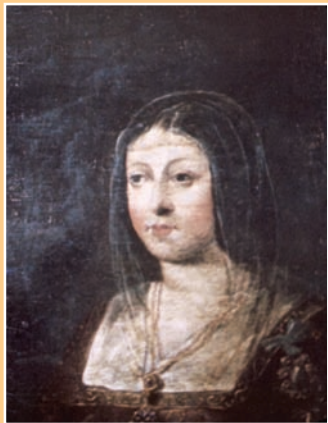


Women History



Isabella as a girl



Isabella at the time of her marriage

Queen Isabella

Isabella was born in 1451, the daughter of John, King of Castile and his wife. Castile was a country in what is now Spain.

Isabella's father died when she was 3 years old. Her older half-brother, Henry, became king. When Isabella was about 11, Henry allowed her to come to his castle and go to school.

Henry was a weak king and there were many conflicts during his reign. The noblemen wanted Isabella's younger brother, Alfonso, to be king. Henry fought the noblemen in several battles in order to stay king. When Alfonso died, the noblemen wanted Isabella to be queen. In 1468, Henry made a promise that when he died, Isabella would be queen.

In 1469, Isabella married Ferdinand of Aragon. Aragon was the country next to Castile. Ferdinand was going to be king of Aragon when his father died. With the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, Castile and Aragon would be joined as one country. This one country would be Spain.

Henry died in 1474 and Isabella became queen of Castile. She and Ferdinand worked to make Spain a better place. They reduced crime and reorganized the government.

In 1492, Isabella agreed to pay for Christopher Columbus' journey to explore the world. Columbus sailed west and landed in the West Indies. Spain continued to explore new lands and became very wealthy.

Isabella died in 1504. Her children married into many of the royal families of Europe, including England and Portugal.



Painting of Isabella and Ferdinand meeting with Christopher Columbus.

When was Isabella born?

What two countries joined to make Spain?

Who did Isabella pay to explore the world?

Who did Isabella marry?

Q
AND
A