

Lesson 3 – Henry VIII

L.O. To understand who Henry VIII was and why he had 6 wives

Remember if you have any questions about your learning please email learning@wembleyprimaryschool.brent.sch.uk

Who was Henry VII?

Henry VIII was the second son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York and was born on 28th June 1491 in Greenwich. Henry had an older brother, Arthur, and two sisters, Mary and Margaret.

Henry was a very spoilt child, he even had his own 'Whipping boy'. This is someone who would get punished instead of Henry every time Henry did something wrong.

When he was a prince, Henry was tall, handsome and wore very fine clothes. Henry was very academic and studied Latin, maths, astronomy and music. He particularly enjoyed composing his own music and singing.

During his free time, and he had a lot of it, he enjoyed horse-riding and hunting.



How did Henry become King?

If Henry was the second child, how did he become king? Usually the first born child becomes King or Queen when the current one dies. However, this was not meant to be for Henry's brother Arthur who died in 1502, from what was known as the 'sweating sickness'. It is important to note that Arthur died at the age 16 (Henry was 10) and married 5 months before this to Catherine of Aragon.

7 years Later in 1509 Henry VII died and Prince Henry now became King Henry VIII just before his 18th birthday. On becoming King Henry stated that he wanted to be a strong one, but more than that, he wanted a son to succeed him. He decided at that point to marry Catherine of Aragon – his brothers former wife. They were quick to marry and crowned King and Queen of England.



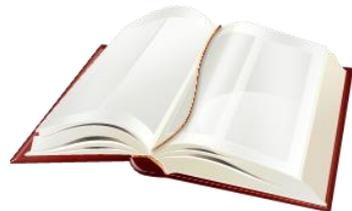
This image show Henry at his coronation.

Importantly: as King there wasn't much that Henry had to do each day. He probably only actually worked for about 1 hour a day, when he'd sign a few documents!



Of course there were decisions to be made in running the country, but generally Henry left most of these decisions to the people who worked for him.

This allowed him time to do the things that he enjoyed doing.



Three of the men who Henry left to run the country were....



As these men ran the country, they became very powerful and wealthy themselves.



Thomas Wolsey



Thomas More



Thomas Cromwell

Things were fine for these men...
as long as they managed to do
what Henry wanted.

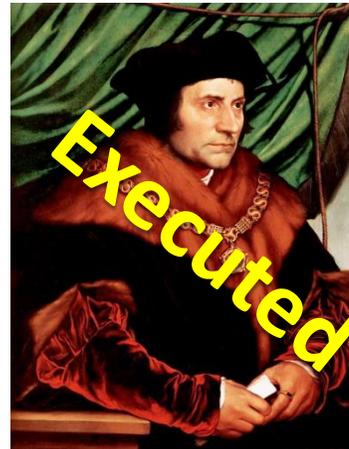


Unfortunately, all three of
them failed to get **everything**
Henry wanted... and paid with
their lives.

These men will become
important in the next lesson.



Thomas Wolsey



Thomas More



Thomas Cromwell

Remember we mentioned Henry VIII had more than one wife?
Let's see who they were and what happened to them.

It is important to note that Henry is famous for his furious temper, often executing those who angered him, and his love of feasting.

However, perhaps most famously, he is remembered for having six wives.

Henry's Six Wives

Click on each wife for information about them.



Catherine of Aragon
1485 - 1536



Anne Boleyn
c.1501 - 1536



Jane Seymour
c.1508 - 1537

Anne of Cleves
1515 - 1557



Catherine Howard
c.1523 - 1542



Catherine Parr
c.1508 - 1548



Catherine of Aragon

Henry married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, when he was 17 years old and she was 23 years old.

Catherine, a Spanish princess, had previously been married to Henry's older brother, Arthur. After only a few months of marriage, Arthur fell ill and died.

When Henry became king in 1509, he decided to marry Catherine himself.

Throughout their marriage, Henry and Catherine had several children. Sadly, however, only one child survived past infancy; a daughter, Mary, who would later go on to become Queen of England in 1553.

Henry was desperate for a son and heir to carry on his legacy. As the years passed, Henry began to notice other women at court and, in 1525, fell in love with Anne Boleyn, one of Catherine's ladies-in-waiting.

Henry decided that he wanted to divorce Catherine and marry Anne.

As divorce was not allowed in the Catholic church, Henry tried to get special permission from the Pope to annul his marriage. This became known as the King's "Great Matter".

The Pope refused him, angering Henry. In order to get his way, Henry decided to break England away from Rome and the Catholic church and instead created the Church of England, appointing himself head of the church.

In 1533, Henry's marriage to Catherine was declared null and void and Henry was free to marry his second wife, Anne Boleyn.

After her marriage to Henry was declared void, Catherine retired to live a quiet life, spending most of her time in one room except when she went to pray.

She was forbidden from seeing her daughter, Mary, unless she accepted Anne as the new queen, which she refused to do.

In late 1535, Catherine's health began to fail and on 7th January 1536, she died at the age of 50.



Anne Boleyn

Anne was very skilled in the art of diplomacy. She had previously lived at French court and knew how to make friendships with important people.

As Henry's queen, Anne was said to have had a lot of influence in the king's opinions so many sought her approval.

Unusual for the time, Anne was very spirited and opinionated and often clashed with Henry when he felt she spoke out of turn.

In 1533, Anne gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, who would go on to become one of England's most famous queens, Elizabeth I. Henry was disappointed but believed that as they were both young, sons would follow. Sadly for Anne, this was not to be the case and Henry began to tire of her.

In early 1536, Henry started to court Jane Seymour. Jane was moved into quarters near to the king which infuriated Anne.

On 2nd May 1536, Anne was arrested on charges of being unfaithful to the king. She was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death.

On 19th May, Anne was beheaded.



Jane Seymour

Jane was part of a noble family that lived in the north of England. She was given the role of lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn, which is where Henry first spotted her.

Jane and Henry became engaged the day after Anne's execution, marrying on 30th May 1536.

Jane was said to be gentle-natured, peaceful and loving. She very rarely spoke to Henry about political matters and when she did, he warned her not to 'meddle in his affairs'.

Jane formed a close friendship with her stepdaughter Mary and tried hard to restore her relationship with her father.

Jane fell pregnant in January 1537 and Henry was delighted. In September, she gave birth to a son, Edward. Henry was overjoyed as he finally had the son and heir he had always desired.

Sadly, Henry's joy turned to despair when Jane fell ill shortly after giving birth. She died from an infection on 24th October, devastating Henry.

Jane was buried in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.



Anne of Cleves

Two years after Jane's death, Henry's advisors persuaded him to marry again. Thomas Cromwell, the king's chief minister, asked him to consider marrying Anne of Cleves, a German princess.

After receiving a portrait of Anne, in which he thought she was beautiful enough, Henry agreed to the marriage. Anne travelled to England in late 1539.

Henry couldn't wait to meet Anne and travelled to meet her on New Year's Day 1540. While on her way to London, Anne was surprised by a group of masked men, led by a tall burly middle-aged man who tried to kiss her. Anne, unused to such behaviour - pushed him away in bewilderment. In her embarrassment, she had rejected Henry himself, who was not impressed by her lack of sophistication.

The tradition of meeting your betrothed in disguise was meant to demonstrate true love, as the bride-to-be would see through the disguise and recognise her beloved. It was not a good start.

Having had his pride wounded, Henry claimed he was disappointed when he met her, saying to Cromwell that she was nothing like her portrait and he didn't like her.

Despite his protests, Henry and Anne were married on 6th January 1540.



This is the portrait of Anne that Henry saw.



Anne and Henry were only married for around 6 months. As Henry was so unhappy, he asked Anne for an annulment, which she agreed.

As a reward for not fighting the annulment, Anne was given lands and money to keep her comfortable for life. She was also referred to as the king's 'beloved sister' and it was ordered that she be treated as the most important woman in England, except for his wife and daughters.

Anne stayed in England the rest of her life in comfort and died in 1557 at the age of 41.

Catherine Howard

Catherine Howard came to court as a lady-in-waiting to Anne of Cleves and she quickly caught Henry's eye.

On 28th July 1540, Henry and Catherine married. She was just 17 years old.

Catherine was very young and carefree, spending her time dressing in the new clothes Henry gave her regularly and dancing.

She found her role as stepmother to Henry's children difficult, particularly with his eldest daughter, Mary, who was older than Catherine.

During her marriage, Catherine began a relationship with one of the king's groomsmen, Thomas Culpeper. This, along with the fact that Catherine had been in relationships before her marriage and not told the king about them, was discovered in November 1541.

On 23rd November, Catherine was stripped of her title as queen and imprisoned. She was found guilty of treason against the king and sentenced to death.

Catherine was beheaded on 10th February 1542.



Catherine Parr

Henry's final wife, Catherine Parr, had been married twice previously. Both husbands had died and Catherine was a wealthy widow.

Henry first noticed Catherine after she took a position in his daughter Mary's household.

They were married on 12th July 1543. Catherine was around 31 years old and Henry was 52 years old.

As queen, Catherine showed skill when dealing with matters of state. She also acted as regent when Henry went to war in France in 1544.

Catherine felt it was her duty to bring the aging king closer to his children. She was able to persuade Henry to restore both Mary and Elizabeth to the line of succession, meaning they were in line to the throne after Edward.

On 28th January, 1547, Henry died. Before his death, he had ordered that Catherine was to be given a large sum of money and treated with great respect.

She married her sweetheart, Thomas Seymour, the following May and had a daughter, Mary, with him.

Sadly, shortly after giving birth, Catherine caught a fever and died on 5th September 1548 aged 36.

Regent: a person appointed to administer a state because the monarch is a minor or is absent or sick.



Your Task

1. Who is King Henry VIII? Can you give an explanation for why we remember him today?
2. Explain: who his wives were, what happened to each one and why. Make sure you put this in your own words. You can present this on the computer, in writing, through a series of drawings and explanations e.g. a comic strip.
3. Watch this fun video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRiF_kIJFC0
Then create portraits of Henry and his wives. Put them in order and write underneath what happened to each of them.

If you feel you need more support please use the following websites:

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Tudors.html>

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/tudors>

<https://www.lgfl.net/learning-resources/summary-page/the-tudors-in-london>