

The Ruthless Redhead: Road to Royalty

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Junior Division

Group Website

Student-composed Words:778

Process Paper: 409,340 words

At first when the National History Day project was introduced, I was going to work solo, however, I learned that both Isabel and I wanted to do something on royalty. We looked through the European monarchy and decided we wanted to do a female ruler. The first female monarch of England was Mary Tudor, but her reign was short and terrible. So we decided to pick her younger half sister Elizabeth.

The first time we got research on Elizabeth was when we went to the library and our IMC instructor, Mrs. Long, showed us the school databases. Almost all of our secondary resources are from Gale in Context. We weren't able to find many books at our school library or public libraries. However we were able to find a bunch of letters about and from, Queen Elizabeth. These letters gave us really deep insight into her personal life and into the time period. One of our most useful sources was the biography, Elizabeth 1. We used it to defend our thesis and it gave a really good summary of her rule and life.

We chose website for our presentation category. We originally were going to do an exhibit, but we didn't like the word limit and the fact that almost everyone else was doing one. We chose website over a paper because we would be able to add visuals and multimedia. We soon learned that the NHD website maker is very finicky and difficult. A bunch of our material was deleted because of technical difficulties. Looking back I would have definitely chosen to make either a documentary or exhibit. I feel we would have been able to make it flow better and more visually appealing.

For our topic we chose Elizabeth 1 and her ascension to the throne. This topic relates to the theme because it tells the story of one of the first female rulers. Elizabeth's road to the throne took many years and deaths. The monarchy had been consistently men and the first female to ascend to the throne, Mary Tudor, had hundreds killed in an attempt to reverse the English reformation, earning her the name Bloody Mary. People didn't believe that a woman in power wouldn't ever be a good thing. However Elizabeth proved everyone wrong by bringing prosperity and wealth, by being as ruthless as any king. Her rule ushered in the Elizabethan Era, which brought about William Shakespeare and other creative geniuses.

At first, I had no idea what to choose for my NHD project, but was toggling the idea of racial rights or women's rights. But then, Katelyn offered the idea for me and her to work together in a group project, and I agreed because I knew I couldn't do the workload alone, as well as not being able to think of an idea by myself. We both decided that we like kings and queens, so we went with the idea of Queen Elizabeth I, which fit perfectly into the topic I was thinking of (women's rights).

When we were working on gathering sources, we followed the daily requirements and that helped us plan out for what we needed. By using the websites that were given to us in the IMC, we used that as a base to find information. We were given *lots* of sources to choose from, but we only took the ones that seemed to have the most beneficial information. By reading through them and picking out helpful information, we had a good structure for our project. Later in the project we created a presentation to take notes on the information we collected.

We thought that doing a website would be easiest to present our information because at the time, it would be hard to meet up and put an exhibit or something together. But later we realized it was a little tricky to use, and was not the simple "drag and drop" like google sites. But we worked through it and I think our project turned out to be very nice and professional looking.

Queen Elizabeth I was a very influential woman and for sure met the topic point of breaking barriers in history. She was not the first woman to run a monarchy but she was the first greatly successful one. She took what should have been a man's job, and worked it into her own lifestyle. Her outspoken personality was well-liked by the people and she settled social issues between countries and religious beliefs.