

# ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND 1558-1603 INTERACTIVE

## ELIZABETH I AND MARRIAGE

### Source A

Although Elizabeth was deluged with proposals of marriage from European royal houses she never married. She preferred to reign alone. And she knew how to do this as few others have done.

**L. Dannert, World History (1951)**

### Source B

You will never marry.... the Queen of England is too proud to suffer a commander... you think if you were married, you would only be Queen of England, and now you are king and queen both.

**Sir James Melville, Scottish Ambassador to England in conversation with Queen Elizabeth (1564)**

### Source C

By judgement of physicians acquainted with her Majesty's body... she can have children. The investigation... proves that her Majesty to be very apt for the procreation of children.

**Reported by William Cecil, in March 1579, to other members of the Privy Council.**

### Source D

Who was the queen's husband to be, and what power was he to have over the government of the country? ... If he were a foreigner there was no knowing what power he might get over the queen, power which he would very likely use for the good of a foreign country. If he were an Englishman, he must be chosen from among the queen's subjects, and then it was certain that there would be jealousy and strife among all the great nobles in the country.

**Hugh Arnold-Forster, A History of England (1898)**

### TASK

Study Sources A-D. Give as many reasons as you can why Elizabeth did not get married.