

## Week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June

### Years 5 and 6 History

#### History and Geography

We have now finished our short project about the Ancient Egyptians. This week, we are going to learn about the life of a famous Tudor king: Henry VIII.



- Please go to **BBC Bitesize** and find the **history lesson for 18<sup>th</sup> May: Who was King Henry VIII?** You can find this lesson here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z4b8jhv>

- Watch the first video to learn about how King Henry VIII changed England forever.
- Please read the information underneath this clip really carefully.
- Watch the second clip to listen to a song about Henry VIII from CBBC Horrible Histories.
- Now watch the third clip to learn about how Henry treated his six wives.

## **Activities**

Now have a go at these activities.

**Activity 1:** Using information from the guide, make a fact file about King Henry VIII. You could include information about Henry VIII's hobbies, wives, or even the Reformation.

### **Activity 2**

Now play the game to try to put the events of Henry's life in chronological order.

**Activity 3:** Use these comprehension sheets to see how much you have learned about King Henry VIII.

# King Henry VIII



Remembered as one of the most famous monarchs in history, Henry VIII is probably most known for his many wives and his incredibly bad temper. In fact, Henry's legacy consists of much more than this, including significant changes in England and across Europe: many of which have influenced the world around us today.



## Childhood

Henry was born on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1491 in Greenwich, London. He was the second son born to King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. He was said to be very handsome and athletic in his youth. His older brother, Arthur, was born five years earlier and therefore Henry was second in line to the English throne. In total, Henry had six siblings, though sadly only three survived past infancy. As well as a brother, Henry had two sisters; Margaret, who was two years older, and Mary, who was born five years after Henry.

In 1502, Arthur fell ill and died aged only 15, possibly from sweating sickness. This meant that Henry, at only ten years old, was now in line as the next King of England. His father kept him under strict supervision and he had very little training as to what a king's role involved.



## Early reign

Henry VII died on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1509, leaving 17-year-old Henry as his successor. Henry decided soon after that he would marry his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. Henry and Catherine were married on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1509. They had a number of children who were sadly stillborn before their daughter Mary was born in 1516.

## Reformation of the Church

Henry was desperate for a son to carry on his legacy. As Catherine had failed to have a son, Henry decided to divorce her and find another wife. In 1525, he fell in love with Anne Boleyn - one of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting and chose her to be his next queen. However, Henry's argument that he should be allowed to divorce Catherine because she had been his brother's wife was not supported by the head of the Catholic Church, the Pope, and his divorce was not given. This made Henry furious and he decided to break England away from the Catholic Church, creating the Church of England, of which he would be the head. This was known as the Reformation and sent shockwaves throughout Europe.



### Henry's Many Wives

In 1532, Henry finally married Anne and together they had a daughter, Elizabeth. However, Anne also failed to give him the son he desired. Henry lost his patience with her and, having been accused of being unfaithful to Henry, Anne was executed in 1536.

The day after Anne's execution, Henry became engaged to Jane Seymour and they were married ten days later. On 12<sup>th</sup> October 1537, Jane gave birth to a son, Edward. Henry was overjoyed at his dream finally being realised, however his joy was short-lived as Jane died less than two weeks later due to complications from the birth, leaving Henry devastated.

Three years after Jane's death, Henry's advisors suggested that he should marry Anne of Cleves, a German princess. Having seen her portrait, Henry agreed to the marriage. Unfortunately, Henry did not like her when they met in person and they were divorced six months after their marriage in 1540. Anne and Henry remained friends, however, and she was affectionately referred to as the King's 'beloved sister'.

Henry then married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard, who was 17 years old and a cousin of Anne Boleyn. By this time, Henry was now 49, overweight and had painful leg ulcers which often caused him to be bedridden or in a foul mood. Catherine, being much younger and energetic, was often bored and started a relationship with Thomas Culpeper, the King's groom. They were eventually discovered and Catherine was executed on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1542.

Henry's final wife was Catherine Parr. Catherine had been married and widowed twice previously. She worked hard to reunite Henry with his daughters Mary and Elizabeth and succeeded in getting them reinstated to the succession, meaning they were now back in line to the throne after their half-brother Edward and therefore was responsible for the next, and final, three monarchs inheriting the crown.



### Death and Legacy

Henry began to grow frailer due to his weight and many leg ulcers and, in 1547, Henry died at the age of 55. His son, Edward, succeeded him as King. He requested to be buried next to his 'true wife', Jane Seymour.

Along with his many wives, the reformation and his bad temper, Henry is also remembered as the 'father of the British Navy' after strengthening England's naval forces with many new warships. He was also an author and

composer, a keen joustier and a fan of playing tennis.



His legacy as one of England's most infamous monarchs remains today and all three of his children succeeded him, including Elizabeth, who is remembered as one of the greatest monarchs in history and whose reign became known as 'The Golden Age'.

# King Henry VIII Questions

1. What illness is it believed Henry's brother Arthur died from?

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2. Find and copy the word that shows Catherine of Aragon had been married before her marriage to Henry.

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3. What name is given to the break from the Catholic Church and the creation of the Church of England?

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4. Which wives were executed by Henry? **Tick two.**

Anne Boleyn ☐

Anne of Cleves ☐

Jane Seymour ☐

Catherine Howard ☐

5. How old was Catherine Howard when she married Henry? **Tick one.**

15 ☐

55 ☐

17 ☐

49 ☐

6. Why do you think Henry referred to Jane Seymour as his 'true wife'?  
Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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7. Catherine Parr was responsible for a large change in the future of the Tudor line.  
What was this change and why was it so important?

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8. Why is Henry sometimes referred to as the 'Father of the British Navy'?

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### King Henry VIII Questions

9. At the start of the text, it says that Henry is remembered for his bad temper.  
What evidence is in the text to support this?

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10. Do you think Henry VIII is worthy of being one of England's most famous monarchs?  
Explain your answer fully.

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