

# Royal divorces



**KING HENRY VIII:** First marriage, to *Catherine of Aragon*, annulled in 1534 after a break with the Vatican. Fourth marriage to *Anne of Cleves*, annulled in 1540

**KING GEORGE I:** Divorced his cousin *Sophia* in 1694, on grounds of her adultery. Imprisoned her until her death in 1726, while he lived openly with his mistresses

**KING GEORGE IV:** Secret marriage to a widow was invalid under English law because she was a Roman Catholic. In 1795, he married *Princess Caroline of Brunswick*. Tried to divorce her but failed

**KING EDWARD VIII:** Abdicated in 1936, after less than a year on the throne, to marry American divorcee *Wallis Warfield Simpson*. Government would not accept a twice-divorced woman as queen

**PRINCESS MARGARET:** Sister of Queen Elizabeth II – divorced from *Lord Snowdon* in 1978 after 18 years of marriage and two children. An earlier romance, with *Peter Townsend*, was ended because he had been divorced

**PRINCESS ANNE:** divorced from Army *Capt. Mark Phillips* in 1992 after 19 years of marriage, two children. Anne married navy *Cmdr. Timothy Laurence* in December 1992

**PRINCESS DIANA:** agreed to a request for a divorce by her estranged husband *Prince Charles*, ending a 15-year marriage which began as a fairy tale