

Tudors Came to Power 1485

Henry Tudor defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. He married Elizabeth of York, uniting the Houses of York and Lancaster, and ending the War of the Roses. The Tudors ruled England from 1485 to 1603 (118 years!) and during this period there were three Kings and two Queens. During their reign, they encouraged new religious ideas, exploration and colonisation. The Tudor period ended in 1603 when Elizabeth I died. Our enquiry will lead us to decide which Tudor monarch had the greatest impact on England.



Henry VII
1485 ~ 1509



Henry VIII
1509 ~ 1547



Edward VI
1547 ~ 1553



Mary I
1553 ~ 1558



Elizabeth I
1558 ~ 1603

While Edward was still alive, he had persuaded him to make a will naming Lady Jane Grey his successor to the throne. She was a Protestant, unlike Edward's half sister Mary, who had her arrested and later executed!

When Henry VIII was King, he was considered to be an attractive, educated, and accomplished king. He has been described as "one of the most charismatic rulers to sit on the English throne" and his reign has been described as the "most important" in English history. He was an author and composer. As he aged, he became severely overweight, and his health suffered. He is frequently characterised in his later life as a lustful, egotistical, paranoid and tyrannical monarch. For example; two days after his coronation, Henry arrested his father's two most unpopular ministers, Sir Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley. They were charged with high treason and were executed in 1510. Politically motivated executions would remain one of Henry's primary tactics for dealing with those who stood in his way.

Key Terms

Dissolution / close down / terminate	Reformation / reorganise / restructure
Divorce / annulment / marriage split	Treason / betrayal / treachery
Dynasty / family empire / rule	Monarch / king, queen / royal ruler
Heresy / blasphemy / going against God or ruler	Tyranny / dictator / oppressive ruler
Foreign policy / relationship between governments of other countries	Persecution / harassment / punishment



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8D4CETT2tvs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORBUUyKbaPk>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/ipla/episode/b00kcrb1/horrible-histories-series-1-episode-4>

Religion

Catholic - a **Christian religion where The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and head of the church**. They believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God. They follow the New Testament and place their faith in God. Catholics suffered persecution following Henry VIII's break away from the religion.

Protestant - a **form of Christianity that originated with the 16th-century** Reformation, a movement against what its followers perceived to be errors in the Catholic Church.

Church of England – a Christian religion where the archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior although the monarch is their supreme governor. When the Pope refused to allow Henry to divorce his first wife, Henry decided to take matters into his own hands. **Henry split from the Roman Catholic Church and made his own strand of Christianity!** He called it the Church of England and he named himself as head. That way, he gave himself permission **to get divorced!**

During his 37-years as king, Henry had **six wives!**

Catherine of Aragon – divorced.

They had six children, all died soon after being born except for Mary.

Anne Boleyn – gave birth to Elizabeth but was **beheaded** after rumours of an affair.

Jane Seymour – **died** but had given birth to their son Edward.

Anne of Cleves – **divorced** after just six months!

Catherine Howard – **beheaded** for having an affair.

Catherine Parr – nursed him through ill health. She **survived.**

Military

Tudor army relied mostly on longbowmen and billmen which proved effective against the gunpowder weapons of the enemy. Henry's military strategy also involved **securing English shores against any potential invasion from the Continent. To this end, he built a large number of forts all along the southern and eastern coasts of England.** The Navy became a vital part of England's military arsenal during the Tudor times. The English navy properly came into being during the reign of Henry VIII. During his reign, the **navy was expanded from 5 ships to 80 ships.** The navy proved vital in helping England ward off the pirates along its trade routes and in countering French attempts to invade Britain.

Questions – Answers are colour coded in the text

Why did Henry VIII want to break away from the Roman Catholic Church?	How did Henry VIII protect England from invasion?	What were the surnames of the houses that united to end the War of the Roses?
How did the Tudors come to the throne?	How many years did the Tudors rule?	How many Kings and Queens were Tudor? Can you remember them in order and their reign?
What is a Protestant? What is a catholic?	When did Henry VIII rule?	How many wives did Henry have? Can you name them? How did they part ways with Henry?