







Splendour and tyranny – England’s Henry VIII



500 years after his accession, Henry VIII is remembered for being one of England’s most notorious and influential monarchs

THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII – Henry’s desire for male heirs to secure his dynasty led him through six successive marriages

		
Catherine of Aragon	Anne Boleyn	Jane Seymour
<i>Married 1509-33</i>	<i>1533-36</i>	<i>1536-37</i>
Bore six children – all stillborn or died in infancy except Mary . Divorced by Henry	Bore one daughter – Elizabeth – and two stillborn sons. Henry had her beheaded	Gave Henry a son – Edward – but she died two weeks after giving birth
		
Anne of Cleves	Catherine Howard	Catherine Parr
<i>Jan-Jul 1540</i>	<i>1540-42</i>	<i>1543-47</i>
Arranged marriage not consummated. Divorced by Henry after six months	Thirty years younger than Henry, she failed to conceive and was beheaded for adultery	Bore no children but cared for ageing King. She survived Henry and died in 1548

1491: Birth of Henry , son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York	1502 Arthur dies	1509: Henry becomes King on death of his father	1517: Start of Protestant Reformation in Germany	1525-33: Quest for heir leads Henry to seek divorce, refused by Pope	1534: Henry splits with Rome and establishes Anglican Church	1547 Death of Henry, aged 55
1499: Prince Arthur , Henry’s older brother, marries Catherine of Aragon	1503 Catherine betrothed to Henry	1510-15: Henry begins to expand navy, resulting in England becoming great power	1533: Henry annuls marriage and is excommunicated by Catholic Church	1536 Henry begins Dissolution of the Monasteries – seizure of Church properties		