

Teaching notes

The following activity is designed to cover the Catholic threat to Elizabeth. It provides an overview to the Catholics across Elizabeth's reign, and works best to review the events once they have been taught.

Activity one: Giant timeline

Create a giant timeline of the Catholic threat to Elizabeth using the cards on pp.2-16. Depending on your class size, you could give each student a card, or they could be allocated to pairs. Alternatively, for larger groups, two versions could be created on separate walls. The cards below contain the correct dates, but these could be removed to up the level of challenge!

The colours of the text represent different themes. Once the cards are placed in order you could ask students whether they can identify what the colours represent. Alternatively, the cards could be printed in black and white and you could ask your group to come up with their own themes/ connections.

- A. Cards 1-4 are about plots
- B. Cards 5-9 highlight papal/foreign influence
- C. Cards 10-15 highlight legislation

Activity two: Explaining the events

Put students in pairs and assign them an event card and post-it note. On the post-it they should explain the details of the event as a quick refresher. Each pair should then explain their event to the rest of the class. Quick notes could be added to the cards on the wall, and a photograph taken for future reference/revision. Alternatively, each student could write a mini version of the timeline in their notes, with the explanation details.

Activity three: Gauging the threat

Using the sheet on p. 17 students should then plot the level of threat for each event. They should mark the events in the correct place, putting them above the line and right at the top of the page if very serious, and towards the bottom of the line for events that reduced the impact of the Catholic threat.

1569: Northern Rebellion

1571: Ridolfi Plot

1583: Throckmorton plot

1586: Babington plot

1587: The execution of Mary Queen of Scots.

1574:

**The arrival of the first
seminary priests.**

1580:
The first Jesuits
arrived in England.

1588: Spanish Armada

1584:

Phillip of Spain signed an alliance with the Catholic league in France, dedicated to the eradication of Protestantism.

1585:

An act was passed against Jesuits and seminary priests. This made it treasonable for any priest ordained by the Pope's authority to enter England. 123 were priests were executed for treason under this act from 1586 to 1603.

1587:

Laws regarding recusancy fines were tightened. Anyone defaulting on payment of their fines could have two-thirds of his estate seized by the exchequer.

1559:

**Elizabeth passed the
religious settlement.**

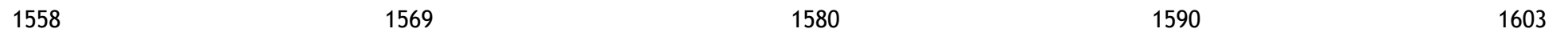
**1581:
Fines against
recusants were
doubled.**

1581:
Edmund Campion was
executed.

1570: Papal Bull

How serious a threat were the Catholics?

High threat



Low threat