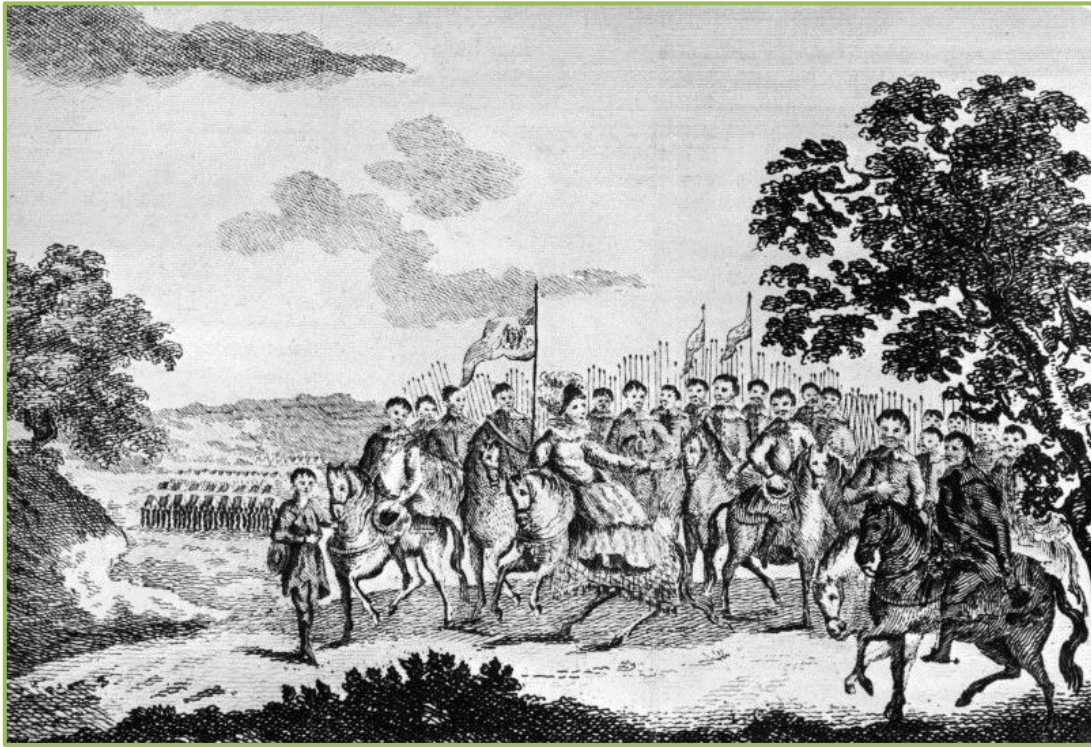


Task 1:

What can you learn from the sources about the reasons for the Armada's failure?

Source	What can you see in the source?	What does it suggest about why the Armada failed?
A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
G		
H		

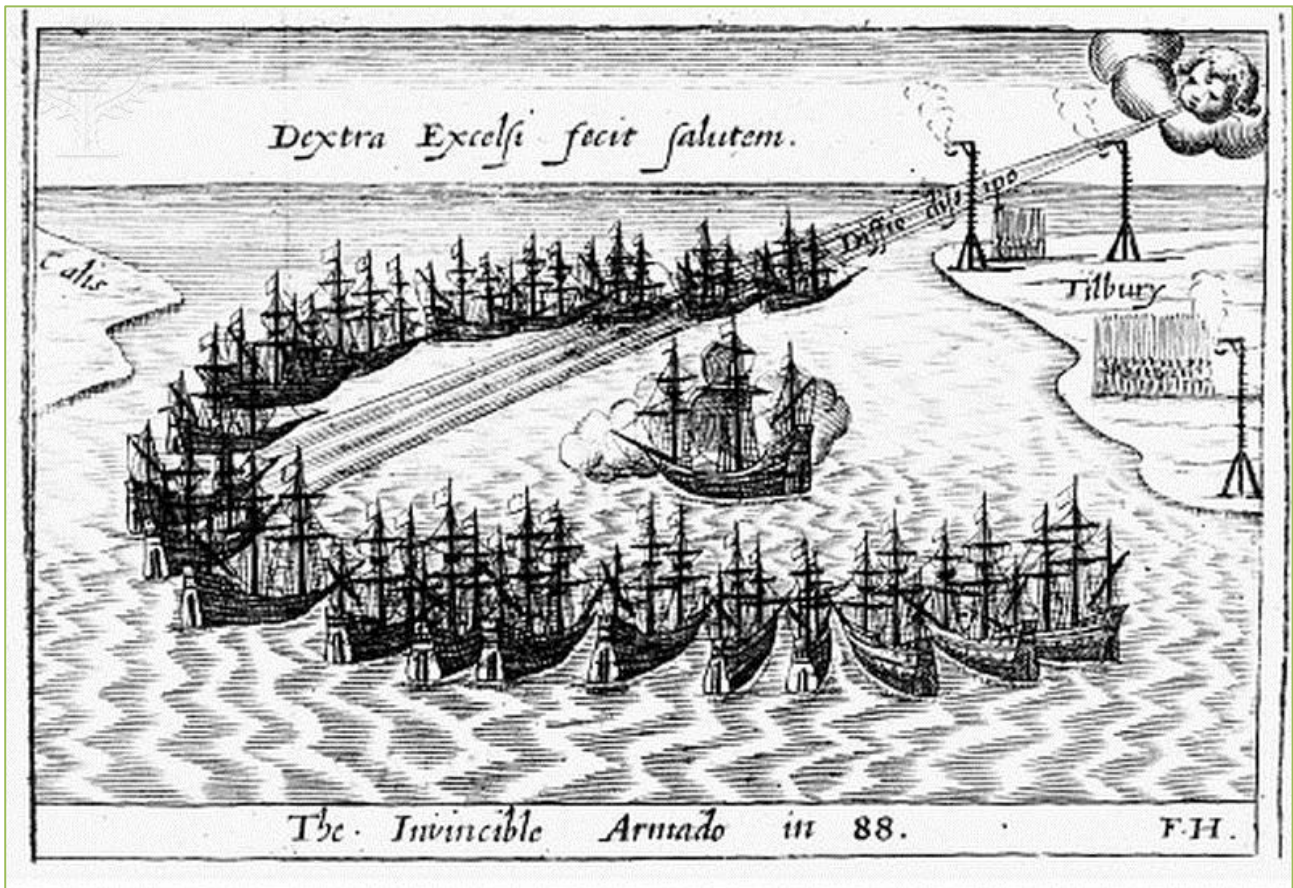


Source A: Elizabeth I at Tilbury

Queen Elizabeth I of England addresses her troops at Tilbury, Essex, whilst awaiting an onslaught by the Spanish Armada. It was here that she gave her famous speech ‘I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too’.



Source B: A portrait of Sir Francis Drake, second in command of the English forces.

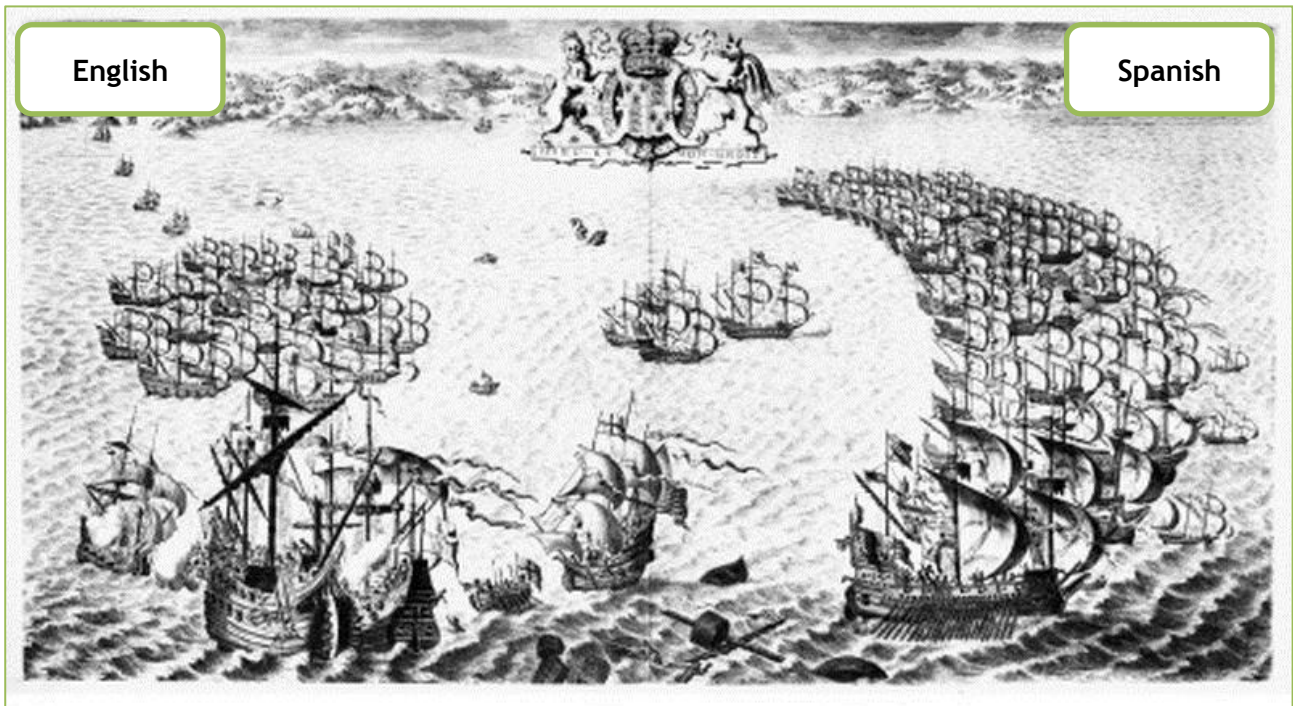


Source C: the Armada in a semi-circle.

From George Carleton's line engraving 'A Thankful Remembrance of God's Mercy', 1624.



Source D: An oil canvas by an unidentified artist.



Source E: English line engraving, 1739



Source F: The retreat of the Spanish, 19th century line engraving.



Source G: A gold medal struck on the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

It shows a laurel tree flourishing on a island, uninjured by rain, lightning and wind with the legend 'Non ipsa pericula tangunt' (not even danger affects it).



Source H: A portrait of Elizabeth I, 1588, by George Gower

Task 2:

Watch the BBC documentary *Battlefield Britain: The Spanish Armada* and use the grid for note taking.

Causes of the Spanish Armada	Reasons why the Spanish Armada failed		
	Spanish failures/problems	English successes	Bad luck for the Spanish

Task 3:

Cut out the cards and arrange in a diamond nine formation to rank the reasons for the Armada's defeat in order of importance.

The Spanish Admiral Medina Sidonia had never commanded the navy before and he suffered from sea sickness.

The Spanish sailed in a crescent formation which made it hard for them to manoeuvre.

The Spanish lost the element of surprise and the English beacons were lit to warn of their arrival.

The English used fireships to force the Spanish to break their crescent formation.

The Spanish guns were poorly designed and this made them difficult to reload.

The Spanish fleet ran into storms on route to England and this cost them time and supplies.

The English ships were smaller, lighter and more manoeuvrable than the Spanish ships.

The English guns were able to be reloaded quickly and during the Battle of Gravelines they aimed low and fired below the waterline.

The Spanish were not used to the tricky waters of the English Channel.

Teaching notes

Task 1:

You could use the picture sources as a carousel activity and position them around the classroom. Alternatively they are included in a PowerPoint (subscribers only) so this could be done as a class.

Task 2:

The BBC documentary *Battlefield Britain: The Spanish Armada* (58 mins) is well worth using in the classroom. It is available online. www.dailymotion.com/video/x489m4y_battlefield-britain-e04-the-battle-against-the-spanish-armada_shortfilms (link working at time of publication).

Task 3:

This is designed to get students to develop their own opinions on why the Spanish Armada failed.

Students cut out the diamonds and arrange them into one large diamond with the most important reason why the Armada failed at the top leading down to the least important reason at the bottom.

Extension:

There are a range of activities that could follow on from the diamond nine:

1. Students write a paragraph (or even an essay) to explain the most and least important reasons why the Spanish Armada failed.
2. The diamonds could be colour coded into the following categories and decide which of the categories led to the failure of the Armada :
 - a. The failures of the Spanish
 - b. The successes of the English
 - c. The bad luck of the Spanish
3. Students could then get into groups and write an account of the failure of the Armada in the style of a radio commentary. They would need to include all of the factors included in their diamond nine.
4. Students could have a debate on which they argue for the importance of different reasons why the Spanish Armada failed.

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