

Biography of Henry VIII

Prince Henry Tudor was born on the 28th of June (1491) in the English town of Greenwich, located in England. Interestingly, he was the second son of King Henry VII and Queen Elizabeth of York (their third child overall). He had an older brother, Arthur, and two sisters named Mary and Margaret. As he was not the first **heir** to the throne, Henry was educated to become a member of the **clergy** (a man of the church). This meant that he received an excellent education and became **fluent** in four languages: English, Latin, French and Greek. However, this all changed when Henry reached the age of 10 as his older brother Arthur died of an ear infection. This meant that Henry was to be the next King!

In 1506, the King of England (Henry VII) died. Therefore, his eldest remaining son (Henry VIII) took to the throne becoming the King of England at aged 17. After nine weeks as king, Henry decided to marry the Princess of Spain (Catherine of Aragon), who was his older brother's **widow**.

For the next twenty years, the two had a successful marriage. Catherine gave birth to a daughter (Mary I) during this time. Despite falling pregnant a number of times, she failed to give birth to a male **heir**. Ultimately, this angered Henry and he went to the Pope (the head of the church) to have the marriage **annulled**. The Pope refused. Infuriated, Henry reacted by breaking away from the Catholic Church, which had been the leading religion in England for over one thousand years. He created the Church of England where he was the leader. This is one of the most important events during Henry's **reign** of England.

Now that he was the leader of the church, he divorced Catherine of Aragon (against her wishes). Next, he married the young Anne Boleyn who was already pregnant with his child. During their marriage, Anne gave birth to a daughter, who was Henry's second child, Elizabeth I. Unfortunately, she did not give birth to a son so Henry made a **false accusation** that she was a witch. She was **executed** in 1536, in the tower of London, where she was beheaded for her crimes.

Immediately after, Henry married his third wife called Jane Seymour. Jane gave birth to a son who was Henry's third and final child (Edward VI). Sadly, Jane died twelve days after giving birth. Not long afterwards, Henry married Anne of Cleves. However, he said that she "looked like a horse" so he divorced her after only six months.

Next was Catherine Howard. Shockingly, Catherine was actually the cousin of Anne Boleyn! Henry was 50 years old when he married the 19-year-old Catherine. She was also beheaded after being accused of adultery (cheating on Henry VIII).

Finally, Henry married his sixth wife, Catherine Parr. She was more like a nurse to Henry as a **jousting** accident meant that he struggled to walk and his body became covered in horrible boils. He grew incredibly overweight and died in his bedchamber on January 28th, 1547. It was told that they had to use a crane to remove Henry from the room as he was too large to lift.

Henry was buried next to Jane Seymour, his third wife. Many historians have argued that he was buried next to Jane because she was his favourite wife since she gave him a son.