In 1562 Queen Elizabeth almost died of Smallpox and was left with scars on her face - these were covered with the heavy white make-up which was fashionable at the time. She survived various Catholic plots and conspiracies such as the Babington plot involving Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth was distraught when Mary Queen of Scots was eventually beheaded. Her reign witnessed the emergence of great poets and playwrights emerged during her era such as William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser, Christopher Marlowe and Sir Walter Raleigh. She also encouraged explorers such as Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir John Hawkins, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Richard Greenville. Queen Elizabeth I was a remarkable queen that England was fortunate to have. Despite a number of setbacks and downfalls, she managed to, literally, reign supreme. Many people in the 16th century thought that woman is not fit to rule, but she proved them wrong. She was a great influence on all aspects of Elizabethan England life. Arts, drama, fashion, politics, international affairs, all bore her indelible mark on them. Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabeth was born on 7 September 1533. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his wife Anne Boleyn. Her birth took place at the Greenwich Palace. Her fa...