Handout *The Spanish Armada / Ireland*

**Importance of the defeat of the Spanish Armada for British naval supremacy**

- Spain: dominant country in Europe during Age of Exploration
- Spanish Armada -> fleet that sailed against England

**Intentions:**
- prepared with attempt to attack England and conquer it
- overthrowing Elizabeth I of England
- stopping her involvement in Spanish Netherlands & privateering in Atlantic and Pacific
- wiping out English fleet

Wind changed on trip to England
- many ships of the Spanish Armada ran aground
- remaining ships were forced to sail North, around Ireland & Scotland

→ Spanish Armada was defeated by England

**Importance for England and their profit:**
- achieved naval supremacy
- most powerful country at sea
- successful in colonialism
- could colonise lots of countries all over the world

**Rule over Ireland (1601)**

- Protestant Queen Elizabeth on the English throne (1558-1603)
- England: powerful, aggressive country
- Queen was determined to achieve the complete subjection of Ireland and to make it an English province
- Queen's Lord Deputy in Ireland carried out her policies in successive savage wars of extermination
- Ireland was settled by Protestant English people; they were encouraged to treat native Catholic Irish as inferior people and they despised their Catholic religion
Sir Francis Drake

- loyal subject of Elizabeth I
- English captain, gifted sailor
- inspired new form of ship for Queen's Navy ("race ship"); 25 instances were built
- lower in the water
- enable them to sail closer to the wind
- more flexible than Spanish ships
- 1587: he attacked Cadiz harbour and destroyed ships that were being prepared for the Spanish Armada; became a famous and superior person
- sailed alongside his enemy but at a distance
- gunners fired a murderous volley of enemies
- => highly effective strategy
- Drake died in West Indies 1596 in an attack of the Spanish

SOURCES

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