Mary burned to death 284 Protestants in five years.	One person was burned by Mary on average every five days.	Mary broke her promise to Lady Jane Grey and had her executed.
Mary killed important people in the church such as the Archbishop.	Other monarchs executed far more people than Mary in other ways.	Most of the English population were completely unaffected by Mary's executions.
Mary could see that the burnings were having no effect on changing people's faith yet she still continued with them.	Mary's actions were similar to those in other countries. Mary's father-in- law, who had been King of Spain, burned, beheaded or buried alive 30,000 Protestants during his reign.	The book which tells us how horrible Mary's executions were is written by a Protestant. He wanted to make her look evil and almost certainly exaggerated the stories. He says that she executed 284 people but a close inspection of his book shows that he has often counted the same person twice.
It was normal in the 16 th century to punish anyone who disagreed with you by executing them. Mary's sister, Elizabeth, once executed 300 people at once after they rebelled against her and Mary's father Henry VIII executed 70,000 people for challenging his authority.	Executing people for crime was very common in the 16 th century. The punishment for stealing was hanging.	Other monarchs did not kill as many people by burning them at the stake: Henry burned 81 people in 38 years. Edward burned 2 people in 6 years. Elizabeth burned 5 in 35 years.
When Mary became Queen they were celebrations because large numbers of people wanted her to make England Catholic again.	Many Protestants living in England feared for their lives and fled to other countries like Holland or Switzerland.	Mary appears to have disliked brutality. Early in her reign, she forgave 400 people who rebelled against her in a rebellion known as Wyatt's rebellion.
Rumours say that Mary had evidence that her half-sister Elizabeth had plotted to kill her but Mary decided to destroy the evidence because she did not want Elizabeth to be killed for treason.	Mary allowed 800 Protestants to leave the country. She could have stopped them from doing this and killed them.	Mary was probably influenced by her advisers, particularly Cardinal Pole who had been treated badly when Edward was king and wanted revenge on the Protestants. He was appointed to his position in 1555 and this is when the burnings began.