

Teacher's resource

King Henry VIII & his six wives

Fact Sheet



Henry VIII

born 28 June 1491 - died 28 January 1547

- Born at Greenwich Palace, this son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York married six times
- All his wives stayed at Hampton Court Palace at various times
- Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard were famously beheaded at the Tower of London



Katherine of Aragon

born 1485 - died 1536

- Henry's *first* wife: married in 1509, they divorced in 1533
- They had several children, but only a daughter called Mary survived who later became Queen Mary I



Anne of Cleves

born 1515 - died 1557

- Henry's *fourth* wife: married in 1540, they divorced the same year
- Henry agreed to a political union with Anne, a German, but he disliked her upon meeting and sought an immediate divorce
- She lived in England until the end of her life, becoming quite popular at court - she was known as the 'King's sister'



Anne Boleyn

born c1502 - executed 1536

- Henry's *second* wife: married in 1533
- They had one daughter called Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth I
- Henry was deeply disappointed Anne did not have a son to succeed him
- He accused her of various plots, she was executed at the Tower in 1536



Catherine Howard

born c1521 - executed 1542

- Henry's *fifth* wife: married 1540, 16 days after divorcing Anne of Cleves
- She had been Anne's lady-in-waiting and only a teenager when she married the king
- She was accused of adultery and executed at the Tower of London in 1542



Jane Seymour

born 1509 - died 1537

- Henry's *third* wife: married in 1536, two weeks after Anne's execution
- Jane had been lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn
- They had a son called Edward, later Edward VI
- Jane died at Hampton Court two weeks after giving birth to Edward at the palace



Kateryn Parr

born 1512 - died 1548

- Henry's *sixth* wife: married 1543, she was 31 years old
- She had been widowed twice, and had never had children
- After Henry's death in 1547 she married again, but died the following year

