MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Mary was born in 1542

She was the only child of King James V of Scotland

She was a Roman Catholic.

She became Queen of Scotland when her father died when she was a few days old. Her mother acted as regent (ruled for her).

Both England (a Protestant country) and France (a Catholic country) were trying to control Scotland.

In 1548 Mary was promised as a wife to the Dauphin (the son of the King of France) and went to live in France. She married Francis in 1558 and loved him very much and enjoyed life in France.

1559-60. Francis II reigns as King of France and Mary as his Queen. This was the happiest time of her life. But Francis died in 1560 aged seventeen. His younger brother took over. Mary was unpopular and returned to Scotland where Protestants and Catholics were arguing. Her mother died in 1560.

Mary was now Queen of Scots. In England, Elizabeth, a Protestant, was Queen, but many of her Catholic subjects did not recognise her and preferred her cousin, Mary of Scots, who was also the heir to the throne.

1565 Mary married Lord Darnley and had a son, James, by him. Darnley was handsome, but weak and big headed and Mary soon fell out with him. Darnley had her secretary Rizzio murdered before her eyes (stabbed 56 times).

In February 1567 Darnley was killed in a mysterious explosion. Perhaps Mary knew that this was ging to happen.

In May 1567 Mary married the Earl of Bothwell who was keen on power for himself and divorced his first wife quickly first.

In June 1567 the Scottish nobles and Protestants defeated Mary in battle and put her in prison. She had to give up the throne to her young son who was taken away from her and brought up as a Protestant.

In 1568 she escaped from prison, fled to England and asked her cousin Elizabeth for help and protection.

Mary died in 1587.