

# 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 is responsible for 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 London. He was the second son born to King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. His older brother, Arthur, was born five years earlier and Henry was second in line to the English throne. 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 died aged only 15. This meant that Henry, at only ten years old, was heir to the throne. His father kept him well supervised and he had very little training as to what a king's role involved.

Henry VII died on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1509, and 17-year-old Henry was crowned. Soon after, Henry married his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon.



## Did You Know...?






Henry VIII was also an author and composer. He also enjoyed jousting and playing tennis.



## Church of England

Henry wanted a son to carry on his legacy. As Catherine had only given him a daughter, Henry decided to divorce her and find another wife. In 1525, he fell in love with Anne Boleyn and chose her to be his next queen. However, the head of the Catholic Church, the Pope, would not allow him to divorce. This made Henry furious, so much so that he decided to break England away from the Catholic Church and create the Church of England, of which he would be the head. This was known as the English Reformation and shocked much of Europe.

## Henry's Six Wives

 <p>Catherine of Aragon</p>	<p><b>Born:</b> 16<sup>th</sup> December 1485</p> <p><b>Married:</b> 11<sup>th</sup> June 1509</p> <p><b>Divorced:</b> 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1533</p> <p><b>Died:</b> 7<sup>th</sup> January 1536</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Born in Castile, Spain.</li> <li>• Married to Henry's brother Arthur for six months before his death.</li> <li>• Gave birth to a daughter, Mary.</li> <li>• Henry divorced Catherine after she failed to give him a son.</li> </ul>
 <p>Anne Boleyn</p>	<p><b>Born:</b> 1501</p> <p><b>Married:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> January 1533</p> <p><b>Died:</b> 19<sup>th</sup> May 1536</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lady-in-waiting to Queen Catherine.</li> <li>• Gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth.</li> <li>• Executed after being accused of being unfaithful to Henry.</li> </ul>
 <p>Jane Seymour</p>	<p><b>Born:</b> 1508</p> <p><b>Married:</b> 30<sup>th</sup> May 1536</p> <p><b>Died:</b> 24<sup>th</sup> October 1537</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lady-in-waiting to Queen Anne.</li> <li>• Gave birth to a son, Edward.</li> <li>• Died a few days after Edward was born due to complications from childbirth, leaving Henry devastated.</li> </ul>
 <p>Anne of Cleves</p>	<p><b>Born:</b> 1515</p> <p><b>Married:</b> 6<sup>th</sup> January 1540</p> <p><b>Divorced:</b> 9<sup>th</sup> July 1540</p> <p><b>Died:</b> 16<sup>th</sup> July 1557</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German princess born in Dusseldorf.</li> <li>• Henry agreed to marry Anne after seeing her portrait but did not like her when he met her in person.</li> <li>• After six months of marriage, Anne agreed to Henry's request for a divorce. Henry was grateful and referred to her as his 'beloved sister'.</li> </ul>
 <p>Catherine Howard</p>	<p><b>Born:</b> 1523</p> <p><b>Married:</b> 28<sup>th</sup> July 1540</p> <p><b>Died:</b> 13<sup>th</sup> February 1542</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Born in Lambeth, London.</li> <li>• Catherine was only 17 years old when she married the King.</li> <li>• Executed in 1542 after being unfaithful to Henry.</li> </ul>



Catherine Parr

**Born:** 1512**Married:**  
12<sup>th</sup> July 1543**Died:**  
5<sup>th</sup> September 1548

- Had been married and widowed twice before marrying Henry.
- Helped to restore Mary and Elizabeth to the line of succession.

## Death

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 third wife, Jane Seymour, who he referred to as his 'true wife'.

## Did You Know...?

Henry VIII is thought of as the 'father of the British Navy'. During his reign, he ordered several new warships to be built and increased the strength of England's armies on the seas.



# King Henry VIII Questions

1. What was the name of Henry's brother?

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2. Fill in the missing words.

Henry VIII was also an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

He also enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_ and playing \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Give two reasons Henry decided to divorce Catherine of Aragon.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. What was the name of Henry and Anne Boleyn's daughter?

Anne	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mary	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Elizabeth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Margaret	<input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Number these wives in the order they married Henry.

Catherine Howard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anne of Cleves	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Anne Boleyn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Catherine Parr	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Catherine of Aragon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jane Seymour	<input type="checkbox"/>
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6. In your own words, explain what the English Reformation was.

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7. Why do you think Henry was grateful to Anne of Cleves after their divorce, referring to her as his 'beloved sister'?

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8. Why do you think Henry chose to be buried next to Jane Seymour?

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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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