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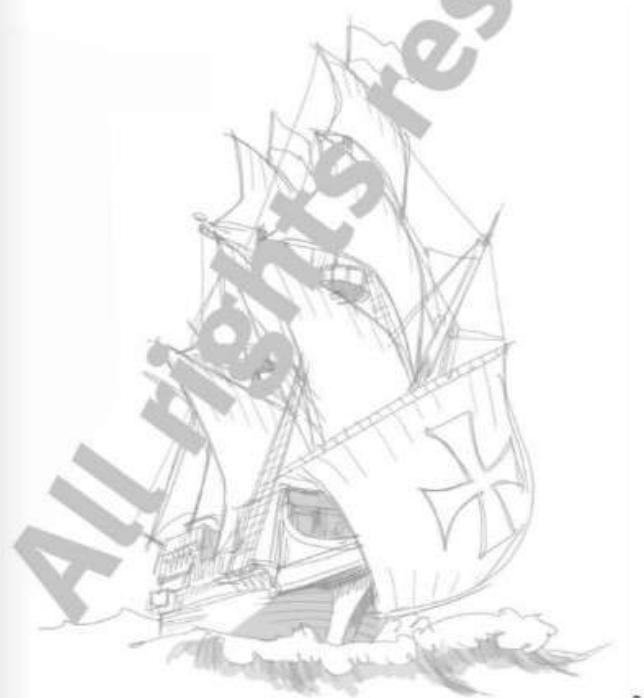
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Before you start

1. What do you already know about Sir Francis Drake? Arrange your ideas in a mind map. You can add more information when you learn more about him from the story.



2. You will read these words very often in the story. Match the words with their meaning. Use a dictionary if you need to.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. fleet | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. seafarer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. to invade | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. to attack | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. harbour | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. damaged | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. cannon | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. victory | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. gunpowder | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. royal court | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. pirate | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. galleon | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. to plunder | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. horizon | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- The act of winning against an enemy or in a competition.
- Where the sky touches the sea.
- A group of ships.
- To use violence against other people.
- Broken.
- An explosive substance.
- A place where ships load and unload.
- A large sailing ship used in the past.
- A person who travels by boat and commands a boat.
- A very large gun, usually on wheels.
- The official home of a king or queen.
- To steal something, especially during war.
- To enter and attack a country.
- Someone who attacks ships and steals from them.

The characters

Although Sir Francis Drake enjoys legendary status in Britain today, he is a real historical figure. The fleet sent by King Philip II of Spain to invade England in 1588, known as The Spanish Armada, is also fact, not fiction. Here is a short introduction to the most important people involved in this dramatic episode of European history:



SIR FRANCIS DRAKE

Sir Francis Drake was a famous English seafarer and captain who lived in the 16th century. To the English he was a hero. To the Spanish he was no more than a pirate. He spent years stealing silver and gold from Spanish ships.



QUEEN ELIZABETH I

Queen Elizabeth I was Queen of England and Ireland from 1558 until her death in 1603. This was a time of economic and cultural growth in England, also known as The Golden Age. Elizabeth never married or had any children.



WILLIAM CECIL

William Cecil was the chief advisor to Queen Elizabeth I. He helped the queen make decisions and advised her on policies.



SIR FRANCIS WALSINGHAM

Sir Francis Walsingham was Queen Elizabeth's spymaster. He had spies all over Europe to collect information about England's enemies.

cultural relating to music, art, literature etc. | **growth** the process of growing | **policy** government strategy (on health, finance etc.) | **spy** sb who secretly gathers information about sb else



PHILIP II

Philip II of Spain was king of Europe's most powerful country from 1556 to 1598. He ruled over one of the world's largest empires, with colonies all over the world.



ALONSO DE GUZMAN

Alonso de Guzman was commander-in-chief of the Spanish Armada and the Duke of Medina Sidonia. Unlike Sir Francis Drake, Guzman was not a good seaman.



REVENGE

Revenge was a galleon built in 1577. It was Sir Francis Drake's flagship in the battle of the Spanish Armada. *Revenge* was a relatively small galleon, which made it very fast. It could carry up to 20 heavy cannons. The ship was captured by the Spanish in 1591.

to rule over to be in control of | **empire** a group of countries that is ruled by one person or government | **colony** a country that is ruled by another more powerful country | **to sink sth** (sink, sunk) to make sth go down under the water



The sun is going down over the dark water of the Atlantic. From the deck of his ship, Sir Francis Drake looks out at the green shores of Spain in the distance. In the port of Cádiz people are lighting candles in their homes, getting ready for the night.

"We wait for darkness," Drake tells his second-in-command, William Burrows.

Flags are waved from the deck of Drake's galleon, sending signals to the other ships. Red, blue and white flags. Four galleons and twenty other ships, smaller in size, are waiting on the water.

Darkness falls. The ships put up their sails. The wind is perfect. Slowly the English fleet sails into the enemy's harbour.

"Wait for my command before firing," Drake tells his officers.

On the gun deck, the sailors have their cannons ready.

Drake brings his fleet into the harbour. When he sees the Spanish boats, he gives the command to turn his galleon so that the cannons can be fired from the side.

to sail to be controlled by wind | **to fire** to shoot a gun or cannon | **deck** one of the floors on a ship



The Spanish see the English ships. Drake can hear the Spanish sailors shouting in Spanish. Alarm bells ring. But it's too late. Drake's magnificent galleon has already turned. Its cannons are aimed at the Spanish ships.

"Fire!" Drake commands.

A huge explosion rings out of the galleon's belly. Smoke rises into the night air. The cannon shells fly into the Spanish ships. Masts fall. Men scream. Shouting. Chaos. Drake's men fire again, and again, and again. The Spanish hardly have time to load their cannons.

"We will teach these Catholics a lesson!" Drake tells his officers.

"No Spaniard will ever invade England. Not with these ships!"

Fighting goes on all night and the next day. Some English ships drop anchor in the port. English soldiers go into the city, killing and plundering.

Drake destroys one Spanish ship after another. His officers count more than thirty boats.

Drake knows that his queen will be pleased with him.

magnificent very beautiful | **mast** a tall pole on a ship that supports the sails | **anchor** a heavy, metal object that is dropped into water to stop a boat from moving | **to destroy** to break sth so it cannot be repaired