

Inquiry Activity: Was _____ an absolute ruler?

Students will research one of the following monarchs of the period and determine whether she was an absolute ruler. What made her absolute? What limits were there to her power? How did she demonstrate her power?

Objective: You must explain the events, practices, policies, and views of the monarchs that justify them as being described as Absolute.

Options:

Spain:	Queen Isabella
England:	Queen Elizabeth I or Queen Mary
Austria:	Queen Maria Theresa
Russia:	Catherine the Great

For your presentation, you need to research basic biographical information and show whether or not they were absolute monarchs. For instance:

When were they born? When did they rule? What led to their rise and fall of power? What were the major problems and accomplishments of their reign?

What powers did they have over the government, economy, religion, war, etc.?

What global connections did the empire have during the 15th - 18th centuries?

Consider all interactions with the west, trade goods, and empire building.

How did their empire expand? What systems of labor and gender structure are found in your empire?

How did the monarchs live fabulously? What role did they have in shaping the culture of their country? How did they spend their money? Did their country suffer as a result?

Were they true absolute monarchs controlling every aspect of their culture or did someone or something prevent them from achieving absolute rule?

How did they view the rights of their people? Did they believe that the people can be trusted to govern? Did they believe the people should be given more rights or that their own power should be limited? Did they believe in supporting progress in science, religions, philosophy, or government in their country? Did they seek to reform society and humanity?

Your presentation must include some speaking before the audience, a visual, a handout highlighting the key points about your monarch, and a bibliography.

