

Why did Henry VIII marry six times?

Learning Objective:

To learn about the roles, responsibilities and importance of a Tudor monarch.

NEXT

Which of these activities do you think Henry would have done as king?

Hunting

Yes

☐

No

☐

Chopping wood

Yes

☐

No

☐

Looking after children

Yes

☐

No

☐

Signing documents

Yes

☐

No

☐

Cooking

Yes

☐

No

☐

Writing music

Yes

☐

No

☐

Reading

Yes

☐

No

☐

Dancing

Yes

☐

No

☐

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NEXT



Did you guess correctly?

Hunting

Yes

☒

No

☐

Chopping wood

Yes

☐

No

☒

Looking after children

Yes

☐

No

☒

Signing documents

Yes

☒

No

☐

Cooking

Yes

☐

No

☒

Writing music

Yes

☒

No

☐

Reading

Yes

☒

No

☐

Dancing

Yes

☒

No

☐

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The young King Henry was very clever and had lots of talents. He enjoyed music, sports, hunting, games and, of course, eating and drinking! However, he also had a lot of official duties to perform like signing official documents, attending mass, meeting with his advisors and discussing affairs of state.



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When Henry first became king, the people idolised him. He was very different to his father who had been very serious and was known to be careful with his money. But Henry was different. He loved having masked balls and jousting tournaments. He spoke several languages fluently. He also enjoyed composing music. Here are some of the lyrics to the songs Henry wrote:



Alas, what shall I do for love?
For love, alas, what shall I do?
Since now so kind
I do you find
To keep you me unto.
Alasse!

Oh my heart, and oh my heart,
My heart it is so sore.
Since I must from my love
depart,
And know no cause wherefore.

NEXT

7 am	Get up and go to mass
8 am	Have breakfast and meet with Thomas Wolsey
9 am	Go hunting with friends
12 noon	Lunch with my wife
2 pm	Have meeting with advisors to talk about affairs of state
5 pm	Have a game of tennis
7 pm	Feast time!
9pm	Dance and talk with courtiers (with a bit of drinking and gambling too)
12 midnight	Go to bed

A typical day in Henry's life may have looked like this:



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Henry could be both care-free and serious. As king, he had lots of things to think about but he was also able to go and enjoy himself when he wanted to.



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How do you think the life of a monarch may be different today?



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