

James I Worksheet

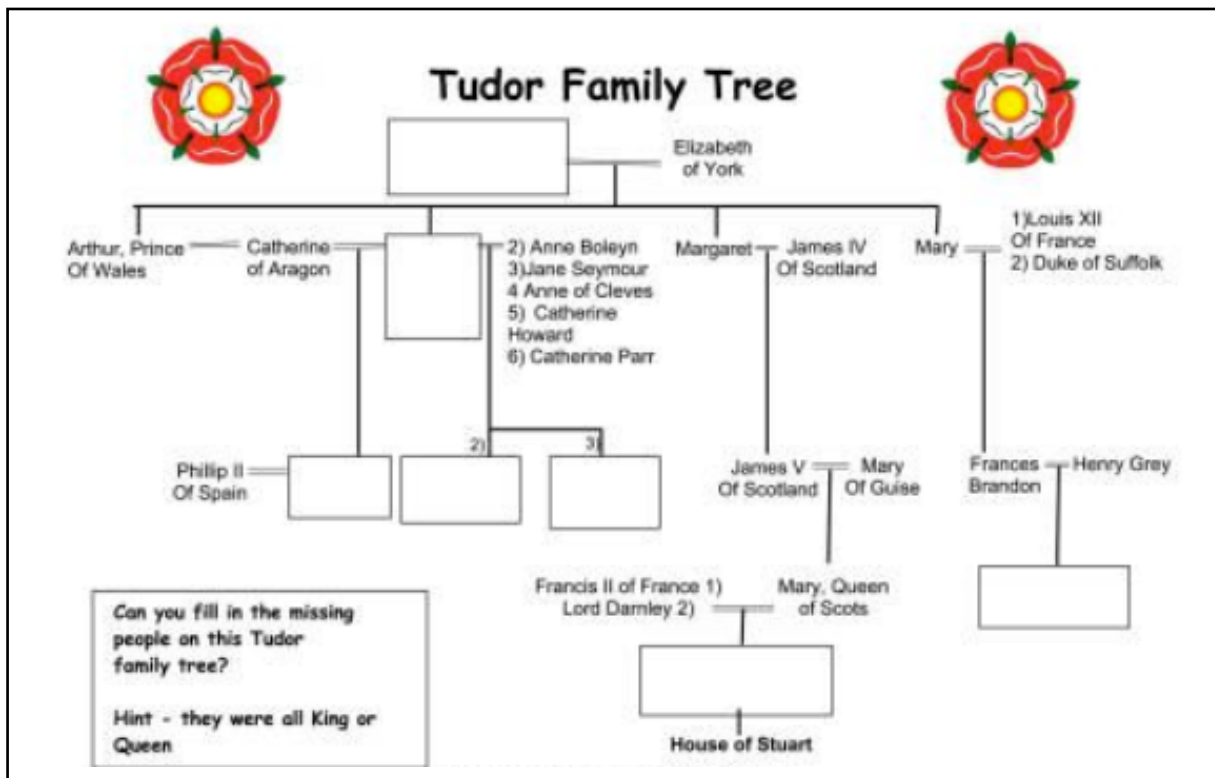
This worksheet is about **James VI and I**, King of Scotland from 1567 to 1625 and King of England (and Ireland) from 1603 to 1625 (he has two numbers after his name because he was the sixth Scottish king called James but the first English one called James). He was a member of the **Stuart** dynasty (rulers from the same family) and became King of England after his relative **Elizabeth I** died without having any children.

This worksheet will focus on James' personality, the problems he faced after he became King of England, and how he tried to solve them.



Starter Task

Put the following people who were kings or queens of England in the correct spaces in the family tree: Henry VII (ruled 1485-1509), Henry VIII (ruled 1509-1547), Edward VI (ruled 1547-1553), Jane (ruled 1553), Mary I (ruled 1553-1558), Elizabeth I (ruled 1558-1603), James I (ruled 1603-1625)



What could the people of England expect from James I?

- He became King of Scotland when he was just 13 months old - because he was so young nobles ruled but the country for him but from 1579 he ruled Scotland for himself (he was just 12!).
- He had been an effective King of Scotland, and improved the royal government there, as well as stopping nobles fighting each other.
- He was intelligent - he wrote two books about government, and believed that kings had a **divine right** to rule (this meant no one should challenge them because they were put in their position by God).
- He was a **Protestant**, and very interested in religious matters.
- He was concerned about the danger of witches and in 1597 had written a book that argued they existed and gave advice on how to hunt them down.
- In 1589 he married **Anna of Denmark**, the daughter of the King of Denmark; they had three children who survived to adulthood: Henry, Elizabeth and Charles.
- He was tolerant and willing to compromise - he was also quite informal and did not like crowds or public appearances; he was also sometimes a little bit lazy, and happy to let his ministers rule for him.

Read through the bullet-points and complete the following tasks in your books based on the information:

1. Would the people of England felt positive about having James as their new king and why? (1-3 sentences)
2. Write down **five** adjectives that describe James.

Challenge: Imagine you are an English spy sent to investigate James - use the information to write a description of James, his personality, and what he had done as King of Scotland (short paragraph).

Main Task: James I's Problems

Elizabeth I died on 24 March 1603. After hearing the news, James left Edinburgh (the capital of Scotland) on 5 April and arrived in London on 7 May. He was officially crowned King of England (and Ireland) on 25 July.

Instructions:

1. On the table below are six problems James faced when he became King of England. Read through them.
2. On the table below there are also the solutions James put into place to try and solve his problems. Read through them and draw a line connecting the solution to the problem.
3. For each solution give James a mark out of 5 (where 1 is worst and 5 is best) for how effective he was.
4. Based on the information in the table, decide what James's greatest **achievement** was and write a sentence in your books saying why. (Sentence starter: 'James I's greatest achievement was solving the problem of... this was important because...').
5. Based on the information in the table, decide what James's greatest **failure** was and write a sentence in your books saying why. (Sentence starter: 'James I's greatest failure was that he could not solve the problem of... this was important because...').

James I's Problem	James I's Solution	Your mark out of 5
What rules should the Church of England follow?	Make sure more taxes were paid (particularly on items from overseas) and increase rents on lands the Crown owned. However, because James loved spending money on new palaces, jewels and gifts to friends royal debts kept on rising - to £600,000 in 1608 and £900,000 in 1618.	
What type of relationship should Scotland and England have?	Order a ceasefire with Spain and begin peace talks. The Treaty of London officially ended the war in 1604. English ships stopped attacking Spanish ones and it became easier for English merchants to trade in Europe.	
What should he do about Ireland, where there had recently been a violent rebellion against English rule lasting 10 years.	Call a meeting of important religious thinkers at Hampton Court Palace in 1604 - they ordered a new English-language version of the Bible, which was very popular. However, Puritans (those who thought the Church of England should get rid of all Catholic customs) were disappointed when James said he would not introduce any new reforms.	
How can he solve the crown's money troubles? (they owed £400,000 - worth about £100 million today)	Argue that the Crown had more power than Parliament to try and force MPs to be more obedient. MPs disagreed and refused to give James extra taxes. After initially having a good relationship, there was growing distrust between James and Parliament.	
What should he do about England's war with Spain, which had started in 1585 and was still going on when he became king.	Unite Scotland and England into a single country and give himself the title 'King of Great Britain' - the English Parliament rejected this. Apart from having the same king, England and Scotland remained separate with different laws and parliaments.	
The Tudors had allowed the power of Parliament to grow - MPs wanted a say in running the country in exchange for giving the Crown the right to collect extra taxes.	Quickly make peace with the Irish rebels. They were not punished as long as they promised to be loyal. James also encouraged Scottish and English people, who he hoped would be more loyal to him, to migrate to Ireland - by 1630s about 100,000 British people had settled there.	

Challenge:

Imagine you are one of James I's top advisors. Choose one of the problems in the table above you think he could have done a better job solving. Write him a letter offering your own solution to the problem (you can be creative but make sure your solution is realistic - also remember you are writing to a king so make sure your language is respectful!).