



# JANET HARDY-GOULD

## Henry VIII and his Six Wives | Worksheet

### Part 1: Reading texts

#### Henry VIII Factfile

<b>Full name:</b>	Henry Tudor
<b>Date / place of birth:</b>	28 June 1491, Greenwich Palace
<b>Role:</b>	King of England 1509 – 1547
<b>Parents:</b>	Henry VII, Elizabeth of York
<b>Brothers and sisters:</b>	Arthur, Margaret, Mary
<b>Number of wives:</b>	Six
<b>Children:</b>	Mary, Elizabeth, Edward
<b>Favourite sports:</b>	Hunting, jousting, tennis
<b>Interests:</b>	Writing books, playing music
<b>Languages:</b>	English, French, Spanish, Latin
<b>Appearance:</b>	Tall, athletic with blue-grey eyes, red-brown hair and a beard
<b>Clothes / jewellery:</b>	Wore fine clothes and gold rings
<b>Died:</b>	At age of 55
<b>Buried:</b>	Windsor Castle, next to his third wife, Jane Seymour

#### Did you know ...? Facts about Henry VIII

##### 1 Henry wasn't destined to be king

Henry's older brother, Arthur, was <sup>2</sup>heir to the throne. But he died aged fifteen, and Henry became the heir.

##### 2 Henry was an excellent composer and singer

He wrote and sang beautiful songs and pieces of music. One song was called 'Pastime with good company'.

##### 3 As Henry grew older, he grew bigger and bigger

By the age of 50, Henry was in generally in poor health and very fat, with a waist of 137cm.

##### 4 Henry executed many of his enemies

Historians think Henry killed thousands of people, but they don't know exactly how many. Some were executed at the Tower of London – two of these were his wives!

##### 5 Henry spent lots of money

Over the years, Henry spent a lot of money on food and entertainment, building palaces, and fighting wars. At the end of his life, he was badly in <sup>3</sup>debt.

#### What is Henry VIII's legacy?

Henry VIII made important changes in England, and people can still see these today.

In 1534, Henry broke away from the Catholic Church in Rome, and became the head of the Church of England. He did this because he wanted to divorce his first wife Katherine of Aragon, but the head of the Catholic Church, the Pope, didn't allow it.

After 1534, the money and the land from the Church became Henry's. He sold a lot of the land to barons and other important people. Between 1536 and 1540, Henry also destroyed the <sup>4</sup>monasteries, then took away their land and money too. He closed over eight hundred monasteries altogether.

When you travel around England today, you can see ruins of monastery buildings from this time, and find <sup>5</sup>places of worship which are part of the Church of England.

#### Glossary

**1 jousting** a sport with two people on horses; they carry lances (long swords) and ride quickly towards each other. **2 heir to the throne** the person who will next be king. **3 in debt** when you have borrowed money from other people, but you can't give it back. **4 monastery** a place where monks live and work. **5 place of worship** a building for religious services such as a church, mosque, synagogue or temple.

#### What places can you visit from the time of Henry VIII?

There are many places or things that you can visit today from the time of Henry VIII. These include:

**Hampton Court Palace**, near London. Henry rebuilt much of this and spent a lot of his time here. Visitors can still see his historic tennis courts. People play tennis on them today!

**Banqueting House** in Central London. This building was once part of the Palace of Whitehall which Henry VIII used from 1530. Tourists come to look at the amazing ceiling with nine paintings from the artist Reubens. These are from 1636, after the time of Henry.

**Portsmouth Dockyard**. You can see the remains of Henry's ship Mary Rose. It sank in 1545 and nearly 500 men who sailed on the ship died.



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### Part 2: Questions and tasks

#### 1 Before reading - discussion questions

- 1 Henry VIII is one of the most famous people in English history. What do you know about him?
- 2 Who is the most famous ruler in the history of your country or region? Why is this person well-known?

#### 2 Reading task

Read the Henry VIII factfile. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

Henry ...

- 1 was King of England for a short time.
- 2 was the son of a king.
- 3 had two daughters and a son.
- 4 married five times.
- 5 enjoyed indoor and outdoor activities.
- 6 could speak different languages.
- 7 was a small, weak man.
- 8 was buried close to his wives.

#### 3 Reading task

Read Facts about Henry VIII. Check the adjectives below in a dictionary. Which adjectives do you think describe Henry? Give reasons why with reference to the text.

- talented
- uneducated
- always healthy
- cruel
- tolerant
- extravagant
- mean

#### 4 Reading task

Read *What is Henry VIII's legacy?* and *What places can you visit from the time of Henry VIII?* Complete the sentences with a word from the text.

- 1 The Pope didn't allow Henry to \_\_\_\_ his wife, so Henry broke from the Church of Rome.
- 2 From 1534, Henry was the \_\_\_\_ of the Church of England.
- 3 Henry destroyed hundreds of \_\_\_\_ . The ruins of these still exist today.
- 4 People can still have a game of \_\_\_\_ at Hampton Court Palace.
- 5 At Whitehall Palace, there is a beautiful \_\_\_\_ with fine pictures on it.
- 6 In Portsmouth, you can visit Henry's famous \_\_\_\_ which sank.



#### 5 Number quiz

Read all of the texts again. Find and write down ...

- 1 **one** song that Henry VIII wrote.
- 2 **two** things that Henry was very interested in.
- 3 **three** sports that Henry enjoyed.
- 4 **four** languages that Henry spoke.
- 5 **six** specific places that were important in Henry VIII's life.
- 6 **ten** names of people who were part of Henry's family.

#### 6 Vocabulary building - jobs and roles

We add -er, -or, -ist or -ian to nouns or verbs to make jobs and roles. Example: dance → dancer. Look back through all the texts. Find a word for a person who ...

- 1 writes music.
- 2 has a good voice and likes to use it.
- 3 studies the past.
- 4 goes to visit somewhere or someone.
- 5 travels to see a place for pleasure.
- 6 creates a painting or a sculpture.

Add the correct suffix to the words below. Look back at the texts, create true sentences about Henry or other people mentioned.

Example: write → writer  
Henry wasn't only a king, he was a writer too.

hunt music paint sail