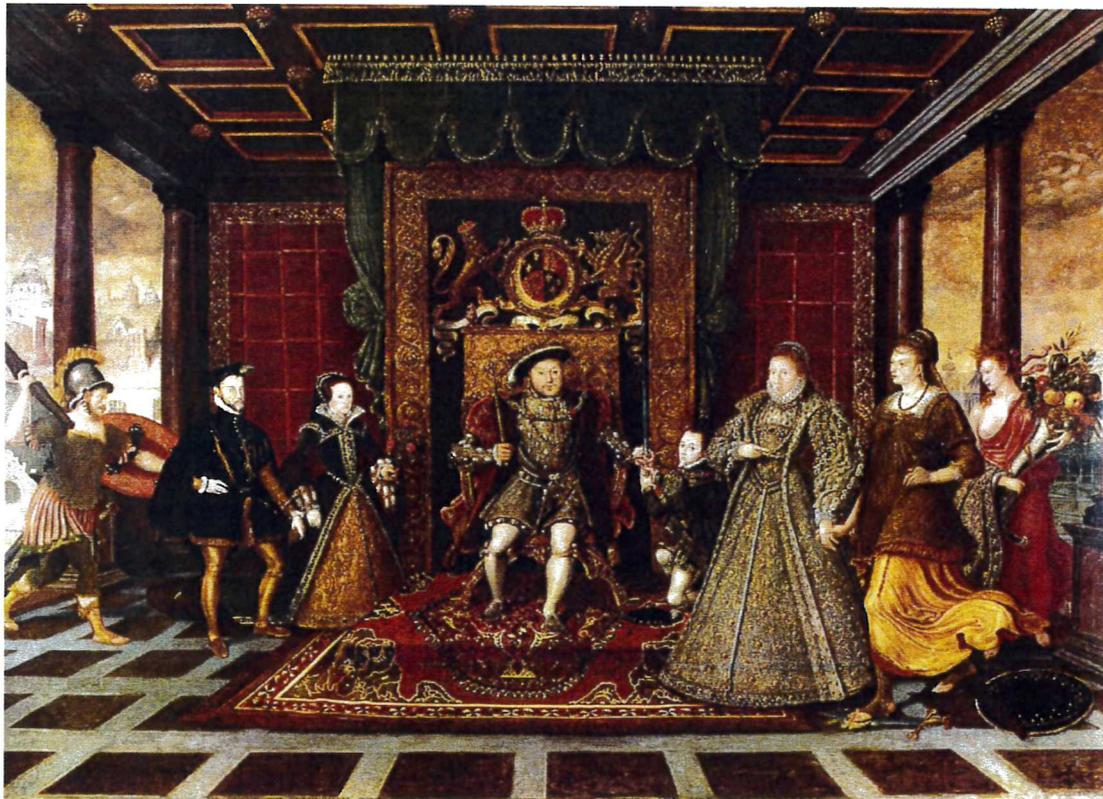


Year 7 Summer History work –
Preparation for Year 8.

The Tudors and the Stuarts

Throughout the Summer, you will study how the royal families of the Tudors and the Stuarts changed England forever. You will focus on the events of

- The Reformation – when England broke with the Catholic Church
- The English Civil War – When England was fighting with itself!!



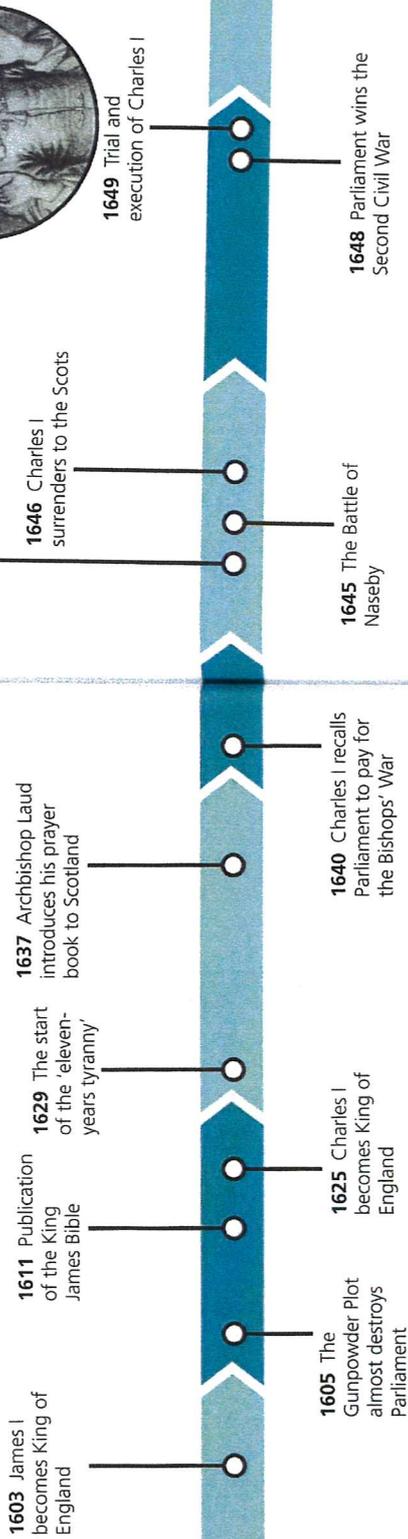
Read through the information in this booklet and, using the knowledge organisers, answer the questions on each page. You can write this or use the computer.

Keep an eye on Google Classroom as we will be updating this with quizzes and more information about these two topics. (Don't worry if you don't understand, we will be going through this again in September but email your History Teacher in the meantime if you have questions.

Have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Unit 4: The English Civil War

Knowledge organiser



Key vocabulary

- Absolutist** A ruler who has absolute power over his or her people
- Banqueting House** Ornate building in the Palace of Whitehall outside which Charles I was executed
- Bishops' War** An uprising against Charles I's religious reforms which began in Scotland
- Cavalier** The nickname for Royalist cavaliers during the English Civil War
- Civil War** A war between two sides from the same nation
- Divine Right of Kings** The theory that a monarch is appointed by God and should have absolute power
- Levellers** A radical group during the Civil War who demanded equal legal and political rights
- Long Parliament** A Parliament which met, on and off, from 1640–1660
- Member of Parliament** Someone elected to sit in the House of Commons, often abbreviated to 'MP'
- Militia Ordinance** A law by which the English Parliament took control of the army from Charles I
- Newcastle Propositions** A series of demands devised by Parliament in 1646, and rejected by Charles I
- New Model Army** A full-time, professional army formed by Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War
- Parliament** A collection of people representing all of England, who approve or refuse laws
- Parliamentarians** Those who are loyal to Parliament, often during a dispute with the king
- Presbyterian** A strong form of Protestantism that took root in Scotland following the Reformation
- Pride's Purge** The expulsion of all but the most radical Members of Parliament in December 1648
- Puritan** A group of radical Protestants who wore plain clothing and tried to live without sin
- Religious toleration** A policy of allowing many different religions to exist within one state or country
- Roundhead** The nickname for Parliamentarian soldiers during the English Civil War
- Royalists** Those who are loyal to the king, often during a dispute with Parliament

Key vocabulary

- Ship money** A tax imposed on coastal towns to pay for their defence from naval attack
- Star Chamber** The English monarch's personal court, which did not have to give defendants a fair trial
- State Opening of Parliament** The ceremony where England's monarch opens a session of Parliament
- Stuarts** The royal dynasty ruling England from 1603 to 1714
- The eleven-years tyranny** A period from 1629 during which Charles I ruled without calling Parliament
- Touching for the king's evil** The healing touch of a king for those who suffer from skin disease
- Trainbands** The City of London's volunteer militia, who fought for Parliament during the Civil War
- Treason** A crime against your own people, nation, or monarch

Key people

- Charles I** The second Stuart King of England, executed by Parliament following the Civil War
- Guy Fawkes** A leading member of the Gunpowder Plot, given responsibility to guard the explosives
- Henrietta Maria** Queen to Charles I, she was a Catholic and from France
- James I** First Stuart King of England, and son of Mary Queen of Scots
- John Hampden** Member of Parliament, who was tried and imprisoned for not paying ship money
- John Pym** Puritan Member of Parliament, and major opponent to Charles I before the Civil War
- Prince Rupert** Charles I's German nephew, appointed commander of the Royalist cavalry aged only 23
- William Laud** Archbishop of Canterbury who reintroduced some Catholic practices into church services

Charles I and Parliament

Since at least the days of Magna Carta, most English monarchs had accepted that they should share power with the people they ruled.

Coming from Scotland, however, the Stuart kings thought differently. The Stuarts believed that because God was all-powerful, their family must have been chosen to rule England directly by God. To question them, therefore was to question God. This belief was called the '**Divine Right of Kings**'. King of Scotland, James I wrote a book called *The True Law of Free Monarchies*, which explained: "Kings are called Gods; they are appointed by God and answerable only to God".

Charles I

James I's son Charles was a shy and sickly child, who only learned to walk and talk at the age of four, and suffered from a stammer that would stay with him his entire life. He was crowned Charles I after the death of his father in 1625, and showed a fatal combination of bad judgement and stubbornness.

The early years of Charles I's reign were a catalogue of errors. In order to make peace with France, he married the daughter of the King of France, a Catholic named Henrietta Maria. War with France continued anyway, and many of England's Protestant population were now furious their king was married to a foreign Catholic.

Some even suspected Charles was a secret Catholic, who planned for the old faith to creep back into the Church of England. These suspicions increased when he appointed William Laud as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633. Laud brought many aspects of Catholic services back into the Church of England, and sent inspectors to parishes across the country who would fine any priests not following his reforms. This disturbed the overwhelmingly Protestant people of England: it has been estimated that by this time 97 percent of England's population were Protestant, as were 88 percent of the nobility and gentry.

Most concerned by Charles's sympathy for Catholicism were England's **Puritans** (see box). Many Puritans sat in Parliament, where they repeatedly questioned Charles I's policies and tried to limit his power. By 1629, Charles was sick of Parliament questioning his divine right to rule. So, from 1629 until 1640 Charles ruled without calling Parliament once, a period known as the '**eleven-years tyranny**'. Charles wanted to be like the **absolutist** monarchs of Europe, such as the powerful Catholic Kings of France, Louis XIII and XIV.



Engraving of Charles I illustrating the Divine Right of Kings

Fact

To demonstrate their divine power, Stuart kings continued a medieval practice known as '**touching for the king's evil**'. This involved touching people with a skin disease called scrofula in order to heal them.



Charles I and his Catholic wife Henrietta Maria

Without Parliament, however, Charles had no means of raising new taxes. He found a clever way around this problem. There was an old tax called '**ship money**', which was used to tax towns by the coast and build up the navy when England was under threat of invasion (such as during the Spanish Armada). Charles did not need Parliament's permission to raise ship money so, even though England was at peace, he extended it to all parts of the country. Soon, ship money was making Charles £200 000 a year, and he spent the money on anything but ships: in particular his fine clothing, new palaces and enormous art collection.

In 1637 John Hampden, a wealthy landowner and **Member of Parliament** (MP), was imprisoned for refusing to pay ship money, and became a hero for Parliament's cause. Those who criticised Charles I could be called before his own personal court, the **Star Chamber**. When a Puritan lawyer called William Prynne published a book in 1632 which implied the king's dances were immoral, he was put on trial before the Star Chamber. Prynne was imprisoned for life, and had his face branded and both his ears chopped off. Charles I, some believed, was becoming a tyrant.

Puritans

During the 1600s, a radical form of Protestantism became popular in England. Its followers tried to live lives that were as godly and 'pure' as possible, so became known as 'Puritans'.

Puritans wanted a world of strict Christianity, a 'heaven on earth' with no sin or wickedness. They wore simple black clothing, as they believed that jewellery, make up and colourful clothing were sinful. Activities such as gambling, drunkenness, dancing, music, theatre and sport were also frowned upon, and on Sundays no activity was allowed except for reading the Bible and going to church. Puritans did not believe the English Reformation had done enough to change the Church of England, and had a fierce dislike of Catholicism.

Because they were hard working, and did not spend much money, many Puritans became successful merchants and farmers. As they grew wealthier, Puritans gained more political power.



Portrait of a Puritan family from the 1640s by the Dutch artist Frans Hals

Check your understanding

1. What was meant by 'the Divine Right of Kings'?
2. What was misjudged about Charles I's decision to marry Henrietta Maria?
3. Why was the period between 1629 and 1640 known as the 'eleven-years tyranny'?
4. Why was Charles I's decision to collect taxation through ship money so controversial?
5. Why were England's Puritans gaining power during the Stuart period?

Unit 4: The English Civil War

The outbreak of war

From 1637 onwards, a series of events sent England tumbling towards civil war. It began with troubles north of the border, in Scotland.

The Reformation had been particularly strong in Scotland, where a form of Protestantism known as **Presbyterianism** had taken hold. From 1560, committees of clergymen and laymen ran the Church of Scotland, with no royally appointed bishops. James I and Charles I did manage to reintroduce some bishops to Scotland, but they did not have the power of English bishops.

To increase Charles I's power over the Church of Scotland, Archbishop Laud devised a new prayer book for Scotland, with some aspects of Catholic services. When Laud's prayer book was first used at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh in 1637, the Scottish congregation rioted. They threw wooden stools at the clergy, and accused them of 'popery'. Soon, there was an open rebellion against Charles I throughout Scotland, known as the **Bishops' War**. In 1640, a Scottish army marched across the border and occupied England as far south as Yorkshire.

The Long Parliament

Charles I urgently needed to raise an army and end the Bishops' War. However, for an army, he needed to raise new taxes, and to raise new taxes he needed Parliament. Charles recalled Parliament in April 1640, but dissolved it three weeks later after it refused to raise the money he needed for the Bishops' War. In September, Charles called Parliament again. This Parliament would remain in session, on and off, for the next 20 years. It became known as the **'Long Parliament'**.

Charles only expected Parliament to meet and approve new taxes. After 11 years of being ignored, however, Members of Parliament had a long list of demands for the king. They wanted to meet every three years; they wanted an end to ship money; and they did not want the king to have the power to dissolve Parliament without their permission. Some Puritan Members of the Long Parliament, such as the lawyer John Pym, went even further. They asked for Bishops to be removed from the Church of England; all of Henrietta Maria's Catholic friends to be expelled from court; and for the tutors of Charles I's son – the future King of England – to be chosen by them.

Parliament also wanted to punish some of Charles's closest advisors. Archbishop Laud was accused of treason, and imprisoned in the Tower of London. Another of the king's

favourites, the Earl of Strafford, was accused of negotiating with an army in Ireland to invade England and suppress opposition to the king. Parliament sentenced Strafford to death for treason, and forced Charles I to sign his friend's death warrant.

Arguments raged for another year, but neither Parliament nor the king would give in. Urged on by his queen Henrietta Maria, Charles decided on 4 January 1642 to show his strength by arresting, in person, the five most troublesome Members of Parliament, including John Pym and John Hampden. It was a catastrophic error of judgement. Charles marched into Parliament, sat in the Speaker's Chair, and read out their names. However, the MPs had been tipped off in advance, and escaped down the River Thames. Charles looked round Parliament in despair, and observed, "I see all my birds have flown".

The failed arrest of the five members was a disaster for Charles. It made him seem both weak and tyrannical. Over the following days, the people of London became increasingly agitated, building barricades, collecting weapons, and attacking the houses of suspected Catholics.

War

Charles decided it was no longer safe for his family to stay in London. On 10 January 1642, he fled for York. Parliament was effectively left in charge of the country. In March, Parliament passed the **'Militia Ordinance'** stating that the army was under their control. War, it seemed, was inevitable.

Different parts of England started to declare for either the 'Royalist' or the 'Parliamentarian' side. On 22 August, Charles I raised the King's standard in Nottingham – showing his intention to fight Parliament. The English Civil War had begun.

Civil wars are uniquely horrific events. Towns and families are split apart, pitching fathers against sons, brothers against brothers, and friends against friends. One in four English men fought at some point during the English Civil War. Around 11 000 houses were burned or demolished, including historic stately houses such as Basing House and Corfe Castle. 150 towns saw serious damage, and an estimated 5 percent of England's population died due to war or disease – a higher proportion than died during the First World War.

Check your understanding

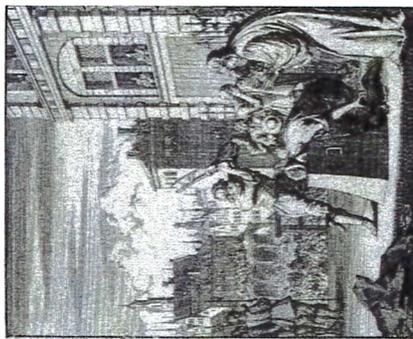
1. What caused the Bishops' War to start in Scotland?
2. Why did the Bishops' War force Charles I to recall Parliament?
3. What sort of demands did Members of Parliament make once Parliament had been recalled?
4. Why was his attempt to arrest the five Members of Parliament such a catastrophe for Charles I?
5. What event marked the beginning of the English Civil War?



Victorian painting of the failed arrest of the five Members of Parliament

Fact

In 1641, Charles I travelled to Scotland to make peace with the leaders of the Bishops' War. Whilst there, he played a round of a popular Scottish sport called golf.



Contemporary engraving of the execution of the Earl of Strafford

Fighting the English Civil War

Having fled the city in January 1642, Charles I's primary objective at the beginning of the English Civil War was to retake London.

There were three major battles. The first conflict was at the Battle of Edgehill, just outside Warwickshire, in October 1642. The outcome of the battle was indecisive. When Charles I's weary army attempted to take London, it was repelled by local citizen militias called **trainbands** at Turnham Green.

The next major battle was at Marston Moor near York in July 1644. The war had been going the **Royalists'** way for two years, but at the Battle of Marston Moor the **Parliamentarians** won their first major victory against Charles. Prince Rupert's cavalry was routed – as Oliver Cromwell said, "God made them as stubble to our swords". After Marston Moor, the Parliamentarians gained control of northern England.

A year later in July 1645 the Parliamentarians delivered a killer blow to the Royalists at the Battle of Naseby near Leicester. Almost the entire Royalist army was killed or captured, and Parliament's troops seized the king's baggage train. Here, they found £100 000 in jewels and treasure, and the king's private correspondence.

Published later that year, Charles's letters showed he had been negotiating with Irish and French armies to invade England and put him back on the throne. In return, Charles had promised to repeal anti-Catholic laws. The king's enemies used this as evidence that Charles was planning treason against his own people, and they began to refer to him as 'Charles Stuart, that man of Blood'. After Naseby, Parliament seized the Royalist headquarters at Oxford. Charles I was left defeated and disgraced.

Cavalier

The Royalists, who fought for the king, were mostly recruited from the nobility, some Catholics, and people from the countryside. The Royalist cavalymen were often of noble birth, and liked to have long hair and expensive clothing. They went into battle wearing knee high boots with high heels, colourful decorated tunics, soft leather gloves, shirts with ruffled cuffs, and beaver hats with ostrich feather plumes.

Like the knights of medieval Europe, Royalist cavalymen saw themselves as romantic figures. They were nicknamed '**Cavaliers**' after the Spanish word 'caballero', meaning horseman. The archetypal cavalier was Prince Rupert, a nephew of Charles I's who travelled from Germany to England aged only 23 to command the Royalist cavalry.



Painting of Prince Rupert, the archetypal cavalier

Fact

Prince Rupert would take with him to battle his pet dog, a poodle called Boye, who some Roundheads believed had magical powers. Boye was captured and killed at the Battle of Marston Moor.

Prince Rupert was a flamboyant character. On the battlefield, he was a brave and skilled commander, but could get carried away. At the Battle of Edgehill, he chased the retreating Parliamentarian forces too far and lost his chance to win a real victory. At the Battle of Marston Moor, he was still having a dinner party with his officers when the Parliamentarians attacked.

Roundhead

The Parliamentarian soldiers were nicknamed '**Roundheads**', due to the shaved heads of some of Parliament's supporters. Parliamentarians were mostly recruited from minor gentry or people living in towns, many of whom were Puritans. They had a more disciplined approach to war than the Cavaliers. Whilst the Cavaliers spent the first winter of the war throwing expensive parties, the Parliamentarians trained their army.

In 1645, a Puritan cavalry general called Oliver Cromwell set about creating a full-time Parliamentarian army. Called the '**New Model Army**', they were strictly disciplined and devoted to Parliament's cause. Drinking and swearing were forbidden, and deserting was punished with public floggings. They were a professional army, with red uniforms, simple practical clothing, and metal armour. Cromwell's cavalry forces were so formidable, they were nicknamed the '**Ironsides**'.

Most importantly, the New Model Army believed they were fighting in a holy war. They would sing hymns marching into battle, and read from the Bible or listen to sermons that inspired them to fight. Promotion in the New Model Army was gained not through wealth or high-birth, but through merit. As Cromwell said:

"I would rather have a plain russet-coated captain that knows what he fights for, and loves what he knows, than that which you call a gentleman and is nothing else".



Modern illustration of Parliamentarian soldiers

Political radicals

During the turmoil of the Civil War, some people developed political ideas that were surprisingly radical for the 17th century. One group argued for equal legal and political rights for all men. They were called the '**Levellers**', as they wanted to level out the hierarchy of Stuart society. Another group, called the '**Diggers**', established a religious community in Surrey with common ownership of all land and possessions.

Check your understanding

1. What was Charles I's main objective at the beginning of the English Civil War?
2. Why was Charles I left disgraced after the Battle of Naseby?
3. What was the character of Prince Rupert?
4. How did the approach of the Parliamentarian army differ from that of the Cavaliers?
5. How did the religious beliefs of the New Model Army influence their behaviour?

Unit 4: The English Civil War Trial and execution

After his defeat at the Battle of Naseby, Charles I surrendered to the Scots in April 1646. He believed the Scots would treat him better as a prisoner than Parliament would.

This marked the end of the first Civil War. In June, Parliament met with Charles I in Newcastle to discuss a peace settlement. Parliament put forward a set of demands, known as the **Newcastle Propositions** (see box), but Charles saw the demands as an insult. He refused them outright.

The Scots soon tired of holding Charles I as a prisoner, and sold him to Parliament for £400 000 in February 1647. The king was now Parliament's prisoner, but still they were unable to agree on a settlement. In November 1647, Charles I escaped from his prison in Hampton Court and rode south to the Isle of Wight. This sparked a second Civil War, and Royalist uprisings took place in Kent, Essex, Yorkshire, Wales and Cornwall. In addition, Charles I had secretly been negotiating with a Scottish army, who invaded England in support of the king. By September 1648, Parliament had won the second Civil War with a bloody three-day battle at Preston.

By now, the most extreme opponents to the king were not in Parliament, but in the army. The New Model Army had grown too large and powerful for Parliament to control, and when Parliament ordered the army to disband in 1646, it refused. Led by the Oliver Cromwell, the army began to argue that more radical action against Charles I was needed.

The Newcastle Propositions

Some of the demands were:

- The Church of England should no longer have bishops
- Royalist estates be handed over to Parliament
- Parliament should remain in control of the army for 20 years
- Parliament should choose membership of the king's government

Trial

On 5 December, 1648, Parliament voted to continue negotiations with the king, but the army had other ideas. The following day a soldier called Colonel Pride invaded Parliament, arresting 45 Members of Parliament supporting the king, and expelling a further 186 for supporting further negotiations.

'**Pride's Purge**', as it became known, was a crucial turning point. Now just 200 strong opponents of Charles II remained as Members of Parliament, and many were ready to try him for treason. When Cromwell

was told that it was legally impossible to try a king, he replied "I tell you we will cut off his head with his crown upon it!"

The trial of Charles I began on 20 January, 1649, in Westminster Hall. Parliament was renamed the High Court of Justice, and Charles was tried for being "A tyrant, traitor, murderer and a public and implacable enemy to the commonwealth of England". The prosecution argued that Charles had begun the Civil War against his own people, and was

therefore responsible for all of the death and destruction that followed. They also accused him of treason for conspiring with France and Ireland to invade England on his behalf.

Charles refused to answer the charges. He argued that because treason is defined as a crime against the king, it is impossible to try a king for treason. Even if Charles had defended himself, the verdict was not in question after Pride's Purge. The remaining MPs appointed 135 commissioners to act as judges, but even then only 59 signed Charles I's death warrant. The others stayed away through fear or disapproval.

Execution

Charles was led to the executioner's block on 30 January 1649. The execution took place outside **Banqueting House**, a beautifully ornate part of the Palace of Whitehall built by Charles and his father James. The day was bitterly cold, and Charles asked to wear two shirts, so that he did not appear to be shivering with fear. Before his execution Charles declared, "I go from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown".

With one strike of the axe, his head was chopped off. There was a deathly silence, before soldiers began to disperse the spectators in order to avoid a riot. Many members of the crowd dipped their handkerchiefs in the king's blood, believing that it would have divine powers.

The crowd could not quite believe what they had seen. Due to the army's radicalisation, Charles I had been executed against the will of the great majority of England's population. It was as if England had become a republic by accident.

Check your understanding

1. Why did Charles I refuse to agree to the Newcastle Propositions?
2. Why were Parliamentarians quickly losing patience with Charles I by September 1648?
3. On what grounds did Parliament try Charles I for treason in 1649?
4. Why did Charles I refuse to answer any of the charges during his trial?
5. What was the response of the London crowd to the execution of Charles I?



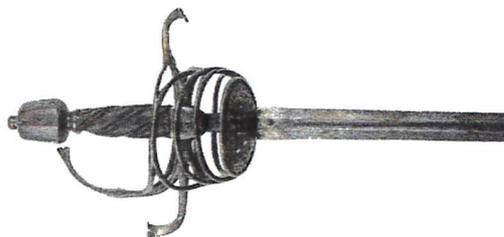
Contemporary painting of the execution of Charles I by an unknown artist

Fact

The chief judge at the trial of Charles I, John Bradshaw, was so worried about the threat to his life that he wore a beaver hat lined with steel and a suit of armour beneath his clothes.



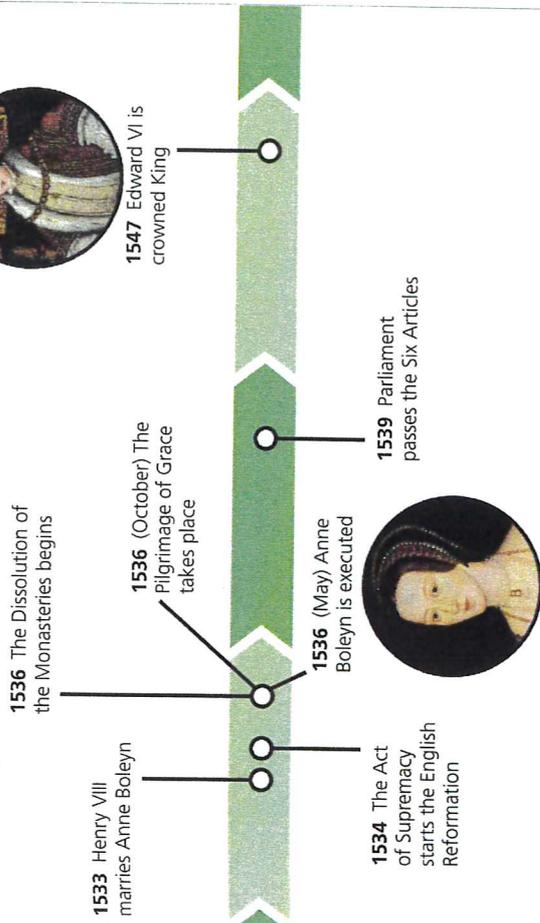
Judge Bradshaw's steel-lined hat



Rapier, a lightweight sword used during the English Civil War

Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

Knowledge organiser



1536 The Dissolution of the Monasteries begins

1513 Henry VIII's first invasion of France

1521 Henry VIII writes 'Defence of the Seven Sacraments' attacking Martin Luther

1533 Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn

1534 The Act of Supremacy starts the English Reformation

1536 (October) The Pilgrimage of Grace takes place

1536 (May) Anne Boleyn is executed

1539 Parliament passes the Six Articles

1547 Edward VI is crowned King

Key vocabulary

Act of Supremacy A law passed by Parliament which led to the creation of the Church of England

Altar The table in a Christian church where the priest performs the Holy Communion

Book of Common Prayer A book of prayers used for Church of England services and written in English

Break with Rome England's decision to leave the Roman Catholic Church in 1534

Cardinal A senior member of the Catholic Church, who wears a distinctive red cassock

Catholicism One of the three major branches of Christianity, led from Rome by the Pope

Calibate Choosing to remain unmarried and abstain from sex, usually for religious reasons

Corruption The misuse of power for dishonest or immoral purposes

Dissolution of the Monasteries The closure of all religious houses in England by Henry VIII

Hampton Court A magnificent palace built by Thomas Wolsey, and later given as a gift to King Henry VIII

Heretic Someone with beliefs that question or contradict the established church

Holy Roman Empire A collection of central European states that developed during the medieval period

Incense A substance made from tree resin, burnt in churches to create a strong sweet aroma

Indulgence A forgiveness of one's sins purchased from the medieval Catholic Church

Lady-in-waiting A female member of the Royal Court, working as a personal assistant to the Queen

Lord Chancellor The king's most powerful advisor, also known as 'keeper of the Great Seal'

Mass The central act of worship in the Catholic Church, when the Holy Communion is taken

Mercenary A professional soldier who is paid to fight for foreign armies

Oath of Supremacy An oath of allegiance to the monarch as supreme head of the Church of England

Protestantism A form of Christianity which emerged during the 1500s in protest against Catholicism

Reformation A movement to reform the Christian church which began with Martin Luther in Germany

Key people

Anne Boleyn Henry VIII's second wife, who was executed in 1536 for adultery

Catherine of Aragon Henry VIII's first wife and the daughter of the King and Queen of Spain

Charles V Emperor who ruled Spain and the Holy Roman Empire from 1519 until 1556

Edward VI The only son of Henry VIII, he died aged fifteen and is known as the 'Boy King'

Henry VIII King of England from 1509 to 1547 who had six wives and started the English Reformation

Martin Luther A German monk and theologian who helped to start the Reformation

Thomas Cromwell Henry VIII's chief minister from 1532, and a strong Protestant

Thomas More Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor from 1529, he was executed for his Catholicism

Thomas Wolsey Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor from 1515 to 1529, and a very wealthy and powerful man

Key vocabulary

Relic An object of religious significance, often the physical or personal remains of a saint

Royal Court A collection of nobles and clergymen, known as courtiers, who advise the monarch

Stained glass Decorative coloured glass, often found in the windows of churches and cathedrals

Supreme Head of the Church of England The title granted to Henry VIII following the Act of Supremacy

Transubstantiation The change of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ during Communion

Tudors The royal dynasty that ruled England from 1485 to 1603

Vestments Garments worn by Christian clergymen, colourful and richly decorated for Catholics

Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

The young Henry VIII

When Henry VIII was crowned king in 1509, he was already the hero of Tudor England. He was tall and handsome, and a keen joustier, wrestler, archer, hunter and tennis player.

Henry VIII was taught by some of the greatest philosophers of the age, and could write poetry, compose music and speak French and Latin fluently. The scholar Thomas More wrote a poem to celebrate Henry's coronation, stating: "This day is the end of our slavery, the fount of liberty; the end of sadness; the beginning of joy". High hopes rested on the young king's shoulders.

Henry was not meant to be king, but he became heir to the throne aged 10 when his older brother Arthur died unexpectedly in 1502. When his father Henry VII died, Henry VIII inherited the throne. Straight away, Henry married his dead brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. Catherine was a pretty and intelligent Spanish princess six years his senior, and their marriage secured England's alliance with Spain.

Henry was 17-years-old when he became king. He ruled over a magnificent court, with continual entertainments and parties. Henry ordered regular jousting tournaments, which he often took part in himself. All of this jousting had a serious purpose, however: Henry VIII was training his noblemen for war. The new king dreamed of conquest, transforming England into a great European empire, ruling over Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France.

War with France

Having allied with Spain and the Holy Roman Empire, Henry invaded France in 1513. The English army captured two towns, and won a victory against the French at the Battle of the Spurs. Henry's allies had changed their minds, however, and decided not to invade France. This left the English army unable to advance any further. Henry signed a peace treaty with France, securing new lands and an annual payment for England.

During the invasion of France, the Scottish King James IV (who was allied with France) took the opportunity to invade northern England with a large army of 60 000 men. With Henry absent, Queen Catherine organised England's defence against the Scots. The Scottish army was soundly beaten at the Battle of Flodden with thousands killed, including the Scottish King James IV. Catherine organised for the Scottish king's bloodstained tunic to be sent as a gift to Henry VIII in France.

The Field of the Cloth of Gold

Victories over the French and Scottish in 1513 confirmed England's position as a major European power. Henry VIII's dream of empire was edging ever closer. But events took a bad turn in 1516 when France gained a new king, the warlike and shrewd Francis I. Henry's Lord Chancellor, Thomas Wolsey (see box), persuaded Henry to make peace with France.

Henry was reluctant to let go of his ambitions. To make the peace between England and France seem more honourable, Wolsey organised a magnificent celebration of peace. In June 1520, Henry VIII and Francis I met in France. For two weeks the young kings tried to outdo each other with displays of wealth and flamboyance. Henry and Francis even met each other in the wrestling ring, where Francis I won, much to Henry's anger. Many of the tents in which the visitors stayed were made from cloth threaded with gold, so the event became known as the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold'.



'The Field of the Cloth of Gold', painted for Henry VIII in 1545



Portrait of Henry VIII, painted shortly after his coronation

Fact

In 2004, a historian looking through an inventory of Henry VIII's royal wardrobe made a surprising find: the king, who loved sport, owned a pair of leather football boots.

Thomas Wolsey

Masterminding Henry VIII's early successes was a priest named Thomas Wolsey. The son of an Ipswich butcher, Wolsey rose from humble beginnings to become the most powerful man in England, aside from the king.

In 1514 Wolsey became Archbishop of York. The following year, the Pope made him a **Cardinal** and Henry appointed him Lord Chancellor, the king's chief advisor. Through sheer drive, Wolsey had gained complete control of English politics and the church. He worked tirelessly, organising the affairs of state so that Henry could enjoy himself. Whatever the king wanted, Wolsey would deliver.

Wolsey became magnificently rich, and liked to show off his wealth, travelling through London each morning in a grand procession flanked by two silver crosses. He built himself a house beside the River Thames, which was grander and larger than any belonging to the king. Wolsey named it **Hampton Court Palace**. Many in Henry's court were envious of Wolsey, resenting the fact that this 'butcher's boy' had risen to such wealth and power. His enemies nicknamed him the 'fat maggot', and began to plot his downfall.



Check your understanding

1. Who was Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, previously married to?
2. What military successes did England enjoy in 1513?
3. Why did Cardinal Wolsey persuade Henry VIII to make peace with France?
4. What was the purpose of the Field of the Cloth of Gold celebrations in 1520?
5. What positions of power did Thomas Wolsey hold?

Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

The Reformation

At the start of the 16th century, the Roman Catholic Church was the single most powerful organisation in Western Europe.

From the forests of Poland in the East, to the coast of Portugal in the West, this one religion held sway over millions of lives. At the head of the Catholic Church was the Pope, who lived in Rome and controlled a large swathe of central Italy. Catholics believed that the Pope was God's representative on Earth, and he held enormous power. During the medieval period, popes called for crusades, started wars, and could make or break European royal families. However, by 1500, the Roman Catholic Church had developed a reputation for **corruption**.

Corruption

The papacy had been taken over by wealthy, power-hungry popes who paid little attention to religion. Perhaps the most infamous was Pope Alexander VI, who was from a powerful Spanish family known as the Borgias. He threw all-night parties, stole money from the church, and had as many as ten children with his mistresses – even though the Pope, as a Catholic clergyman, was supposed to remain **celibate**.

In order to raise money, the Catholic Church sold **indulgences**. An indulgence was a certificate personally signed by the Pope, which a Christian could buy to gain forgiveness for their sins. You could even buy indulgences for dead relatives, to shorten their time in purgatory.

There was also a lively market for 'holy relics'. Normally said to be body parts of saints or Jesus Christ, these relics were rarely genuine. Churches would buy and sell the fingernail of Jesus Christ, part of the tree from the Garden of Eden, or a vial of the Virgin Mary's breast milk. Pilgrims would pay churches considerable amounts of money to see and touch these relics, believing they had divine powers.

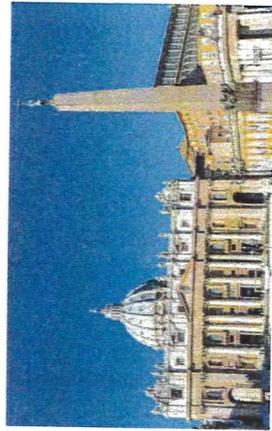
Lastly, the Catholic Church was enormously wealthy. Even holy orders of nuns and monks, who were supposed to live a life of simplicity and poverty in monasteries and abbeys, could be found living in luxury. The Catholic clergy wore **vestments** made of finest silk and velvet, and Catholic churches were richly decorated, with gold **altars**, wall paintings, burning **incense** and **stained glass** windows.

Protestantism

Some priests began to argue that the Catholic Church had strayed from the true word of Jesus Christ, and been turned rotten by wealth. Jesus Christ lived a life of simplicity and



Pope Alexander VI



Money was raised to build St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican from the sale of indulgences.

preached against greed, they argued, so should the Catholic Church not follow his example?

These priests attacked the Pope and the Catholic Church, giving sermons and writing short books explaining their beliefs. They were greatly aided by the newly invented printing press (see page 20), which allowed their books to spread throughout Europe. Due to their 'protest' against the authority of the Catholic Church, they were given the name 'Protestants'.

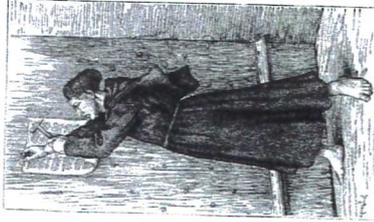
Protestantism was particularly powerful in Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Belgium, where priests such as John Calvin and Martin Luther (see box) gained large followings. They proposed a simpler form of Christianity, replacing ritual and superstition with the word of the Bible, and richly decorated church interiors with plain, whitewashed walls.

Fundamental to Protestantism was the belief that all Christians should have their own relationship with God, formed through regular reading of the Bible. However, within Roman **Catholicism** the Bible could only be read in Greek, Hebrew or Latin, and all services were conducted in Latin. So, in secret, Protestants began translating the Bible into their own languages. This movement to reform Christianity spread across Europe and became known as 'the **Reformation**'.

Martin Luther

Born in Germany, Martin Luther became a monk at the age of 22. In 1510 he visited Rome, and was appalled by the wealth and corruption that he saw there.

In 1517 Luther wrote a list of arguments, known as the '95 theses', attacking church abuses, in particular the selling of indulgences. Luther nailed the 95 theses to the door of his church in Wittenberg, and this event is often said to have marked the start of the Reformation. In 1522, at a meeting known as the Diet of Worms, Pope Leo X declared Luther a **heretic** and an outlaw. On leaving the court, Luther was ambushed and kidnapped. However, his kidnapper was a German prince who offered Luther a hiding place at Wartburg Castle. In 1525, Luther married a former nun named Katharina von Bora who had abandoned her convent. Together they had six children. Luther also began to translate the Bible into German. He finished his German Bible in 1534, by which time much of Germany had converted to Protestantism.



Modern illustration of Martin Luther and his 95 theses

Fact

Counting up all of the relics from a particular saint, one Protestant tract concluded that the saint must have had six arms, and 26 fingers.

Check your understanding

1. Why was Pope Alexander VI so infamous?
2. What was corrupt about the selling of indulgences?
3. How were Protestant churches different from Catholic churches?
4. Why did Protestants want to translate the Bible into their own languages?
5. What did Martin Luther do in 1517, which is said to have marked the start of the Reformation?

Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation Henry's 'Great Matter'

In 1522 Henry VIII invaded France again, only to be embarrassed when his ally, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, failed to turn up.

When Henry tried to raise money for a second invasion in 1525, there were riots across England, so the invasion had to be called off. Henry's hopes of conquering France were abandoned, and he was left humiliated and frustrated.

Henry's frustration off the battlefield was even more serious. His wife, Catherine of Aragon, was now 40 years old and had given him only one child who survived infancy – his daughter Mary. Henry desperately needed a male heir to continue the Tudor royal line, but by 1525 Catherine was unlikely to provide one.

By now, Henry had fallen in love with a younger, prettier woman called Anne Boleyn, who was a **lady-in-waiting** to Queen Catherine. Anne was highly educated, ambitious and flirtatious, teasing Henry that she would only make love to him if he took her as his wife. As part of the **royal court**, she was able to enrapture the king with her intelligence and wit. Before long, Henry was desperate to have Anne as his wife.

The 'Great Matter'

In order to marry Anne, Henry first had to divorce Catherine. But this had to be approved by Pope Clement. Unfortunately for Henry, Catherine of Aragon's nephew was the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. He had recently captured Rome, taking Pope Clement as his prisoner. Charles ordered that on no account should Pope Clement allow Henry to divorce his aunt Catherine, and Clement obeyed.

Henry was absolutely determined to gain a divorce, and called the issue his 'Great Matter'. He claimed that he had solid, religious grounds to do so. The book of Leviticus in the Bible states if a man marries his brother's widow, the couple will remain childless. Henry used this passage to argue



Modern illustration of Catherine of Aragon pleading her case against divorce



Catherine of Aragon



Anne Boleyn

that his marriage to Catherine was never lawful in the first place, and God had cursed him by not providing a son. In 1527, Henry asked the Pope Clement to annul his marriage, but the Pope refused.

Wolsey's fall

Henry asked his Chancellor Thomas Wolsey to persuade the Pope to change his mind. However, even his supremely powerful Cardinal Wolsey failed to do so.

Henry was furious, and Wolsey rapidly fell from favour. To try to win back the king, Wolsey gave him his magnificent Hampton Court Palace as a gift, but it was not enough. Wolsey was stripped of his job as Lord Chancellor in 1529, and fled to York. In 1530 he was ordered to stand trial on a trumped up charge of treason. During his journey from York back to London, Wolsey died a broken man. With his last words, Wolsey said: "Had I but served my God with but half the zeal as I served my king, He would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies."

The break with Rome

For six long years, Henry tried and failed to get his divorce, but then he had a new idea. Anne Boleyn was a keen reader of Martin Luther's books. She, and many others, suggested to the king that if England were no longer a Catholic country, Henry would no longer need the Pope's approval to divorce.

Henry did not like Protestant ideas. In 1521, he wrote a book entitled 'Defence of the Seven Sacraments', which attacked Luther's ideas and defended the Pope. Henry had made it illegal to own Luther's books. He even burnt suspected Protestants at the stake for being heretics. Henry VIII's early defence of Catholicism earned him the title 'Defender of the Faith' from Pope Leo X.

However, as Henry was desperate for a divorce, and furious with the Pope, he began to see some benefits in Protestant ideas. He also realised that if the head of the English Church was not the Pope, it could be him.

In January 1533, Henry married Anne Boleyn in secret. The marriage was declared valid by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Crammer, two months later. Then, in November 1534, Parliament passed the **Act of Supremacy**, one of the most important laws in English history. It confirmed England's **break with Rome**, and created a new Church of England. From now on England no longer belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, and Henry VIII was the **Supreme Head of the Church of England**.

Check your understanding

1. Why was Henry VIII so dissatisfied with his marriage to Catherine of Aragon by 1525?
2. What prevented Henry VIII from being able to divorce Catherine of Aragon, and marry Anne Boleyn?
3. On what grounds did Henry VIII claim that his first marriage was not lawful?
4. Why did leaving the Roman Catholic Church provide a solution to Henry VIII's 'Great Matter'?
5. What did the 1534 Act of Supremacy confirm?

Fact

Anne Boleyn had such a strong hold over the king's affection that many myths grew up around her. Some said she had six fingers and that she was a witch.



The Great Gatehouse at Hampton Court Palace

Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

The English Reformation

To ensure full support for the Act of Supremacy, Henry VIII ordered that all public figures and clergymen swear the Oath of Supremacy.

This oath stated that Henry was the Supreme Head of the Church of England. Those who refused to swear were tried for treason and executed. A group of Carthusian monks who were loyal to the Pope were among those who refused. As punishment, they were dragged through the streets of London, then hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn. The abbot's arm was brought back to the abbey, and nailed to the door. The monk's heads were placed on the spikes above London Bridge.

The most famous figure to refuse was Henry's great friend Sir Thomas More, who was one of the most celebrated writers and thinkers in England. More became Lord Chancellor after the downfall of Thomas Wolsey, but only lasted three years before stepping down in 1532. As a devout Roman Catholic, More could not accept Henry's marriage to Anne. In 1534 he refused to swear the Oath of Supremacy, and was locked in a dark, damp prison cell for 17 months. Henry pleaded with More to swear the Oath, but his conscience would not allow him to change his mind. More was tried for treason and executed in 1535. On the scaffold, More said: "I die the king's good servant, but God's servant first".

The Dissolution of the Monasteries

With Thomas Wolsey dead, and Sir Thomas More executed, Henry needed a new chief minister. He chose Thomas Cromwell, who was born the son of a Putney blacksmith, but rose to become Chancellor of the Exchequer. Cromwell had led an exciting life, working as a mercenary, wool merchant, banker and lawyer along the way.

A keen reader of Luther, Cromwell pushed for further Protestant reforms to the church. In particular, he proposed that all of England's monasteries and abbeys should be closed down. Monasteries had a 1000 year history of providing education, prayer and charity to the people of England. But they were also accused of excessive wealth and corruption. Many of England's 800 monasteries were enormously wealthy, owning magnificent treasures and a quarter of the land in England. If they were closed, Cromwell told Henry, this land and property would revert to the crown. Henry was in urgent need of money to fight more wars, so the **dissolution of the monasteries** began in 1536.

The king's men descended on the monasteries, stripping lead from their roofs, gold, silver and jewels from their altars, and selling their land to local landowners.



Thomas More, Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII until 1532



Ruins of Whitby Abbey, in Yorkshire, England

Monks and nuns were given a small pension, and turned out onto the streets. Henry made himself enormously rich, increasing the crown's income by around £150,000 a year (perhaps £80 million in today's money). England's monasteries, once so magnificent, were left to crumble – the haunting ruins of these ancient buildings can still be seen across England today.

The Pilgrimage of Grace

For many in England, the destruction of England's monasteries was a step too far. In autumn 1536, a group of angry Catholics gathered together in Yorkshire, led by a young nobleman named Robert Aske. He and his followers occupied York. They then invited the expelled nuns and monks to return to their monasteries and resume Catholic observance.

Aske's followers became known as the 'Pilgrimage of Grace', and their numbers swelled to around 35 000 men. Many were armed, and they planned to march on London.

Henry VIII sent an army north to meet Aske and his rebel army. He promised that if they went home, they would be forgiven. However, Henry was growing increasingly cruel. A year later, when a much smaller rebellion took place, he took the opportunity to round up and kill 200 of those involved in Aske's rebellion. In Cumberland, 70 villagers were hanged from trees in their villages in front of their families. Robert Aske was hanged in chains from York Castle, and left to die in agonising pain.

Tudor schools

Before their dissolution, monasteries provided a basic education for boys from the surrounding area. To replace this service, wealthy businessmen and landowners established new 'grammar schools'. Over 300 such schools were established during the 16th century, with a strong focus on teaching Latin grammar and promoting the new Protestant faith. Many were named after Henry VIII's son, King Edward VI, and his daughter Queen Elizabeth I.

The school day normally stretched from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and no girls were allowed to attend. The main subjects were Latin, religion, arithmetic and music. Boys would write with a quill pen, made from a trimmed feather. Misbehaving pupils would be beaten with a birch, or rapped over the knuckles with a wooden rod.

Check your understanding

1. What happened to those in England who refused to swear the Oath of Supremacy?
2. Who was Thomas Cromwell, and what were his religious views?
3. How did Henry VIII gain from the Dissolution of the Monasteries?
4. Why did Robert Aske begin the Pilgrimage of Grace?
5. Why did the Dissolution of the Monasteries lead to the creation of so many new schools in England?



Banner carried during the Pilgrimage of Grace, showing the Holy Wounds of Jesus Christ

Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

Henry VIII and Edward VI

Henry VIII's marriage to Anne Boleyn did not last long. Her independent character, which had so delighted Henry when he first met her, infuriated him once she was his wife.

Henry longed for a son, but when Anne gave birth in September 1533, the child was a girl. She was named Elizabeth after Henry's mother. Henry was so disappointed not to have a male heir, however, he refused to attend his daughter Elizabeth's christening.

Anne miscarried her next three children, and Henry's dislike for her grew. After three years of marriage, Anne was charged with multiple cases of adultery and treason, though she was almost certainly innocent. In May 1536, Anne was executed, along with four of her accused lovers. One day later, Henry became engaged to his third wife, Jane Seymour. Henry adored Jane. She was mild-mannered and affectionate, and in 1537 she provided Henry with the son he had always desired. They named him Edward.

Jane died soon after Edward's birth, and Henry went on to have three more wives but no more children. In 1540, he married Anne of Cleves, but there was little attraction between them: Henry said she looked like 'a Flanders mare'. They divorced six months later. Later that year Henry married Catherine Howard, but she was accused of adultery and beheaded in 1541. Finally, in 1543 Henry married Catherine Parr, who acted as a stepmother to his three children, and outlived Henry.

Henry the tyrant

During a jousting tournament at Greenwich Palace in 1536, Henry was crushed beneath his horse and suffered severe injuries. Unable to exercise, he grew enormously fat and developed a 54-inch waist, arthritis and painful ulcers. By the end of his life Henry was too overweight to walk, and had to be wheeled around his palace in a specially made machine.

During this period, Henry turned against Protestant ideas, and put the English Reformation into reverse. In 1539, Parliament passed the Six Articles, reasserting Catholic doctrines such as celibate priests and **transubstantiation**. A year later, Henry beheaded his chief minister Thomas Cromwell for his Protestant sympathies, and for organising Henry's failed marriage to Anne of Cleves.

Henry was becoming increasingly tyrannical, and between 1532–1540 he executed 330 people: Protestants were burnt at the stake for being heretics; Catholics were hanged, drawn and quartered for being traitors; and the king's relatives were beheaded for being seen as rivals to the throne.



Jane Seymour



Anne of Cleves



Catherine Howard



Catherine Parr

Fact

In 1532 Henry VIII passed a law ruling that murderers who used poison should be boiled to death.

On 28 January 1547, Henry died aged 55. His funeral was a full Catholic service, complete with incense and Latin chanting. By the end of his long and eventful reign, Henry had invaded France three times, married six different wives, executed a Lord Chancellor and a chief minister, amassed 55 royal palaces, founded the Royal Navy, made himself King of Ireland, and established the Church of England.

Edward VI

Following his death, Henry's only surviving son Edward became king. Edward was just nine years old. Known as the 'boy king' and the 'godly imp', Edward VI was very intelligent, and a far stronger believer in the Reformation than his father. Whilst Henry VIII had started the English Reformation, the Church of England remained Catholic throughout his reign. It simply did not recognise the authority of the Pope in Rome.

Edward VI passed further Protestant reforms to the English Church: priests were allowed to marry; the Catholic **Mass** was abolished; and church services in English became compulsory. He also authorised the first prayer book in English, Thomas Cranmer's **Book of Common Prayer**.

However, Edward was an unhealthy and weak child. Aged only 15, sores appeared across his body and he began to cough up blood. In 1553 Edward died, unmarried and childless. Henry VIII's nightmare of an unstable throne with no certain heir had become a reality.



Portrait of Edward VI

The end of the old faith

Once on the throne, Edward VI was advised by his uncle the Duke of Somerset and his strongly Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer.

Any remaining Catholic features were rooted out of English churches. Altars, hanging crucifixes, shrines, rood screens and statues were burned, while stained glass windows were smashed and wall paintings whitewashed. Catholic rituals and ceremonies, such as Corpus Christi processions and 'creeping to the cross', were banned. To most of England's poor, illiterate population, these colourful practices were fundamental to their belief, but from now on, they were deprived of the religion they knew and loved.

Rosaries, holy water, relics and icons were all banned from the Church of England. The old faith of medieval England had gone, and in its place was a new religion based not on ritual and superstition, but on the word of the Bible.



Modern image of a wooden rosary

Check your understanding

1. On what grounds was Anne Boleyn executed in 1536?
2. Was Henry VIII's marriage to Jane Seymour a success?
3. How did Henry VIII's accident in 1536 change his appearance?
4. Why did Henry VIII execute his chief minister Thomas Cromwell in 1540?
5. How were Edward VI's religious views different from those of his father?