

Teacher's Workshop Notes

Timeline

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|---------|---|
| 1542 | |
| 8 Dec | Mary is born |
| 14 Dec | King James V dies, Mary becomes Queen of Scots |
| 1543 | |
| 1 Jul | Treaty of Greenwich signed – Mary is promised to Prince Edward of England |
| 1544-47 | The 'Rough Wooing' – English troops raid the borders to force the marriage of the infants |
| 1548 | |
| 7 Jul | Treaty of Haddington signed – Mary is promised to Francis, Dauphin of France |
| 7 Aug | Mary travels to France |
| 1558 | |
| 24 Apr | Mary marries the Dauphin |
| 1559 | |
| 18 Sept | Mary becomes Queen of France |
| 1560 | |
| 11 Jun | Mary's mother, Mary of Guise, dies |
| Aug | Scotland becomes a Protestant country |
| 5 Dec | Francis dies |
| 1561 | |
| 19 Aug | Mary arrives back in Scotland |
| 1565 | |
| 29 Jul | Mary marries Lord Henry Darnley |
| 1566 | |
| 9 Mar | Rizzio, Mary's private secretary, is murdered |
| 19 Jun | Mary gives birth to James |
| 1567 | |
| 10 Feb | Darnley is murdered |
| 15 May | Mary marries James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell |
| 15 Jun | Mary surrenders to the rebels at Carberry Hill |
| 24 Jul | Mary abdicates |
| 1568 | |
| 2 May | Mary escapes from Lochleven Castle |
| 13 May | Mary's army is defeated at the Battle of Langside |
| 16 May | Mary arrives in England |
| 1587 | |
| 8 Feb | Mary is executed |

Early Life

Mary was born at Linlithgow Palace on December 8, 1542. Her mother was Mary of Guise, the wife of King James V. Six days later she was declared Queen after her father died from injuries sustained in a skirmish with English troops. The following year she was crowned at an elaborate ceremony at Stirling Castle.

King Henry VIII of England saw the opportunity to strengthen links between his and the Scottish throne and proposed the marriage of his son, Edward, with Mary. An agreement was reached in the Treaty of Greenwich, but the Scottish lords remained suspicious of Henry's intentions and distrustful of the treaty.

From 1544 to 1547 Henry tried to press the Scots into sending Mary to London through a series of border raids in a period that is known as the 'Rough Wooing'. Mary was moved between important castles in this period to keep her safe from the English forces.

To end English interference in Scottish affairs and protect the kingdom's independence an agreement was reached with the French king for Mary to marry his son, Francis, the Dauphin of France. The Treaty of Haddington, as it became known, ensured that Mary and Scotland had a secure future. Mary left Scotland on August 7, 1548 to begin her life at the court of King Henry II of France.

Mary in France

Mary was given a privileged position and was educated along with thirty-seven other royal children. Mary was educated alongside Francis and she learned many of the skills required to be a good and just ruler as an adult. She became fluent in French, Greek, Latin and Italian as well as a skilled embroiderer and keen sportswoman.

Mary married Francis on April 24, 1558 and a year later after the death of his father, King Henry, she became Queen of France. However, Mary's life in France ended abruptly the following year when Francis died from a minor infection of the ear. It was clear to Mary that the French did not want her to remain and she made preparations to return north to Scotland.

Mary's return to Scotland

Mary's arrival in Scotland was underwhelming as an unexpectedly fast passage meant she arrived sooner than the lords of Scotland had prepared for. It was a misty and grey morning when her ships arrived at Leith, and she had to be entertained in a local merchant's house while transport was found to take her to the palace at Holyrood. This delay enabled word to spread and on her entry into Edinburgh crowds lined the street and cheered her and her retinue as it passed.

The Reformation: Religious Issues

Mary arrived in Scotland as the Reformation was in full swing. John Knox, Scotland's leading Church reformer, feared Mary as she was a Catholic. The main Scottish lords had converted to the new Church and many were suspicious of how Mary would deal with the religious divide that now separated the country. Mary antagonised the Protestants by refusing to confirm the Treaty of Edinburgh, which ended the Reformation fighting and secured Elizabeth's throne in England: Mary had a strong claim to the English throne which this treaty would have ended. Mary also continued to practise the Catholic religion while Queen, and regularly attended mass. However, she followed her religion in private and did not force her religion on the people of Scotland. She also took the advice of the Protestant lords and gave these men important positions in her Government. Through these actions she was able to successfully manage the religious problems in Scotland at the beginning of her personal rule.

Mary's half-brother, James Stewart, the Earl of Moray, was the most powerful Protestant lord in Scotland. Mary trusted her brother, and he was one of her leading advisors in this period of her reign. James helped and guided Mary in making the best choices for the kingdom.

Court Life

Court life in Scotland was not as formal nor was the monarch as isolated as in the English Tudor courts of the same period. Members of court, and the ordinary public, had much more free access to the monarch than is commonly thought. Court was the centre of government and culture in Renaissance Scotland and it was surprisingly cosmopolitan. Mary brought with her a large retinue of French and Italian servants and her mother was known to have had Moorish (North African/Middle Eastern) servants.

The Queen would dine daily in the great hall and conduct business both in the presence chamber and her bedchamber. She also attended parliament and travelled throughout her kingdom on royal progresses.

Marriage to Darnley

The first four years of Mary's personal rule in Scotland were a success; however, her marriage to Lord Henry Darnley was the start of her troubles. On paper, Darnley was a good choice. He was descended from royalty, a member of the Stuart family and had a claim to the English throne. In reality, he was vain, foolish and promiscuous. They married in a private Catholic ceremony on July 29, 1565. Darnley was easily manipulated. His lack of real power (he was king in name only) left him jealous of any man that appeared to interest the Queen.

Chase-About Raid

The marriage upset James, Mary's half-brother, and he led a rebellion against Mary and Henry in August 1565. The Earl of Moray gathered his army at Ayr and Mary and Henry's army formed up in Edinburgh. As Moray's army marched towards Edinburgh, the Queen's army moved to Ayr. When Mary reached Glasgow, Moray's army had changed direction and was now marching towards Dumfries. In the end the Earl of Moray fled to England and the armies never met in battle. This period became known as the 'Chase-About Raid'.

Murder of Rizzio

On March 9, 1566, Mary was in her private chambers at Holyrood having supper with a group of close friends and advisors. The only man present was David Rizzio, her Italian secretary. Darnley arrived during the meal accompanied by a group of men, one of them, Lord Ruthven, was in full armour. The men demanded that Rizzio accompany them outside the chamber, but he refused. Rizzio fell at the feet of Mary begging for her help - she was unable to do anything as Darnley was restraining her. Rizzio was dragged from the room and murdered outside the doorway; he was stabbed more than 50 times. Darnley's was the only blade left in his body.

Birth of James

Three months after the murder of Rizzio, Mary went into labour and gave birth to Darnley's son. The baby would go on to be James VI of Scotland and James I of England. Bonfires were lit to celebrate his birth and the celebrations for his christening went on for three days.

Murder of Darnley

Darnley fell ill in December 1566 with either smallpox or syphilis, the records are unclear. However, at the end of January and at Mary's request he was brought from Glasgow to Kirk o' Fields in Edinburgh so that she could nurse him better. She visited him several times and stayed at the house with him on a number of occasions during his convalescence. On February 10, 1567 Mary left Darnley in the care of his valet to attend the wedding celebrations of one of her ladies-in-waiting. Later that night there was an explosion at the house and the bodies of Darnley and his valet were found the next day in the garden; both appeared to have been strangled.

Several men were punished for their part in the deaths, but no one was convicted of their murder. The Earl of Bothwell, whom many suspected of carrying out the murder, was acquitted of murder at a trial in the Parliament of Scotland.

Marriage to Bothwell

Barely three months after Darnley's death Mary married James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell, in a hasty ceremony. Some contemporaries argued she only did so after he had raped her, in order to save her honour, while others believed she had fallen madly in love with him. Whatever the reason, the consequences of this marriage were severe for Mary. After the marriage posters started to appear around Edinburgh depicting Mary as Bothwell's prostitute, the people of Scotland turned against their Queen.

The leading lords of the Kingdom rose in rebellion against Mary and Bothwell and their armies met at Carberry Hill. The strength of the opposition was such that Mary surrendered and Bothwell fled before any battle took place. Bothwell was arrested in Denmark and held prisoner until he died ten years later.

Mary was taken to Lochleven Castle, where she was forced to abdicate in favour of her son, who she never saw again. Her half-brother, the Earl of Moray returned to Scotland and was appointed regent while James was an infant.

On May 2, 1568, Mary escaped from captivity with the help of her valet and once again raised an army. Mary's army was defeated at the Battle of Langside (on the site of Glasgow's Queens Park), by Moray's soldiers. She fled south to England in the hope of saving her life.

Mary in England

Once in England, Mary appealed to her cousin Elizabeth for protection and help. Elizabeth was fearful of Mary because of her claim to the English throne and sought for a way of controlling Mary. She did this through the discovery of letters supposedly written between Mary and Bothwell, planning the murder of Darnley. These are known as the 'Casket Letters'; although they no longer exist they are believed to have been forgeries. Nevertheless, Elizabeth used these letters as an excuse to keep Mary captive for twenty years.

Mary was finally executed on February 8, 1587, for her part in a plot to overthrow Elizabeth. She went to her death dressed in the red robes of a Catholic martyr. It took the axe man three blows to kill Mary and when he lifted her head up by the hair to show the audience, her wig came off and her head fell to the ground. Everything touched by Mary's blood, including the executioner's block, was burned so they could not become a rallying point for Elizabeth's enemies.





Follow-Up Activities: Mary Queen of Scots

Storyboard Activities

Level 1

Daily life for Mary

Mary's life was very different from our lives today. Complete the storyboard with pictures to suit each part of the day, so for instance, at 5am, draw a picture of Mary getting out of bed surrounded by her four ladies-in-waiting, and on the right, draw the hands on the clock to show what time your activity happens and draw a picture of it.

| Mary's Day | My Day |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 5am Wake up and get out of bed |  Wake up and get out of bed |
| 9am—noon Play games |  Go to school |
| Noon Main meal |  Lunchtime |
| 5pm Dancing |  Bedtime |

Follow-Up Activities: Mary Queen of Scots

Storyboard Activities

Level 2

Daily life for Mary

Mary's life was very different from our lives today. Complete the storyboard with pictures of your daily life.

| Mary's Day | My Day |
|--|--------|
| 5am Wake up and get out of bed | |
| 7—10am Deal with Government business | |
| 10am—noon Recreation time | |
| Noon Main meal | |
| 5pm Dancing | |
| 9pm Bedtime | |

Follow-Up Activities: Mary Queen of Scots

Practical Activities: Levels 1 and 2

Making a pomander

The 1600s were a very smelly time to live in. People didn't often wash and there no flushing toilets. Members of Mary's court would try and avoid smelling in these bad smells by carrying around a pomander. A pomander is usually an orange with lots of other nice-smelling spices through it that you could carry around and sniff when the smells got too bad.

Before you start, you will need:

- 1 orange (apples, or lemons)**
- 20g of whole cloves**
- 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon (or other nice-smelling spice)**
- Sticky tape**
- A cocktail stick**
- A tissue**
- Some ribbon**

1. Gently knead the orange in your hands to soften its skin.
2. Use the masking tape to tape off any areas where you would like to wrap ribbon when your pomander is complete.
3. Pierce the skin of the orange with the cocktail stick and set in the cloves, either in a pattern or to completely cover the orange.
4. Roll the orange in the cinnamon.
5. Wrap the orange in tissue paper or leave in a paper bag and store for a few days in a dry, warm place.
6. Finally, wrap the ribbon around the orange.



Follow-Up Activities: Mary Queen of Scots

Writing Activities: Level 1

1. Write about your visit to the John Gray Centre.

2. Would you want to be a member of Mary's court? Give a reason.

3. Complete this passage:

Queen Court Dance Three

Mary was the Qu_ _n of Scotland. The _our_ had lots of people in it. Mary loved to hunt, _a_c_ and play sports. She married _h_e_ times.

4. Which words would you use to describe Mary?

Writing Activities: Level 2

1. Life in Mary's court was very different from the lives we lead today. Which part of court life do you think was the strangest and why?

2. Which part, if any, of Mary's court would you like to see in Scotland today? Give at least two reasons for your answer (even if you would not want any of it).

3. Choose one of the events of Mary's life and write a newspaper article about it. Include quotes from members of her court and lots of detail.

Your article could be on: her marriage to Francis of France, Lord Darnley or the Earl of Bothwell; her welcome to Scotland; the murder of Rizzo; Mary's escape to England.

Follow-Up Activities: Mary Queen of Scots

Group Activities: Level 1

News report

Make a news report one of these topics:

Mary's marriage to Bothwell
Death of Rizzio
Death of Darnley
Birth of James
Mary's marriage to Bothwell
DEATH OF DARNLEY
Birth of James
DEATH OF RIZZIO

If your school has the resources you could film your news report and edit it together on the computer.

Group Activities: Level 2

Entertaining a Queen

In groups make a short play that would be suitable for Mary's court.
Your play could be about love or a great fight, and you should have a hero or heroine.

Drawing Activities: Levels 1 and 2

Murder hunt

Produce a poster appealing for witnesses to the murder of Lord Darnley and his servant at Kirk o' Fields.
Remember to include important information about where, when and who was murdered.
You may also want to offer a reward for information.