

Y7: How selfish were Tudor Kings?

The Princes in the Tower 1483

In 1483 Edward IV died; he left his 10 year old son (Edward) to become king. Edward and his younger brother, Richard, were taken to the Tower of London before his coronation. Two weeks later they were seen playing the gardens but were never seen again. Very quickly, the boys' uncle, Richard, had himself crowned as King Richard III.



Henry VII 1485-1509

For thirty years the York family and Lancaster family fought for the Crown. In August 1485 Henry Tudor tried to win back the crown from Richard III. Henry won and became the first Tudor monarch. Henry had the following problems:

- **The York family were angry and wanted revenge**
- **The Barons were wealthy and powerful**
- **He didn't have much money**

So Henry married Elizabeth of York, uniting both houses; he banned his barons from having private armies; he forced the rich to give him money and threatened the French until they paid him off.

Key words

| | |
|-------------|--|
| monarch | King or queen |
| annulment | Saying a marriage never happened |
| heir | Next in line to the throne |
| Reformation | Change in the church from Catholic to Church of England |
| Catholic | People believe that the Pope is head of the church |
| Protestant | A new Christian religion rejecting the Pope |
| Dissolution | To close down something |
| Monastery | Where monks and nuns live |
| Heretic | Somebody who does not agree with the religion of the monarch |
| Martyr | Someone who dies for their beliefs |

Henry VIII 1509-47

Henry VII married **Catherine of Aragon** in 1509. They had one daughter, **Mary** but no son. In 1521 Henry met **Anne Boleyn** and wanted to annul his marriage to Catherine so he could marry Anne and have a son. However, the Pope would not allow this to happen so Henry decided to declare himself head of the English Church. This is called the **Reformation**.

Henry's wives:

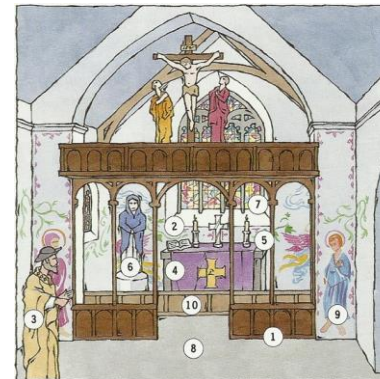
1. Catherine of Aragon 1509-1533 – daughter: Mary
2. Anne Boleyn 1533-36 - daughter - Mary
3. Jane Seymour 1536-37 – son - Edward
4. Anne of Cleves 1540
5. Catherine Howard 1540-41
6. Catherine Parr 1543-47

Dissolution of the Monasteries 1536

In 1536 Henry closed down the Catholic Monasteries and took all of their land and money.

Edward VI 1547-1553 (PROTESTANT)

Edward VI was the son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour. Brought up a Protestant and when he became king (age of 9) he turned England **Protestant**. He died aged 16 with no **heir**.

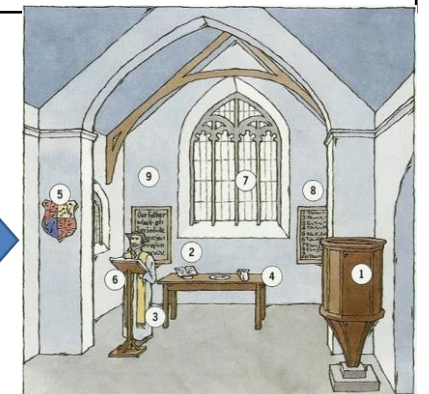


Catholic Church:

- Beautifully decorated
- Statues
- Pope is head of the Church
- Bible in Latin
- Stained glass windows

Protestant Church:

- Plain
- King is the head of the church
- Bible in English
- Plain Glass windows



Y7: How powerful were Tudor Queens?



**Lady Jane Grey 1553
(PROTESTANT)**

Edward had no son so he left the throne to his **Protestant** cousin, Lady Jane Grey.

Ruled for 9 days before being overthrown by Mary. Beheaded in 1554



Mary I 1553-58 (CATHOLIC)

Daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. Turned England Catholic again. Burnt 284 Protestant heretics at the stake.



Elizabeth I 1553-1603 (PROTESTANT)

Daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Under Elizabeth, England became a very powerful country.

Women in Tudor England

- Women were the property of their fathers or husbands
- Girls had to obey their parents on every matter (including marriage)
- A woman's only purpose in life was to marry and have children
- Girls were not taught to read and write as it was felt they would waste their time on love letter
- There had only been one Queen before the Tudor period, Matilda, in the 12th century and men were so unhappy that she was queen that a civil war began.

| Problems | Solutions |
|--|---|
| 1. Religion – England was Protestant but lots of Catholics hated her | The 'Middle Way'. Protestant country but Catholics could worship privately. |
| 2. Marriage – Elizabeth was a woman and weak | She didn't want to give any power to a husband. Married 'her country' |
| 3. Catholic Spain threatened to invade | Francis Drake destroyed the Armada |
| 4. Mary Queen of Scots was an alternative Catholic queen | Elizabeth imprisoned and eventually executed her |