

School resource

# History of Hampton Court Palace

## Chronology

1494	Giles Daubeney, later Lord Chamberlain, leases and modernises the medieval manor of Hampton Court.
1515	A year after leasing Hampton Court, Thomas Wolsey begins rebuilding on a grand scale, converting Hampton Court into a lavish palace.
1523	Henry VIII's former tutor John Skelton writes that, 'The King's court should hath the excellence. But Hampton Court hath the pre-eminence'.
1529	Henry VIII's royal workmen taken over building works at Hampton Court Palace.
1530	Henry VIII and his councillors send the first letter threatening a break with the Papacy to Rome from the palace.
1537	Queen Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife, gives birth to Prince Edward. He is baptized with great ceremony in the Chapel Royal, but she dies soon after due to complications from childbirth.
1540	Henry VIII's divorce from Anne of Cleves is signed at the palace. It is also where Henry VIII marries his fifth wife, Catherine Howard, and she is proclaimed queen.
1541	Catherine Howard's earlier sexual liaisons are revealed to Henry VIII at Hampton Court. She is interrogated and kept under house arrest in the palace.
1543	Henry VIII marries his sixth and final wife, Kateryn Parr, in the Chapel Royal.
1603	Shakespeare and his company the 'King's Men' perform plays in the Great Hall for King James I.
1604	James I calls the Hampton Court Conference which commissions the King James Bible.
1689	Sir Christopher Wren demolishes large parts of the Tudor palace and begins building a new place for King William III and Queen Mary II.
1760	George III becomes king. He abandons Hampton Court as a royal residence and it begins to be divided up into grace-and-favour apartments.
1838	Queen Victoria opens the gardens and state apartments to the public free of charge.
1944	General, later President, Eisenhower plans the Normandy landings in Bushy Park.
1984	Prince Charles, speaking at Hampton Court, calls for 'a new harmony between imagination and taste and in the relationship between the architects and the people of the country'.

