

PHILIP II OF SPAIN

PRUDENT KING OR EVIL RULER?

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write the heading "PHILIP II OF SPAIN".
2. Put a vertical line to divide the page.
3. Write "PRUDENT KING" on the left part and "EVIL RULER" on the right part.
4. Read the pieces of information, decide on which side the information belongs, and write it.
5. When you have finished write a CONCLUSION in which you decide if he was a prudent king or an evil ruler, or maybe both.



During the reign of Philip II, the Spanish monarchy reached a great power, a Golden Age. Philip also added new territories to the throne when he became the heir of the king of Portugal.

He was considered an elegant, courteous and gracious man, interested in war and arts.

Philip II was a fervent Catholic. He did not like Protestants or Catholic people with Jewish or Muslim background and he had no religious tolerance.

Philip II made extensive surveys to rule the new territories of the Americas in a better way.

Many people in England considered Philip II of Spain a foolish man, after his childless marriage with Mary I Tudor and the failed invasion of his Spanish Armada during the reign of Elizabeth I.

At the time of Philip II, there were a numbers of state bankruptcies due to big debts, massive war loans and economic troubles.

Philip II was involved in many conflicts and wars due to his religious ideas. These wars were very expensive and killed thousands of people.

Philip defeated the Turks in Lepanto in 1571, the fleet was put under the command of this clever half brother John of Austria.

To rule his countries, Philip II was a hard worker and used a great number of officers who wrote documents to keep records of all the government issues.

A "Black Legend" says Philip was greed, merciless, a tyrant who not only massacred some of his subjects in the Lower Countries or the Americas, but was also was involved in the death of his own son, Prince Charles.

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This worksheet was inspired by Mrs. Graham's "Henry VIII Star or Monster" worksheet on www.schoolhistory.co.uk