

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ELIZABETH I AND THE SPANISH ARMADA ACTIVITY

**READINGS:** Highlight and taking thinking notes (writing in the margins) for each of the following readings.

- Williams, Patrick. "The 'Chief Business': The Spanish Armada, 1588." History Review. Dec. 2009. p. 8-13.
- Morris, Holly J. "Be Afraid, Very Afraid." US News & World Report. Jan. 27-Feb 3. 2003. p. 50.
- Elizabeth I. "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury." WEB. <[www.luminarium.org/renlit/tilbury.html](http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/tilbury.html)>. 11 Nov. 2008.

**SMALL GROUP DIRECTIONS:** In your group you will address a section of the readings that were assigned previously...listed above. Answer the questions with as much detail using the relevant section of text. You will EACH need to present your answers back to your original groups at some point in the activity so take great notes.

### GROUP 1: "The 'Chief Business'..." Introduction and Origins, p. 8-10

1. What led the two conservative monarchs to break ties with each other? Look for all the reasons that strained relations between the two countries.
2. What is the significance of each term in this breakdown of relations; Philip II, Elizabeth I, Army of Flanders, John Hawkins, Sir Francis Drake, Mary Stuart (Mary Queen of Scots), Pope Pius V, Ridolfi Plot?

### GROUP 2: "The 'Chief Business'..." Preparations, p. 10-11

1. Who crossed the line that divided peace from war first? What event did this?
2. How did each monarch prepare for the ensuing battle? List the ways.
3. What role did each of the following terms play in the preparation phase? Santa Cruz, Parma, Treaty of Nonsuch, "the chief business", Pope Sixtus V, Babington Plot, Sir Francis Drake, Duke of Medina-Sidonia, Charles Howard

### GROUP 3: "The 'Chief Business'..." Victory and Defeat, p. 11-13

1. Trace the sequence of battles that led to the Spanish Armada's defeat.
2. What were the disadvantages of the crescent formation used by the Spanish?
3. How did the English defeat the Spanish Armada? What advantages did the English enjoy?
4. What role did each of the following terms play in the victory and defeat of the Spanish Armada? Charles Howard, Duke of Medina-Sidonia, Parma, Battle of Gravelines, "Protestant Winds"

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GROUP 4: "The 'Chief Business'..." Aftermath, p. 13

1. Trace the ensuing battles and exchanges between the Spanish and English in the years after the Armada's defeat.
2. What was the significance of the Armada for Anglo-Spanish relations? How did their relations return to friendly terms?

GROUP 5: "Be Afraid, Very Afraid" AND "Speech to the Troops at Tilbury."

1. What was the situation that led England to espionage (spying)?
2. What role did Sir Francis Walsingham play in Elizabeth's success during this time period?
3. Was Elizabeth justified in using spies to gather intelligence? Why or why not?
4. What does Elizabeth's speech to her troops at Tilbury reveal about her character? What are the most important traits possessed by the queen?

**SEMINAR PREPARATION:**

Reflect on the following questions in preparation for our seminar on Elizabeth I and the Spanish Armada.

- What image does Philip II and Elizabeth I project in their artwork? Which is most convincing and truthful? What does the artwork suggest of each monarch?
- What do Philip II and Elizabeth I both have in common?
- In your assessment of the texts, who was the more "prudent" ruler Elizabeth I or Philip II?
- What had the greatest impact on the outcome of the Spanish Armadas? Nature, Ruler, Commanders, Technology, Other? Justify with evidence from the reading.
- What would Elizabeth I's epitaph read on her tombstone? What would Philip II's read? How or why did you choose what you chose? Justify your response with examples from the text.