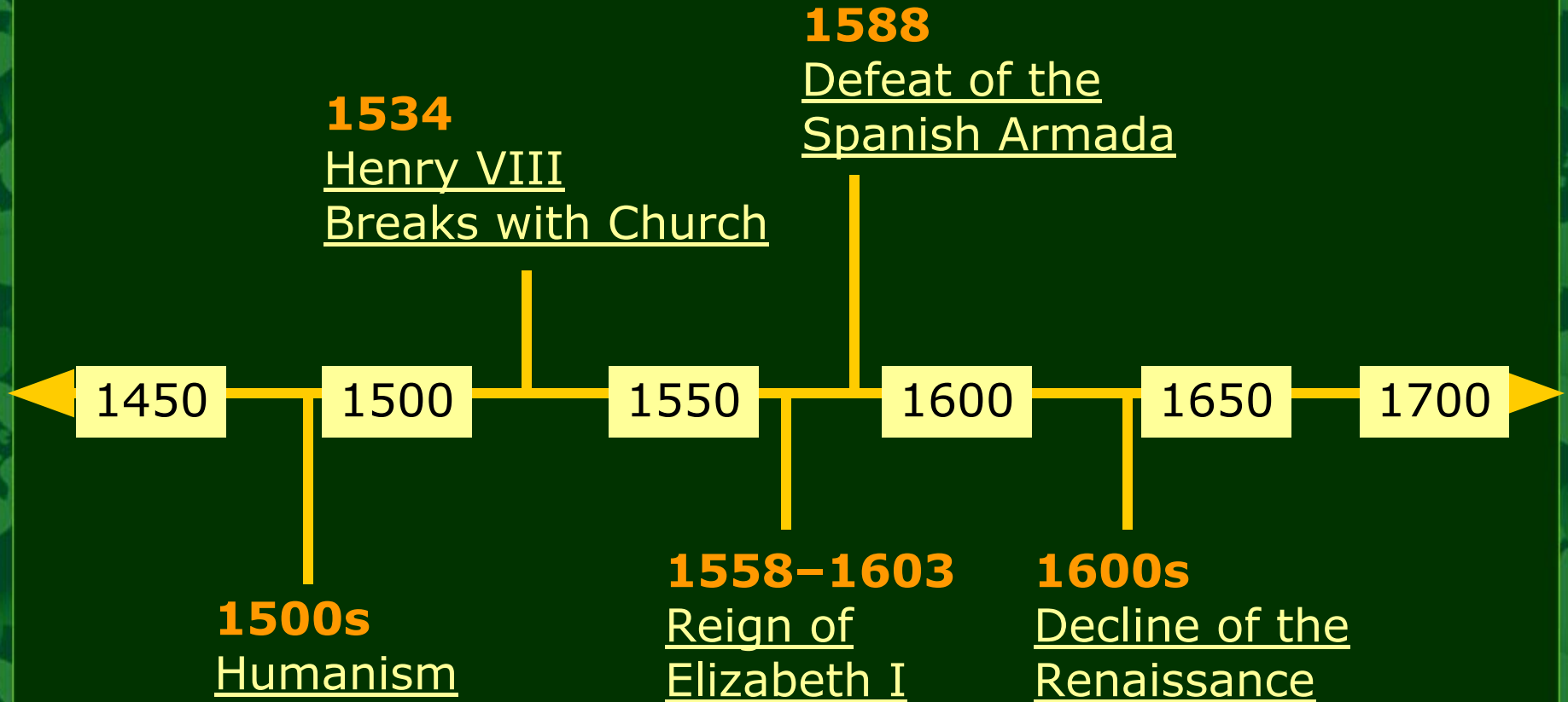
Milestone: Decline of the Renaissance

What Have You Learned?



# The Renaissance: 1485–1660

Choose a link on the time line to go to a milestone.



# Humanism

**Humanism**—intellectual movement that greatly influenced Renaissance thinkers, writers, artists ▾

## The humanists



- revived old Greek and Latin classics ▾
- studied the Bible and the classics to explore questions such as “What is a good life?” ▾
- made history, literature, and philosophy popular again



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# Humanism

## Two Friends—Two Humanists

### Sir Thomas More

- English lawyer
- wrote *Utopia*
- held important offices
- beheaded by order of Henry VIII ▾

### Desiderius Erasmus

- Dutch monk
- traveled throughout Europe
- taught Greek ▾

Both men wrote in Latin; loved life, laughter, and classical learning; were dedicated to the church.



# Humanism

## Printing Press Plays Part in Spreading Humanist Ideas

### Around 1455 . . .

- printing press invented by Johannes Gutenberg ▾

### In 1476 . . .

- press set up in England by William Caxton ▾

### By 1500 . . .

- books widely available throughout western Europe

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# Henry VIII Breaks with the Church

## Henry VIII (reigned 1509–1547)

- “Renaissance man”—poet, musician, athlete ▾
- supported humanism ▾
- had six wives ▾
- created Royal Navy (ended foreign invasions, increased England’s power) ▾
- coarse and arrogant in his old age



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# Henry VIII Breaks with the Church

## The Reformation in Europe

In various countries . . .

- reformers reject authority of pope and Italian churchmen ▾

In Germany . . .

- Martin Luther founds new kind of Christianity, based on personal understanding of Bible ▾

In England . . .

- strong national identity makes English people resent financial burdens imposed by Vatican



# Henry VIII Breaks with the Church

**1533**

- Pope refuses Henry VIII's request for annulment ▾
- Henry appoints new archbishop of Canterbury, who grants annulment ▾

**1534**

- Henry declares himself head of the Church of England



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# Henry VIII Breaks with the Church

## Annulment

An annulment cancels or puts an end to a marriage. The children of an annulled couple become illegitimate.

Divorce was not allowed, so Henry was looking for a loophole. He asked Pope Clement VII to annul his marriage, that is, declare that he was not properly married to Catherine of Aragon.

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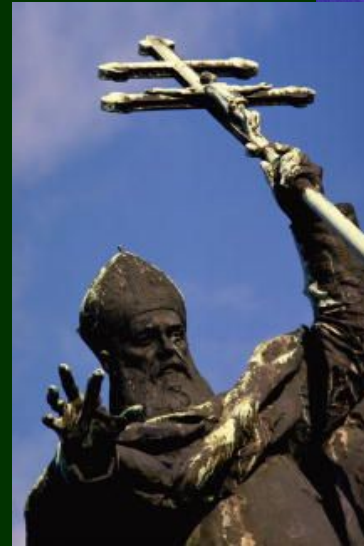
# Henry VIII Breaks with the Church

## Protestant Reformation After 1534

- Henry closes monasteries
- Protestantism begins in England ▾

Some people want to

- get rid of “popish” things (bishops, prayer book, priests’ vestments) ▾
- make religion solely a matter between the individual and God



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# The Reign of Elizabeth I

## Heirs of Henry

### Edward VI (r. 1547–1553)

- the “boy king”
- rules in name only ▼

### Mary Tudor (r. 1553–1558)

- “Bloody Mary”
- restores pope’s power
- hunts down and executes Protestants ▼

### Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603)

- the “virgin queen”
- a brilliant, successful monarch



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# The Reign of Elizabeth I

**Elizabeth I**—literary connoisseur; beloved symbol of peace, security, prosperity ▾

- restores law and order ▾
- reestablishes Church of England; rejects pope's authority ▾
- never marries ▾
- survives numerous assassination plots



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# The Reign of Elizabeth I

## Mary, Queen of Scots

- Elizabeth's cousin, heir to English throne
- Catholic, deposed from throne in Scotland
- initiates several plots to kill Elizabeth ▾

## In 1587 . . .

after enduring Mary and her plots for twenty years, Elizabeth sends her to the chopping block



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# The Defeat of the Spanish Armada

**1588**

- Vast fleet of warships from Spain (Spanish Armada) sent to invade England ▾



- England's smaller ships defeat the Armada ▾
- Elizabeth's finest moment ▾
- Assures England's independence from Catholic countries of the Mediterranean

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# The Spanish Armada

The Armada was the largest fleet of ships ever assembled. ▾

- England set eight small frigates ablaze and sailed them into the Armada. ▾
- Heavy winds wrecked Spanish ships off the coast of Ireland.

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# Decline of the Renaissance

## James I (r. 1603–1625)

- benevolent but uninspiring ruler
- patron of the arts
- spendthrift ▼

## Charles I (r. 1625–1649)

- remote, autocratic, self-destructive
- beheaded by powerful subjects ▼

## 1649–1660

- England ruled by Parliament and by the Puritan dictator Oliver Cromwell ▼

## During this time . . .

- Renaissance values gradually erode
- Renaissance energies gradually give out

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# Decline of the Renaissance

**spendthrift** *n.* someone who is wasteful and lavish in his or her spending

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# What Have You Learned?

Match the achievement or description to the Renaissance ruler.

~~Elizabeth I~~

~~James I~~

~~Henry VIII~~

Henry VIII established the Church of England, separate from the Roman Church

James I benevolent ruler, patron of the arts, spendthrift

Elizabeth I united England so that it could achieve military victory over Spain



**END**



# Viewing the Art

## Renaissance Learning

The instruments shown in the painting suggest that the ambassadors have mastered astronomy, mathematics, and music. ▼

**Activity:** The elongated object at the bottom is a skull, a symbol of death. What might it seem to say about the accomplishments of the ambassadors?



*The Ambassadors* (1533) by Hans Holbein the Younger. Oil on canvas.

Full Screen





National Gallery, London, Great Britain.

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