

## The Spanish Armada



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# **God blew with His winds and they were scattered**

Our story starts with Philip, the King of Spain. Philip was angry. His wife, Mary 1, had died and he wanted to marry her sister, Elizabeth 1, who was now Queen of England, but she didn't want to marry him. Philip hated the English people and the people who called themselves prot-e-stants and who were not Roman Catholics. He made up his mind to conquer England and punish Elizabeth. Philip got himself ready a great number of soldiers, sailors , guns and ships to invade England.

Sir Francis Drake in England heard of the plan and he very daringly sailed over to Spain. He boldly entered the harbour where Philips ships were waiting and sank them! Then he sailed away again saying "I have

singed the King of Spain's beard!"

King Philip was now even angrier. He at once set to work to rebuild his ships and make even more and a year later he was ready to attack England again. But Elizabeth had also been busy: she had been getting ready to defend England from the attack.

On the 18th May 1588 , 132 ships, with 10,000 sailors and 20,000 soldiers sailed from Spain. The ships made a splendid show with their white sails shining in the sun.

King Philip called his fleet the Invincible Armada. 'Invincible means "which cannot be conquered"'. The fleet was slowed down by a storm and so they did not come in sight of England's shores for many more weeks.

The English fleet however was much smaller. There were only 34 Royal Navy ships, with a further 150 trading ships that had been turned into fighting ships. Unlike the Spanish ships, the English ships were not crowded

with soldiers. This meant they were easier to manage. Alongside the ships, a great number of English men were eager to fight for their queen and protect their country, They gathered on land ready to take orders.

Eventually the Spanish fleet reached the entrance to the English Channel. Drake and his men got into their ships and went out to meet and fight them.

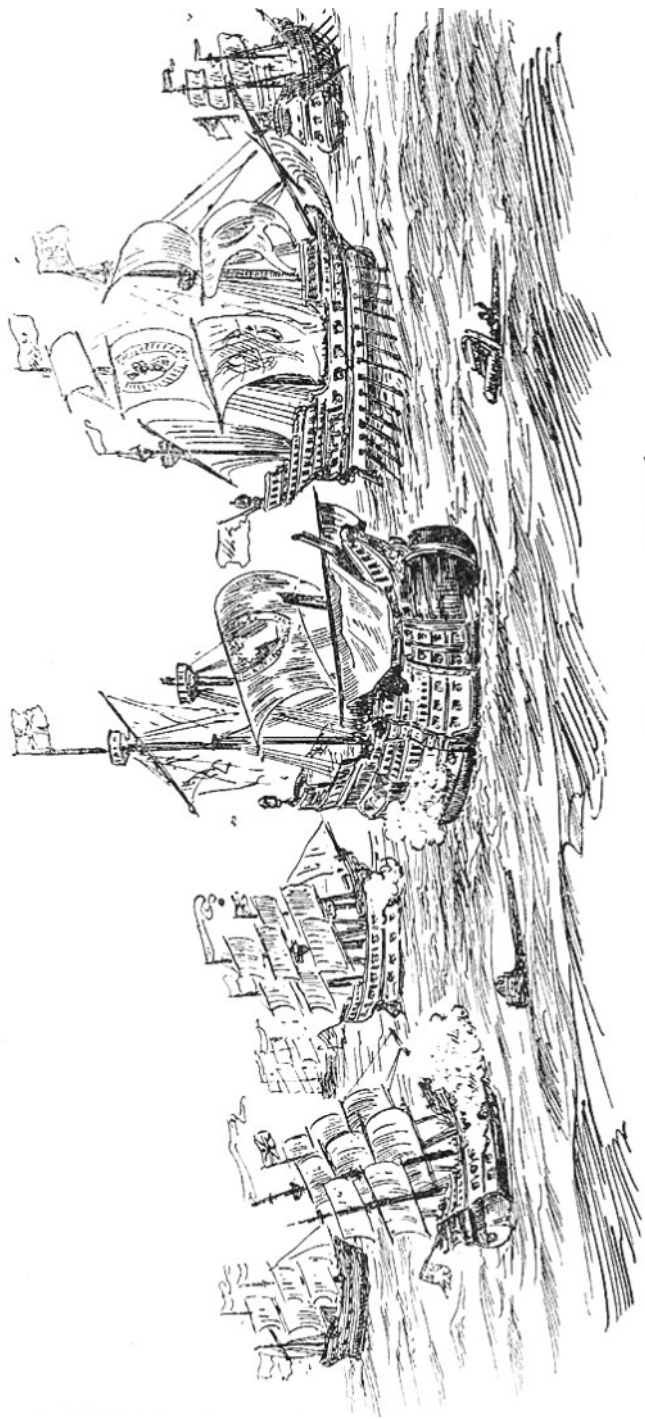
The battle lasted for more than a week but the English did better than the Spanish. The English crews were better sailors than the Spanish crews and their smaller ships were easier to control and move around.

The wind, too, was in their favour.

Day by day the wind grew stronger and fiercer and the waves got higher and wilder. Then, in the terrible storm the Spanish ships, in their attempts to escape from the English, tried to sail all the way

around Scotland and Ireland to get home. The Spanish sailors were exhausted and they were running out of supplies. Only 53 Spanish ships completed the journey. Whereas four or five had been lost in battle, the rest were lost on the rocks around the British coast. The English, who had not lost one ship, in the battle, chased them until they ran out of powder for their guns. Then they left the Spanish to founder on the rocks.

Colour the picture.



Slowly the great galleons bear up Channel.



