

# What is propaganda?

Often used during a war, propaganda is information that has been carefully chosen to make people agree with your point of view.

It makes you look good and other people look bad. It is often not very honest.



# Portraits and propaganda

The Tudors used their portraits to show the world a certain image of themselves.

There was no TV or internet so it was difficult for people to disagree with the picture the artist made.

The artist was paid by the person who commissioned their portrait and so they would want to please them rather than draw an accurate picture. They also included lots of symbols to show what type of person in the portrait was.

Crown:  
Symbol  
of  
royalty

Globe:  
ambitions to  
extend her  
empire – her  
hand is on  
South  
America,  
source of  
Spain's gold.



Ships on left  
are the  
English, those  
on the right  
the Spanish  
being  
destroyed on  
the rocks

Pearls:  
High  
status

## The Armada Portrait



## Edward VI

This portrait was painted in 1547, when Edward was 10 years old

He is painted to look like his father, Henry VIII.

Edward's importance as the heir to the throne meant that many portraits of him were made so there is a far more complete record of his appearance as a child than of his half-sisters Mary and Elizabeth.

## Henry VIII

This portrait was painted in 1537.

It has been described as propaganda designed to make Henry look stronger and more powerful.

Henry's legs were much shorter in reality than in the painting.

The painting also shows Henry as young and full of health, when he was in his forties and had been badly injured earlier in the year in an accident.

He was also suffering from health problems.





## Elizabeth I

This portrait was commissioned in 1592.

Despite looking youthful, Elizabeth was 60 at the time.

In reality, she had skin that was blemished by small pox and burned by the lead in her make-up. Her teeth were black because of decay and she wore a wig due to hair loss.

TASK: Pick one of these pictures or a Tudor portrait of your own choice and describe it in detail.

Are there any objects shown? What might they show? What does the expression and body language show?