

# Mary Queen of Scots (linked to Falkland Palace)

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The National Trust for Scotland – Teachers' Notes



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## 1. Teacher's Notes

This is an information pack about Mary, Queen of Scots. It can be used on its own – or with the NTS Falkland Palace teacher's pack which includes classroom activities.

Both packs are available on the Trust's website.



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## 2. The National Trust for Scotland



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### 3. Queen Mary's Life



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### 3.1 The Background to Mary's Story

#### The Auld Alliance

The Auld Alliance between Scotland and France was the result of English military aggression against both countries. When Edward I was on the Throne of England, John Balliol of Scotland and Philip IV of France drew up an offensive and defensive alliance, which became a treaty in 1295. The terms of the treaty were that if England attacked either country, then the other country would invade English territory.

Although the main purpose of the treaty was military protection from England, the treaty granted dual citizenship in both countries, and many Scots took paid work as mercenaries in the French army. The dual citizenship meant that the treaty also affected every day lives by influencing architecture, law, spoken language and cuisine, for example the Scots word 'haggis' comes from the French 'hachée' which means mince meat.

The treaty was strengthened by royal marriages between the two countries, for example King James V married Princess Madelaine of France and later Mary of Guise, and Mary Queen of Scots married the Dauphin Francis.

In 1560, after more than 250 years, the treaty was officially ended when Scotland signed the Treaty of Edinburgh. This allied Scotland with England and declared Scotland to be a Protestant country.

#### The Reformation

The Reformation started in 1517 when a German monk rejected all of the church practices that were not written in the Bible. He made a protest by nailing his 95 Thesis to a church door, and the religious movement that followed was known as Protestantism after this protest.

Reformation split the Church into Catholic and Protestant religions, both of which claimed to be the true road to salvation (going to heaven instead of hell).

#### The Reformation in Scotland

At this time the rulers of a country decided which religion the people would follow, and those who did not follow this chosen religion could be punished or even killed. The Church was central to everyday life, providing education, health, welfare and discipline. Following the correct religion also ensured salvation. It was therefore very important to the people of Scotland that the Scottish rulers chose the right religion to follow.

King James V tried to stop people from reading Protestant texts, but the Protestant message spread quickly and made a strong impression on many people. Henry VIII of England converted to Protestantism, but James V remained Catholic.

King James V died in 1542, leaving Mary to be Queen of Scots at just 6 days old. Both England (Protestant) and France (Catholic) pursued this opportunity to gain power of the Scottish throne by marrying the young Queen to a royal from their country. The French succeeded and Mary left for France when she was 6 years old, with a promise that she would marry the Dauphin Francis (eldest son of the French King). Mary's mother, Mary of Guise, was a devout Catholic and ensured that her daughter was brought up to follow her beliefs.



James Hamilton, Earl of Arran, became the Guardian of the Realm (regent) to rule in Mary's name until she was of age to rule herself. He strongly favoured the new Protestant movement, but Scotland remained Catholic. Mary of Guise took the role of Regent for Scotland in 1554.

Although there was little persecution of Protestants in Scotland, Patrick Hamilton became the first Scottish Protestant martyr when he was executed in 1528. Many Protestants fled Scotland never to return. One who did return was George Wishart who, on his return in 1546, was captured and executed on the command of Cardinal Beaton. This led to a rebellion by Protestant Lairds who assassinated Beaton and seized St Andrews Castle.

They expected help from the English, but the French arrived and took the castle. The French took some of the rebels as slaves to work at the oars of French galleys, including John Knox who became an important figure in the Reformation. John Knox returned to Scotland in 1559 (following 19 months as a galley slave and years in exile in both England and Frankfurt) and preached against idolatry. The rebellion that followed led to the destruction of Catholic icons, cathedrals and abbeys.

Mary of Guise successfully portrayed the group as rebels, but they answered by justifying the rebellion as an attempt to free Scotland from French power rather than a religious rebellion. A clause in the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the Dauphin Francis was that France would rule Scotland, and Scots did not want to lose their independence.

Mary of Guise died in June 1560, and the English sent troops to support Scotland against attack by French troops. By this time, the majority of the nobility supported the rebellion and a provisional government was established. The Scottish Parliament renounced the Pope's authority and Catholic Mass was declared illegal. Scotland was now officially Protestant.

Mary, a Catholic, returned to Scotland in 1561. She announced that she would allow Protestants to continue to worship as they liked, although she remained Catholic. John Knox, who was now the leader of the Protestant Church, did not like Mary at all. The religious conflict that continued had a significant influence on the events that occurred in Mary's life.





### 3.2 The Life of Mary Queen of Scots



*Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587)*

- Mary's Parents
- The 'Rough Wooing'
- Mary's Life in France
- Arrival at Leith
- Mary's Life in Scotland
- Marriage to Lord Darnley – a Second Husband
- The Murder of Riccio (Rizzio)
- The Murder of Lord Darnley
- Mary and the Earl of Bothwell
- Escape from Lochleven Castle
- Mary and Elizabeth
- The Casket Letters
- Imprisonment
- The Babington Plot
- Trial and Execution of Mary
- Union of the Crowns



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### Mary's Parents

Mary's father was King James V of Scotland and her mother was Mary of Guise. Mary of Guise was James' second wife, his first wife, Princess Madeleine of France, died of tuberculosis only 7 weeks after arriving in Scotland.

James V married Mary of Guise in 1538. They had two sons but both died in infancy within hours of each other in 1541, before Mary was born.

At this time there was religious unrest, known as the Reformation. James' uncle, King Henry VIII of England, had broken with the Catholic church and wanted James to do the same. James failed to attend a meeting about this with his uncle in 1542, which made Henry very angry so he launched an invasion of Scotland. Already ill, James marched south with his army, but they were defeated at the battle of Solway Moss on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1542.

Although he was not present at the actual battle, the defeat made James even more ill. He returned to Falkland Palace in Fife and went to bed with a high fever. When a message came to him that his wife had given birth to a daughter instead of the hoped-for son, James believed that the Stewart dynasty was at an end and he said '*It cam wi' a lass and it will gang wi' a lass*'. The crown had come to his family through Marjorie Bruce and he feared that a woman could not rule his nation.

King James V died 6 days later and Mary became Queen of Scotland.

### The 'Rough Wooing'

When King James V of Scotland died, Mary, at just 6 days old, became the Queen of Scotland. Both England and France wished Mary to marry a Royal from their country to gain control over Scotland. At this time there was also religious unrest, known as the Reformation, and England was Protestant and France was Catholic.

Mary's great-uncle, Henry VIII of England, wanted Mary to marry his son Edward, hoping that this would unite Scotland and England. Some Scottish nobles arranged a marriage treaty with Henry. However, many Scots opposed the treaty and broke the agreement. Henry was furious. He resorted to force and made many attacks on Scotland. Scotland had an alliance with France, the 'Auld Alliance', and so French troops helped the Scots to fight the English. Because of these attacks the 'courtship' was known as the 'Rough Wooing'.

Mary was taken to Inchmahome Priory on the Lake of Mentieth for her own safety. Eventually the French won, and it was agreed that Mary would marry the Dauphin (eldest son of the French King) Francis.

Mary left for France when she was 6 years old.

### So who ruled Scotland?

When a country's monarch cannot rule (in this case because Mary was a child) a regent rules the country in their place.

On the death of King James V in 1542 the Earl of Arran was appointed as regent. Mary's mother, Mary of Guise, stayed in Scotland when Mary went to France and became regent in 1554.



### Mary's Life in France

Mary was brought up with the children of King Henri II of France in magnificent royal palaces. She became very close to Princess Elisabeth.

### Mary's Education

Mary was educated in France. She learned to speak French, Italian, Spanish and Latin. She was also taught to sew, write poetry and to play musical instruments.

*'Her writing was clear and done quickly. Her excellence in singing arose from a natural, not acquired, ability to vary her voice. She played the harp and harpsichord. Being very agile she danced admirably.... Several tapestries worked by her with wonderful skill can still be seen in France.'*

*Quote by a historian.*

While in France Mary enjoyed riding and hunting in the French countryside.

### A Religious Upbringing

Mary's mother was a Catholic and she ensured that Mary was brought up as a Catholic. At this time there was religious unrest known as the Reformation, and some countries became Protestant. France, however, was a Catholic country.

Mary remained a devout Catholic throughout her life.

### Marriage to the Dauphin

At the age of fifteen Mary married the Dauphin, Francis.

The wedding took place on 24th April 1558 in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. Mary was very fond of white and insisted on wearing white for her wedding, even though white was considered to be the colour of mourning in France at this time.

A description of her appearance reads:

*'Mary was dressed in a robe as white as lilies. Her immensely long train was borne by two young girls. She glittered like a goddess with diamonds round her neck and on her head a golden crown garnished with pearls and rubies and one huge carbuncle.'*

*Fraser.*

The ceremony was a marvellous occasion:

*'Heralds cry 'Largesse' three times and throw to the people a great number of gold and silver pieces. There was such a tumult and cry among the people that one could not hear – so great was the clamour. Some throw themselves upon others for the greed which they have.'*

### Breire, Discours

Afterwards, the celebrations continued at the Louvre Palace:

*'First came the little princes and their friends dressed in cloth of silver and gold with precious stones and jewels. They sang with instruments in praise of the newly married couple.'*

*'Then came six ships covered with cloth of gold and crimson velvet: the sails of silver linen. Below each sail were seats for two people. Sitting there was a prince or nobleman. Having made several turns round the ball-room each 'pilot' took in the passing any lady he fancied and sailed through the hall.'*



## The Queen of Scotland and France

In 1559, a year after her marriage, Mary's father-in-law, King Henri, died. Mary became Queen of Scotland and France.

## The Young Widow

Mary's reign of France was brief, in 1560 Francis became ill and died. Mary was a young widow and no longer ruled France.

Mary's mother, Mary of Guise, also died in 1560. Mary made the decision to return to Scotland in 1561.

She wrote this poem to express her feelings:

*'Farewell my beautiful France, my dearest homeland,  
Who has cared for me during my childhood,  
Farewell France! Goodbye to happy days!  
The ship which is breaking up our love for each other  
Carries only half of me  
As for the other part of me, it will remember you always  
Adieu, Adieu.'*

## Arrival at Leith

Mary arrived home to Scotland on the 18th August 1561. They sailed into Leith harbour at about 9 o'clock in the morning. The place was thick with mist and no one had expected her to arrive so soon.

John Knox, the leader of the Protestant Church wrote, *'The mist was so thick and so dark. The sun was not seen to shine two days before nor two days after.'* He said that it was a bad omen. Some people believe that there may have been an eclipse of the sun on that day.

Mary had arrived sooner than expected and so, as the royal party disembarked, Mary was greeted by a relatively small crowd of people and a few officials.

The Queen, dressed in mourning but accompanied by her colourfully dressed party, posed the local officials with a dilemma. They had no idea where to take her or what to do with her. So Lamb's House, the house of local merchant Andrew Lamb, was used for her to rest while messages were sent to Edinburgh.

Mary then travelled to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. She rode there in a grand procession. The way was lined with a cheering crowd. The people of the town performed plays and made speeches to welcome her.

A person who saw this scene wrote: *' ..... there was a pageant: a number of boys singing and playing on instruments. One of them came down in a cloud and delivered the Queen the keys of the town.'*



## **Mary's Life in Scotland**

At this time the Royal Court travelled around the country, staying at royal residences such as Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, Falkland Palace and Traquair House.

The Royal Court was quite a large group of people, it not only included Royals and nobles, but also a large number of servants who provided for their needs, there could be up to 100 people living and working in a residence such as Falkland Palace.

The four Marys also travelled with Mary. Mary Beaton was no doubt happy to return to Falkland Palace as her father was the hereditary keeper of Falkland and she could spend some time with her family.

Each royal residence had a hereditary keeper, whose job was to look after the buildings and estate while the royal court was away. He also had to make sure that it was ready when they came to stay. On hunting estates the keeper would also have to make sure that the hunting stock was protected – if someone was caught poaching on a royal estate then they were hung!

There were a number of reasons why the royal court needed to move from one place to another. At this time communication from one place to another was slow, messages were carried by a messenger on horseback. To rule effectively the royal court needed to travel around the country meeting with lairds and other officials. Another reason to move was that hygiene was poor, there were no flushing toilets and with so many people staying in one place it tended to get a bit smelly after a while!

Moving from one place to another was quite a task as not only people moved, they also took their belongings – all carried by horse and cart! Their baggage train could consist of 12 carts for the Queen, 12 carts for Lord Darnley, plus carts for all of the courtiers. They would bring their beds, bedding, tapestries, tables, chairs, gold and silver plate, boxes of spices, horses, hunting dogs, hunting equipment, all their clothes and bales of cloth.

Mary had a very active life and loved horse riding and dancing. She also enjoyed hunting and spent time at Falkland Palace hunting game. Mary also enjoyed sport and would play royal tennis when at Falkland, she was the first woman to play golf, which she did at St Andrews.

## **Marriage to Lord Darnley – A Second Husband**

Mary had to marry again to have a child who would be heir to the Scottish throne. John Knox was worried she might marry a Catholic prince. Many princes, lords and nobles wanted to marry Mary. She met her cousin Lord Darnley.

Darnley made every effort to charm Mary by dancing and singing and generally taking part in all the courtly pursuits. He was tall, ambitious and good looking. Mary immediately fell in love with him. They were married on Sunday 29th July 1565 in Holyroodhouse.

Few people approved of her choice. Elizabeth I of England saw this marriage as Mary's attempt to strengthen her claim on the English throne because Darnley had English royal blood in his veins.





**An Unsuitable Marriage**

It soon became clear that Mary had made a mistake by marrying Darnley. He was rude, proud and lazy. It became obvious that Darnley had married Mary just to get the throne. Mary gave him title of King but kept all the real power to herself and he resented this. However, she soon became pregnant.

**The Murder of Riccio (Rizzio)**

Lord Darnley was jealous of Mary's friend, David Riccio, who was also her advisor. Mary began to spend a lot of time with Riccio. Lord Darnley and his friends plotted to murder him.

In March 1566, Mary had just begun supper with David Riccio and some friends in Holyroodhouse when they heard a noise. Darnley came into her room with Lord Ruthven and the other plotters. Lord Ruthven entered the room dressed in armour. David Riccio was frightened and hid behind Mary but they pulled him out and stabbed him. He was then dragged away screaming and was stabbed fifty-six times outside the room. He died from his wounds.

Mary and Darnley's son, James, was born 3 months later on 19th June 1566.

**The Murder of Lord Darnley**

Lord Darnley was murdered a few months after his son was born. The murder is still a mystery.

Lord Darnley was recovering from an illness at a house at Kirk o' Field, near Edinburgh. Mary nursed him for a few days but one evening she left him and went out. Soon after she left the house was blown up. The Earl of Bothwell sent messengers to find out what had happened. They found Darnley and his servant dead in the garden. Witnesses said that they heard Darnley pleading for mercy. He appeared to have been strangled.

We still do not know who killed Darnley, though at the time some people believed that Mary was involved. Others believed that the Earl of Bothwell and other conspirators had planned to blow up the house and that Mary was not involved. Bothwell was asked many questions by the Scottish Parliament, but he was not accused of the killings.

Mary began to rely on Bothwell more and more.

**Mary and the Earl of Bothwell**

Mary was now very unpopular. Many people believed that she was involved in the murder of Lord Darnley. It did not help that Mary did not behave like a grieving widow – she was seen playing golf at St Andrews only days after Darnley's death.

The Earl of Bothwell divorced his wife and, only 3 months after Darnley's murder, Mary married Bothwell. This shocked the Scottish people. Mary and Bothwell's wedding was a solemn, Protestant service, which took place at Holyrood on May 15th 1567. Some people believe that Mary was forced to marry Bothwell.

The Protestant nobles now united against Mary and Bothwell. The nobles eventually met Mary and Bothwell's army at the Battle of Carberry on 15th June 1567. Mary surrendered, her troops deserted her and Bothwell fled!

Mary was taken as a prisoner to Lochleven Castle.





**Bothwell's Fate**

Bothwell was captured and imprisoned in the Danish fortress of Drasholm. His end was rather gruesome. He was chained to a pillar half his height so that he could not stand upright, and was left in his own filth for 10 years until he died, an insane man.

**Escape from Lochleven Castle**

Mary was placed in a cramped tower in Lochleven Castle, situated on an island in Loch Leven. Mary was afraid that she would now be killed, she was forced to abdicate and her son, James, was crowned King of Scotland.

Whilst at Lochleven Mary miscarried the Earl of Bothwell's twins. They were buried on the island.

Mary tried to escape once by dressing up as the washerwoman who delivered laundry to the castle, but the boatman recognised her hands, which were well known for their elegance and whiteness.

However, with help from Willie Douglas, a servant at the castle, her second attempt at escape was successful.

This is what the ambassador from Venice wrote of the event:

*'Guard was continually kept in the castle, day and night, except during supper when the gate was locked with a key which lay on the table where the governor took his meals. The Queen planned that a page (Willie Douglas) would place a napkin on the top of the key and then remove both without anyone noticing. When he had done this they went to the Queen and told her everything was ready.'*

Mary, disguised in servant's clothes, escaped to a waiting boat and reached the shore safely, where an ally of Mary's, George Douglas, was waiting.

Mary managed to raise an army but was defeated by her Scottish enemies. In desperation she fled to England and appealed to Queen Elizabeth I of England for help.

*So who ruled Scotland?*

The infant, James VI, was now King of Scotland. He was too young to rule and so a regent was appointed to rule the country in his place.

The Earl of Moray was the first regent appointed during James VI childhood. He was succeeded by the Earl of Lennox (1570-1571), the Earl of Mar (1571-1572) and the Earl of Morton (1572-1581).

**Mary and Elizabeth**

Elizabeth was the daughter of King Henry VIII of England and Anne Boleyn. She was the granddaughter of Henry VII.

Mary, daughter of King James V of Scotland and Mary of Guise, was also related to the English royal family as she was the great-granddaughter of Henry VII.

Elizabeth was a Protestant and Mary was a Catholic.

Some Catholics did not accept the marriage of Elizabeth's parents because this was a Protestant wedding. They thought that Mary, a Catholic who was related to the English royal family, should be queen instead of Elizabeth.



Elizabeth did not have children of her own so if she died then Mary would become Queen of England. This would also make England a Catholic country again. This worried Elizabeth and she thought that Mary's supporters might try to kill her.

Elizabeth and Mary never met. Some people think that this is because Elizabeth did not want to be compared unfavourably to the beautiful Mary.

### **The Casket Letters**

An investigation took place in York in 1568 to enquire into Mary's involvement in Darnley's murder. The Earl of Moray (who was the Scottish regent at this time) produced some letters that he claimed had been written by Mary. These were known as the Casket Letters. These letters appeared to prove that Mary had been involved in plotting the murder. Mary was not allowed to give evidence in person.

As a result of this enquiry Mary was kept prisoner by Queen Elizabeth I of England. These letters no longer exist and it was later decided that they were forgeries.

### **Imprisonment**

Mary was kept prisoner in a number of different castles and grand houses, such as Tutbury Castle and Chatsworth House, for nearly 19 years. Her gaoler for 16 of those years was the Earl of Shrewsbury. Elizabeth treated Mary well but always had her guarded carefully.

During her years of imprisonment Mary had her own servants including a physician and a secretary. She enjoyed embroidery, played cards, had visitors and kept pets. Mary was also allowed to go on supervised horse rides in the countryside. Whilst imprisoned at

Chatsworth House she was fascinated by local caves, and one group of stalactites is called Queen Mary's Pillar, allegedly named so by Mary Seaton.

Unfortunately Mary suffered from poor health. She longed for freedom and to be reunited with her son.

Mary's friends plotted to set her free and restore her to the Scottish throne. However, Elizabeth had spies keeping an eye on Mary and always found out about the plans. One of these plots to free Mary involved the Duke of Norfolk who wanted to marry Mary. He was executed when Elizabeth found out about the plot because he had planned to put Mary on the English throne in Elizabeth's place. However, Elizabeth refused to order Mary's death without definite proof that Mary was involved in the plot.

### **The Babington Plot**

As a result of the numerous plots to free Mary, Mary's gaoler did not allow her to communicate by letter.

In 1585 Mary found a way to smuggle letters in and out of Chartley Hall (her prison at the time) in a beer barrel. A Catholic Englishman, Sir Anthony Babington, used this to send messages to Mary. In these letters he suggested that Queen Elizabeth I should be killed, the Catholic religion restored in England and Mary become Queen of England. Mary agreed to this plot by letter.

It was a trick set up by Elizabeth's spy master, Sir Francis Walsingham. Every letter was copied and Walsingham now had all the evidence he needed to convict Mary of treason.



### The Trial and Execution of Mary

Mary was put on trial for high treason and found guilty on 15th October 1586. Elizabeth was still reluctant to sign the death warrant for Mary, she was worried about what other countries would think of her if she ordered Mary's execution. However, her councillors pressured her and she signed the order in February 1587. The night before her execution Mary wrote an elaborate will in which all of her servants were remembered.

On the 8th February 1587 Mary was beheaded at the Great Hall of Fotheringhay Castle. She was dressed in black with a white veil. She had a chain around her neck and beads at her waist. She carried a crucifix and a writing book.

Mary was led to the scaffold and prayers were read. Mary removed her dress to reveal a red petticoat. She was blindfolded. Mary was very composed when she laid her head on the block.

After three blows of the axe Mary was dead. The executioner held her head up to the crowd in the hall. The head fell to the ground, leaving him holding a wig – Mary's real hair was thin and grey.

Mary's dog was found hiding under her skirts, covered in Mary's blood. Later the dog died as it refused to eat.

Mary's clothes, crucifix and writing book, along with the executioner's block, were all burned in the courtyard at Fotheringhay Castle. This was so that there were no relics relating to the execution.

Mary's body was embalmed and incarcerated in a heavy lead coffin which remained unburied in Fotheringhay Castle until 30th July 1587. It was taken from here, in the dead of night for fear of public protest, to Peterborough Cathedral.

### Union of the Crowns

Queen Elizabeth I of England died in 1603. She had no children. This meant that Mary's son, James VI of Scotland, also became James I of England, thus uniting the crowns of Scotland and England. The two parliaments, however, remained separate.

James had Mary's body moved to Westminster Abbey, the traditional burial ground for kings and queens.

While in captivity Mary embroidered the words '*In my End is my Beginning*'. Mary's family line continued through James. When she embroidered these words did she know how true they would become?





## 4. An Overview



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*James VI (1566 – 1625))*

- Mary Queen of Scots Timeline
- People Important to Mary's Story
- The Four Marys
- Timeline of Key Events
- Family Tree
- Kings and Queens of Scotland



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## 4.1 Mary Queen of Scots Timeline

- 1542 Mary was born in Linlithgow in 1542. Her father was James V of Scotland, and her mother was Mary of Guise.  
Her father died at Falkland Palace, Fife, when Mary was only 6 days old – this made baby Mary the Queen of Scotland.
- 1548 When Mary was 6 years old she was sent to France to be educated. Mary Beaton, Mary Seaton, Mary Livingston and Mary Fleming went with her to France. The four Marys became her life-long friends and companions.
- 1558 Mary married Francis, the eldest son of Henri II, King of France, when she was 15 years old.
- 1560 After the death of Henri II in a jousting accident, Mary and Francis became the King and Queen of France.
- 1560 Mary was widowed at the age of 18.
- 1561 Mary returned to Scotland.  
Mary ruled Scotland for 4 years, travelling the country. She stayed at many of the great palaces including Falkland Palace in Fife.
- 1565 Mary married her cousin, Lord Darnley.
- 1566 Mary's musician, David Riccio, was murdered in front of Mary at Holyrood Palace.  
Mary gave birth to a son who later became King James VI.
- 1567 Lord Darnley was murdered in February.  
Mary married the Earl of Bothwell 3 months later.  
A few months later Mary was taken prisoner by some of her subjects (people who were living under her rule) and was kept in Lochleven Castle.  
Mary was forced to abdicate, and her 13-month-old son was crowned King James VI of Scotland. Mary never saw her son again.  
The Earl of Bothwell fled to leave Mary to her fate.
- 1568 Mary escaped and went to her cousin, Elizabeth I of England.  
Elizabeth kept Mary prisoner in different castles in England for 19 years – Mary plotted with many of her supporters to escape but never succeeded.
- 1587 Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle.
- 1612 Mary's son, James VI of Scotland, who was now James I of England, had her body taken to Westminster Abbey.





## 4.2 People Important to Mary's Story

**James V:** Mary's father, who died 5 days after her birth.

**Mary of Guise:** Mary's mother, sister of the Duke of Guise and the Cardinal of Lorraine. Regent of Scotland from 1554-1560. Also referred to in some texts as Mary de Guise or Marie de Guise.

**Henri II of France:** Mary's father-in-law, who died as a result of a jousting accident. Also referred to in some texts as Henry II of France.

**Catherine de Medici, Queen of France:** Mary's mother-in-law.

**Francis II:** Mary's first husband.

**Mary Fleming:** Lady-in-waiting, daughter of Lady Fleming.

**Mary Seaton:** Lady-in-waiting, daughter of Marie Pieris a lady-in-waiting to Mary de Guise.

**Mary Beaton:** Lady-in-waiting, daughter of Robert Beaton, the hereditary keeper of Falkland Palace.

**Mary Livingstone:** Lady-in-waiting, daughter of Mary's guardian, Lord Livingstone. She remained Mary's lifelong friend and companion.

**Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley:** Mary's cousin and second husband.

**David Rizzio or Riccio:** Italian musician who became Mary's friend and confidante. Murdered by Scottish Lords.

**James VI:** Mary and Darnley's son.

**James, Earl of Bothwell:** Mary's third husband.

**Willie Douglas:** The boy who helped Mary escape from Lochleven Castle.

**John Knox:** Major figure in the Reformation movement in Scotland, who did not like Mary.

**Queen Elizabeth I of England:** Kept Mary prisoner for 19 years and finally ordered her execution.



### 4.3 The Four Marys

The four Marys were Mary's ladies-in-waiting (a lady who attends a princess or queen). They were Mary Beaton, Mary Seaton, Mary Fleming and Mary Livingston, and were about the same age as Mary Queen of Scots.

The four Marys were brought up as the Queen's playmates at the Priory of Inchmahome, and sailed for France with Mary when she left in 1548. They returned to Scotland with Mary in 1561. The four Marys remained close friends of Mary until her death.

Mary Beaton was the eldest daughter of Robert Beaton of Creich, the Hereditary Keeper of Falkland Palace in Fife. Her mother, Jeanne de Gresnoir had been a French lady-inwaiting of Mary of Guise. She was born in 1542. Mary Beaton married Alexander Ogilvie in 1566. They had three sons.

Mary Seaton was the only daughter of George 6th Lord Seaton, by his second wife, Marie Pieris, who had come to Scotland as one of Mary of Guise's maids of honour. She was born in 1541. Mary Seaton was allowed to join the Queen when she was at Lochleven and helped Mary to escape. Mary Seaton never married and so was the only one to stay with the Queen whilst she was held in captivity in England.

Mary Fleming's grandfather was James IV, and her grandmother was one of his mistresses. Mary was one of 6 children of Lord Fleming and his wife, Janet. She was born in 1542. Mary Fleming married William Maitland of Lethington, then after his death married George Meldrum of Fyvie.

Mary Livingston was the eldest daughter of Alexander 5th Earl of Livingston and Lady Agnes Douglas. She was born in 1540. Her family home was Callander House near Falkirk. Mary Livingston was the first of the four Marys to marry when she married John Sempill of Beltress in 1565. John Sempill was in attendance of the Queen when Riccio was murdered.



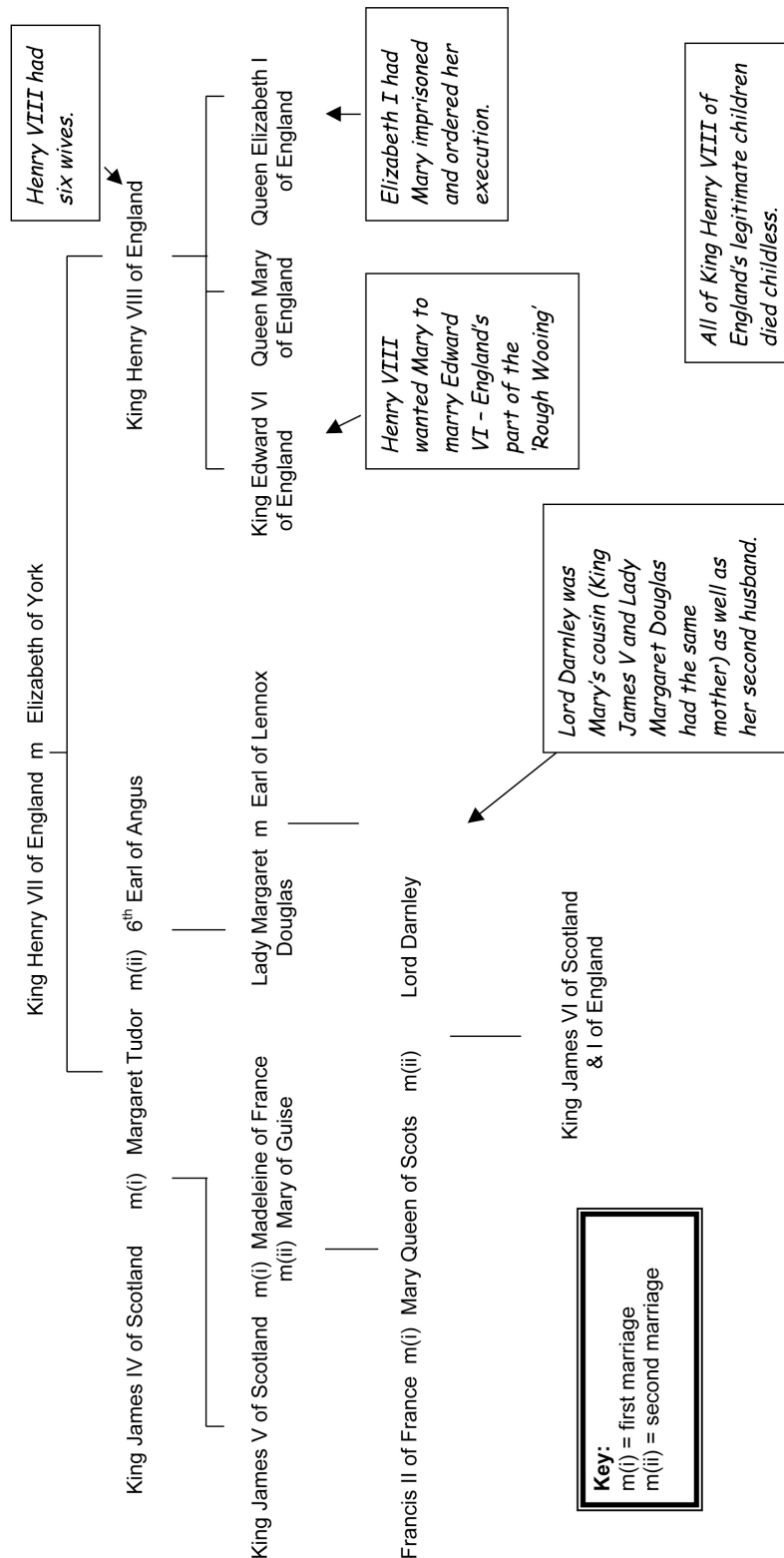
## 4.4 Timeline of Key Events

- 1503 James IV marries Margaret Tudor of England
- 1512 James V is born
- 1513 King James IV is killed at the battle of Flodden Field
- 1517 The Reformation begins, splitting the Church into Catholic and Protestant
- 1528 Patrick Hamilton is burned at the stake as a heretic
- 1536 King James V marries Madeleine of France
- 1537 Madelaine of France dies
- 1538 King James V marries Mary of Guise
- 1542 Mary Queen of Scots is born
- 1542 King James V dies
- 1542 Earl of Arran becomes Regent of Scotland
- 1548 Mary sails for France
- 1546 George Wishart is executed
- 1546 Cardinal Beaton is killed in retaliation for the execution of George Wishart
- 1554 Mary of Guise (a Catholic) becomes Regent of Scotland
- 1558 Mary Queen of Scots marries Francis II of France
- 1559 Francis II becomes King of France, with Mary Queen of Scots as his Queen
- 1559 John Knox returns to Scotland
- 1560 Treaty of Berwick between England and Scotland
- 1561 Treaty of Edinburgh concluded the Anglo/Scottish pact
- 1560 Latin Mass is prohibited in Scotland
- 1560 Mary of Guise dies
- 1560 Francis II dies
- 1561 Mary Queen of Scots returns to Scotland
- 1565 Mary marries Lord Darnley
- 1566 James VI is born
- 1567 Lord Darnley is murdered
- 1567 Mary marries the Earl of Bothwell
- 1567 Mary is taken prisoner
- 1567 Mary abdicates to her son, James VI
- 1567 The Earl of Moray becomes Regent of Scotland
- 1570 The Earl of Lennox becomes Regent of Scotland
- 1571 The Earl of Mar becomes Regent of Scotland
- 1572 The Earl of Morton becomes Regent of Scotland
- 1585 James VI begins to rule Scotland
- 1587 Mary Queen of Scots is executed by order of Elizabeth I of England
- 1603 Elizabeth I of England dies and James VI becomes James I of England
- 1617 James makes his only return to Scotland



## 4.5 Family Tree of the Kings & Queens of Scotland – up to James VI

### Stewart & Tudor Family Tree



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## 4.6 Scottish Kings and Queens

### House of Bruce

1306 – 1329 Robert I  
1329 – 1371 David II

### House of Stewart/ Stuart

1371 – 1390 Robert II  
1390 – 1406 Robert III  
1406 – 1437 James I  
1437 – 1460 James II  
1460 – 1488 James III  
1488 – 1513 James IV  
1513 – 1542 James V  
1542 – 1567 Mary  
1567 – 1625 James VI  
[Note: The Union of the Crowns in 1603 made James VI James I of England]  
1625 – 1649 Charles I  
1649 – 1660 Britain at this time was a commonwealth  
1660 – 1685 Charles II  
1685 – 1688 James VII (James II of England)  
1688 – 1649 William III and Mary II (jointly)  
1649 – 1702 William III (alone)  
1702 – 1714 Anne

### House of Hanover

1714 – 1727 George I  
1727 – 1760 George II  
1760 – 1820 George III  
1820 – 1830 George IV  
1830 – 1837 William IV  
1837 – 1901 Victoria

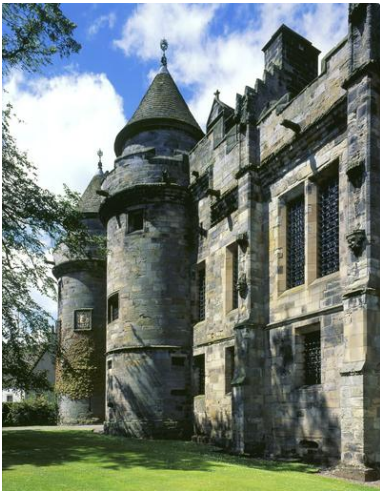
### House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha

1901 – 1910 Edward VII

### House of Windsor

1910 – 1936 George V  
1936 Edward VIII  
1936 – 1952 George VI  
1952 – today Elizabeth I (Elizabeth II of England)





## 5. A Royal Visit to Falkland Palace, Spring 1562 - an imagined account using historical information



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## A Royal Visit to Falkland Palace, Spring 1562

- an imagined account using historical information

In the Palace of Falkland everything was in a state of turmoil, and had been since the Court had arrived from St Andrews a few days before. Queen Mary had come to Falkland to relax and join in the hunt for stags and wild boar, and, at present, the servants were hurriedly carrying out their duties in preparation for her return from the day's sport.

To the royal household the young queen was still something of a novelty: only 7 months had passed since she had landed at Leith on that day of the storm and fog. Many people loved her youthful beauty and were captivated by her gay laughter, but there were others who doubted the sincerity of her intentions. Although Mary had been crowned Queen of Scots at the age of 9 months, she had been brought up in the French Court and had reigned as Queen Consort of that country.

One who did not doubt his young queen was James Mershall who was in charge of the royal larder. He had heard all the arguments of the reformers who feared that a Catholic queen would endeavour to destroy the newly established religion. James detested the reformers and most especially their chief spokesman, John Knox, but he knew that Mary Stuart would never follow the same course that her cousin, Mary Tudor, had followed in England, for nothing could be gained by burning the reformers at the stake. He felt that his fair Scots queen would continue to follow the teachings of her own church; but he also knew that her promise not to interfere with an individual's right to follow the dictates of his own conscience was a genuine one. So, as far as James was concerned, the firebreathing Knox could sleep peacefully in his bed, for no martyr's blood would be spilt in Scotland.

So it was with a keen sense of devotion to his young mistress that James turned his attention to the task of organising the provisions for the queen's supper table. The Master of the Queen's Household, Francis de Bissoy, had told him to visit the servants in the kitchen and the bakehouse to find out what was required from the larder.

James was accompanied by his young assistant, a servant boy, who was dressed in the manner of all the lower domestic servants in a suit of coarse grey cloth, passed down from another servant in part payment of the boy's wages. On his head the boy wore a broad flat cap made from thick blue cotton, or fustian, as it was then called. James himself wore clothes which indicated his higher status among the servants. Although it was made of a coarse woollen cloth, it was fashioned like the dress of the gentlemen of the court. It consisted of a worn black doublet over a white cotton shirt, or sark, the yellowing tinges of which showed that it was no longer the newest of garments. His outfit was completed by a pair of coarse woollen breeches which reached to just above his knees.



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James' first visit was to the palace kitchen, situated next to the turnpike stair in the east range, where fine French cuisine was already being prepared for the evening meal. When James entered the kitchen he was reminded, as always, of the vision of hell he had heard the priest talk about at Mass. The heat was intense and the smoke and steam filled his lungs and caused him such discomfort that he felt that he would choke at any minute. He always felt extremely sorry for the kitchen servants who had to work in this stifling atmosphere and he could not wait to get back to the fresh coolness of the larder.

Everything in the great kitchen was as usual that day. The large open fire was filled with iron pots hanging on tripods blackened by the heat of the burning coals. Two large salmon were boiling in a huge pot in preparation for the servant's meal. Salmon was one of the most common of Scots fish and James had often heard the servants complain about the number of times they had to eat it every week. The cook told James that the queen had ordered a supper which consisted of soup *a la reine*, followed by friars' fish, and venison soaked in claret. The meal was to be completed with a confection of pears and apples mixed with the best French wine.

So James returned to the larder to despatch the necessary provisions for the preparation of these delicacies. A haunch of venison had been sent to the kitchen the previous night as it had to be soaked in the claret for at least 6 hours before it was cooked. However, James still had to supply the kitchen staff with veal, fowl and herbs; the main ingredients of the rich, white soup, which the mother of Mary Queen of Scots, Marie of Guise, had introduced to Scotland from France. He also sent his young assistant down to the stank, or fish pond, which was situated to the west of the palace stables, to produce the finest red trout for the dish known as friars' fish. This also consisted of assorted herbs and spices, lemon, anchovies and Rhenish wine.

James' next visit was to the bakehouse in the south range to find out what provisions were needed by Alexander Carpentyn, the queen's baker. Although the bakehouse was always very hot, James never thought that the atmosphere was as oppressive as that of the kitchen. He knew that this was mainly due to the fact that the bread was all baked in the oven, so the intense heat was not able to circulate all around the room. He found Carpentyn resting against one of the great stone walls and soon heard that all that was needed from the larder was some of the bruised grain which would be mixed with flour and bran to make 'ravelled bread' for the servant's meal. The highest quality white bread, which was called 'manchet', would not be baked that day as there had already been enough made the day before to serve the needs of the queen and her court.

At this point James' servant returned from fetching the red trout from the stank and was chatting quietly to the bakehouse servants. James knew that the lad loved to linger here to watch the oven being opened and the sweet-smelling, new-baked loaves being removed. However, there was work



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to be done so there was no time to be wasted. As they were Leaving the bakehouse James noticed the young lad slipping two oatcakes under his blue cotton cap. He had warned the boy so often about stealing but as he always got hungry at this time of day there was no point attempting to dissuade him from this heathen habit.

As they were returning to the larder through the courtyard of the palace, James and the boy heard the blast of the hunting horn coming from far off in the great oaks of Falkland Wood. James could picture the scene as the young queen and her retinue gave chase to the stags with their pointed antlers. The hunt was obviously well advanced so it would not be long until the royal party returned, ravenous for fine French cuisine.

The blast of the hunting horn was also heard in the royal apartments where Mary Beaton, one of the queen's ladies-in-waiting, was sitting by an open window. She was embroidering a small decorative panel which incorporated the royal emblems of Scotland, England and France; the thistle, the rose and the fleur de lys.

Mary Beaton set aside her embroidery and gazed out of the window at the lush greenery of Falkland Park. The new leaves on the massive oaks shone in the weak, early afternoon sunlight. How she loved Falkland! Of course, her family had special associations with the palace as her father, and his father before him, had been hereditary keepers of the stylish building. How well she remembered playing hide-and-seek as a child with her mother, Jeanne Gresoner, a Frenchwoman who had come over to Scotland with Marie of Lorraine.

It had therefore been no surprise when Mary had been picked to accompany the young Mary Queen of Scots to France.

Mary Beaton had liked living in France but she sorely missed her native Scotland. So it was with a light heart that she now savoured the delights of Falkland. Certainly, the little palace could not compare with the grand French hunting palace of Fontainebleau, but the beauty of its architecture and its homely comforts endeared it more to her than the spacious elegance of any French palace.

Mary Beaton put down her embroidery and rose to summon the ladies of the queen's chamber, Thore and Francoise, who had to help her arrange the clothes which the queen would wear at supper that night. Mary herself was dressed in a simple gown of black, white and lilac. Although this dress was one which signified that the court was still in mourning for the queen's late husband, Francois II, the ladies-in-waiting were now allowed to wear their 'second dule', a relaxation of the first period of mourning which dictated they wear all black.



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Thore and Françoise entered the room chattering excitedly of the news they had heard from one of the pages. Apparently the queen had killed three stags that day and the hunt was now nearly at an end. Mary quickly organised the young girls in their work. If the hunt was at an end, the queen would soon return and would want to change from her fur-lined riding habit into a more suitable court dress.

Thore picked a black camlet, or mohair, dress from the queen's cabinet and laid it on the four-poster bed which was draped in velvet of the queen's favourite green. The neck of this mourning dress was stiffened with buckram, a coarse linen fabric, and mounted with white lace and ribbons. A little white ruff embroidered with pearls, a black velvet heart-shaped cap and a white gossamer veil were also laid out on the bed. From the queen's jewellery chest Mary picked out a necklace of rubies and pearls with a belt to match and, finally, a little gold crucifix was laid on top of the veil.

As the last touches were being put to this arrangement by the three bright-eyed young girls, horses could be heard galloping towards the palace. The hunt was over, and the queen, delighted with her success, would soon be with them.



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## 6. Queen Mary - Question Sheet



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## Queen Mary – Question Sheet

**1. When was Mary born?**

1502                                  1542                                  1582

**2. Mary was married 3 times. In which country was her first wedding?**

Scotland                  Spain                                  France                  England

**3. When Mary's first husband died, whom did she marry next?**

Lord Darnley                  Francis II                  Earl of Bothwell

**4. Mary and her second husband were already related before their wedding. Do you know how?**  
They were:

**5. What happened to Mary's first husband?**

He died of the plague                                  He was murdered

**6. Who was Mary's third husband?**

Lord Darnley                  Francis II                  Earl of Bothwell

**7. Mary had one living son. What was his name?**

**8. Some powerful men in Scotland hated Mary's third husband and didn't trust her. They imprisoned Mary but she escaped. There was a battle in 1568. The old battle-site is now within the city of Glasgow. Where was this battle?**

Govan                                  Partick                                  Pollokshields                                  Langside

**9. Mary fled to England after she lost this battle. She was held prisoner in various castles by her cousin, Elizabeth I. A plot against Elizabeth was discovered. What happened next?**

**10. In which year did Mary die?**

1587                                  1597                                  1607







## 7. Resources



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## Images:

There are several portraits of Mary, Queen of Scots, and people connected to her, at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh. They can be viewed on the website: National Galleries, Collection, Online Collection. The images include:

- Mary, Queen of Scots, 1542 – 1587 (artist unknown, c 1610/15)
- James VI (and I), King of Scotland 1567-1625. King of England & Ireland 1603-25 (artist, John de Critz, 1604)
- Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley (artist unknown, c.1564)
- James Hepburn, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bothwell (artist unknown, 1566)
- Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, at Fotheringhay Castle (artist unknown, c.1613)

The following image can be found at the National Museums of Scotland:

- Kirk o'Field (contemporary sketch of the murder of Darnley, 10 Feb. 1567)

There are also portraits of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Queen Elizabeth I on the National Portrait Gallery (London) website.

