

# Henry VIII and the divorce

Henry VIII



1509-1547

Henry became King in 1509. This was also the year he married his first wife - Catherine of Aragon. She had been married to Henry's brother (Arthur), but he died in a terrible accident.



Catherine of Aragon

Henry got special permission from the Pope to marry Catherine. At the time, it was seen as wrong to marry your brother's **widow**. However, with the Pope's permission there was no problem.

Henry was a very proud man. In the first few years of his **reign**, he enjoyed himself as King - he hunted, loved large banquets and was good at all sports. There was one thing he wanted though:

## a son!

Henry wanted a son, a male **heir** to rule after him. Henry wanted his 'Tudor' surname to live on. In the 1500s, attitudes to girls and women were very different - Henry wanted to leave a son in charge of his kingdom, not a daughter.

Unfortunately, Henry and Catherine only had one child that lived - a baby daughter. Henry was worried - he was desperate for a son. Some historians think that Henry thought he was being punished. He thought God was punishing him for marrying his brother's **widow**.

### GLOSSARY

**Widow** - lady whose husband has died.

**Reign** - amount of time in charge.

**Heir** - person who becomes the Monarch next.

**Dilemma** - a problem.

**Protestants** - group of churchmen, led by Martin Luther, who criticised the Pope.

Henry began having an affair with Anne Boleyn, and soon she was pregnant. This was a **dilemma** for Henry. With Anne, he now had a chance to have the son he so desperately wanted. However, for this baby to be his proper **heir**, he had to be married to Anne.



Anne Boleyn

Henry asked the Pope for a divorce. The Pope refused. Henry didn't know what to do. He wanted a son, and Catherine was getting too old to have children. He now had the chance for a son with Anne, but the Pope was going to spoil everything.

Henry was annoyed that he had to do what the Pope said. He was King of England, so why did he have to listen? The **Protestants** told Henry that he didn't have to - exactly what Henry wanted to hear. Henry made himself head of the Church in 1534, and got a divorce. Anne had their baby . . . . . **a baby girl !**

Complete the sentences below - all the answers are on the first side of the sheet.  
**Write your full answer neatly in your book!**



- 1 Henry's first wife was \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. She had been married to Henry's brother.
- 2 The one thing Henry wanted above everything else was a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Attitudes to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were different in the 1500s. Henry was determined to have a \_\_\_\_\_, to him a dau\_\_\_\_\_ was not good enough!
- 4 Henry was upset with Catherine. This was because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Henry began to have an affair with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Anne soon became pregnant. This was a dilemma for Henry because he could now have a son, but there was a problem - he was still married to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Henry asked the \_\_\_\_\_ permission for a divorce. The Pope \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Henry was angry - he was annoyed that he had to ask the \_\_\_\_\_ for permission. The \_\_\_\_\_ told him he didn't have to!
- 9 Henry declared himself \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in 1534, and got a divorce.
- 10 Explain in one full sentence why Henry was not pleased at what happened next.

**BONUS**

QUESTION

What was the name of Henry's new baby daughter?