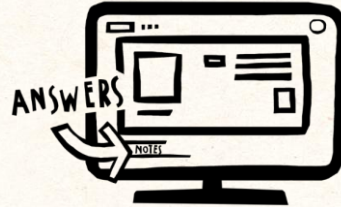


# HOW TO USE - NOTES FOR TEACHERS

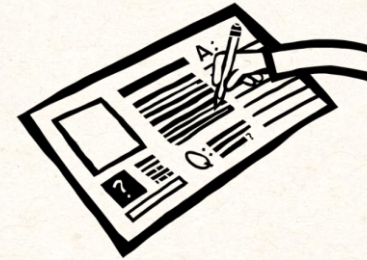
These resources from Historic Royal Palaces are multi-purpose.  
They are ready for you to tweak and use in your lessons.



For the best experience,  
download and open the  
file in the PowerPoint  
desktop app.



Answers are found  
under the slide. Click  
on the notes symbol at  
the bottom of the screen.



Delete text and images  
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Photo © Philip Mould Ltd, London / Bridgeman Images

**Reigned:** 1509 - 1533

**Lived:** 1485 - 1536 | **Birthplace:** Madrid, Spain

# KATHERINE OF ARAGON

A Spanish princess who became a powerful and brave queen

Katherine was a Spanish princess, daughter of Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon. Her mother was a very strong and powerful Queen **regnant**.

- Katherine came to England in 1501, aged 15 as part of a marriage **alliance** between England and Spain.
- She brought a large **entourage** with her, including Catalina of Motril who might have been an enslaved Muslim woman.
- She married Henry VII's oldest son, Arthur, but he died a few months later.
- In 1509, aged 23 she married Arthur's younger brother Henry VIII.
- The first 10 years of their marriage were happy.
- In 1513, Katherine became **regent** while Henry was fighting in France. The Scottish army took this as an opportunity to invade England. Katherine rode north in full armour to address the English troops.

**Q:** Give one example that shows Katherine was a very capable queen?

**Q:** Why do you think Katherine refused to 'go quietly' to a convent?

**Q:** What influence might Katherine's mother have had on her?

She had one son who sadly only lived for two months, and she suffered other losses of pregnancies too. In 1516, she had a daughter, Mary.

- Henry was obsessed with having a son and wanted to remarry.
- He thought that God was punishing him because he had married his brother's **widow**.

Henry claimed their marriage was **invalid** and wanted Katherine to go quietly into a **convent**. She refused and gave a powerful speech in court to argue that their marriage was valid. The Pope supported her.

Eventually, Henry went against the Pope. He banished Katherine from court, and she was banned from seeing her daughter. She remained popular with the public until she died.

*Alas, Sir, where have I offended you?  
I take God and all the world to witness  
that I have been to you a true, humble  
and obedient wife.*

Part of Katherine's speech to defend her marriage in 1529.

At 21, became the first female **ambassador** in European history.





© National Portrait Gallery, London

**Reigned:** 1533 - 1536

**Lived:** c.1501 - 1536 | **Birthplace:** Norfolk

# ANNE BOLEYN

An intelligent and bold queen who got involved with politics

Anne was born to a well-connected family. She spent her childhood at Hever Castle. Her father wanted her to have the same education as her brothers. She was sent to royal courts in the Netherlands and France around 1513 where she:

- learnt languages, skills and etiquette
- heard about new **Protestant** religious ideas
- made friends with powerful European women.

She returned to England by 1522 and became a **lady-in-waiting** to Henry's first wife, Katherine.

She was stylish and sophisticated and had a captivating personality. By 1526, Henry was obsessed with Anne, however she refused him at first.

After Henry broke from the Roman Catholic Church, they got married in 1533. Henry built the Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace for her and carved the initials H & A into the wood.

**Q:** Give one example that shows Anne was well educated and intelligent.

**Q:** Why do you think Anne was accused of treason and executed, even though there was not really any evidence against her?

- Anne gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth in 1533.
- She supported, and maybe even encouraged, Henry's religious changes.
- She stayed in touch with her powerful female friends in Europe.

At the time, it was unusual for women to get involved with politics, but Anne was intelligent and determined to be involved. As a result, she made enemies at court including Thomas Cromwell. She also suffered the loss of pregnancies. Her relationship with Henry began to break down. She was eventually accused of seeing other men and **plotting** to kill the King.

Even though there was not any evidence, she was found guilty of **treason**. She was beheaded by a swordsman in the Tower of London and buried in the Chapel. After she died, Henry tried to remove all traces of Anne, including destroying her portraits, but some still remain.

When Elizabeth I became queen, she had new portraits made of Anne.

*This will make me have greater desire to continue speaking French well and also spell. Sir I beg you to excuse me if my letter is badly written.*

Part of a letter Anne wrote to her father in 1514.





© National Portrait Gallery, London

**Reigned:** 1536 - 1537

**Lived:** c.1508 - 1537 | **Birthplace:** Wiltshire

# JANE SEYMOUR

A mysterious queen, who supported Catholic monasteries

Jane was born around 1508 at Wolf Hall. She came from a **wealthy** family, but they did not have much power at court. She was a devout **Catholic** and was taught needlework.

She was sent to court by her family in 1529 and became a **lady-in-waiting** to Katherine of Aragon, who she respected. She later also served Anne Boleyn.

We don't really know a lot about Jane, details about her life and personality are a mystery today.

- There are very few sources written by Jane herself.
- We have to rely on what others wrote about her.
- Eustace Chapuys, an **ambassador**, reported that Henry sent her letters and gifts, but that she politely refused these. She may have wanted to wait until Henry was ready to marry her. This might suggest she was firm and confident.

Q: Jane is often thought of as 'meek and mild'. Is this fair? Why/why not?

Q: Give one example that shows Jane was a capable queen?

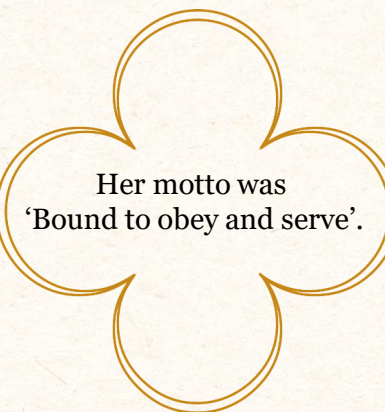
Q: Why don't we know more about Jane?

In 1536, Henry and Jane got engaged and married. This was very shortly after the execution of Anne Boleyn. As queen, Jane:

- stopped fashions that Anne had introduced, such as the French style headdress
- formed a close relationship with her stepdaughter Mary
- helped Mary and Henry to repair their relationship.

At one point, she begged Henry not to close the **Catholic monasteries**. This made Henry very angry, and he told her he did not want his wife to get involved in politics. As a warning, he reminded Jane what had happened to his previous wife.

In 1537 she gave birth to a boy, Edward, at Hampton Court Palace. Edward was Henry's first male **heir**. But it was a difficult birth and Jane became ill. Sadly, she died two weeks later.



Her motto was  
'Bound to obey and serve'.



Her labour lasted three  
days and three nights.





(C) RMN-Grand Palais (musée du Louvre) Adrien Didierjean

**Reigned:** 1540

**Lived:** 1515-1557 **Birthplace:** Rhineland, Germany

## ANNE OF CLEVES

A generous and kind queen who was known for having fun

Anne was born in Cleves in Germany and her father was a duke. Her mother was a **Catholic**, but Anne was probably **Protestant**. She liked card games and gambling. She probably did not learn English.

Henry VIII's **chief minister** was Thomas Cromwell. Together, they were planning a new marriage for Henry, but they also wanted to set up an **alliance** in Europe. A painter was sent to Germany to paint portraits of Anne and her younger sister. Henry saw these images and thought Anne was very beautiful, he decided to marry her.

- She arrived in England in 1539 aged 24.
- Henry was anxious to meet her.
- He greeted her in disguise which was a tradition of a romantic **courtly lover**.
- He attempted to kiss her, but Anne did not recognise him.
- Henry was disappointed by her appearance and behaviour.

**Q:** What evidence is there that Anne tried hard to be a good queen?

**Q:** Do you think Anne was sensible in agreeing to their separation? If so, why?

Henry wanted to get out of the marriage, but he could not do this without risking his **alliance**. The marriage went ahead in 1540, and their wedding was extravagant. However, they did not have a close relationship and they did not have much in common.

- Anne tried to learn English to make the relationship work
- She became friends with Henry's daughter Elizabeth and they developed a close relationship
- She was generous and kind towards her servants.

After six months she agreed to end the marriage. She stayed in England, became a **femme sole** and was given a generous **allowance** and properties. She seemed to enjoy her life without the responsibility of being queen. Later, when Edward VI became king, she lost many of her properties. However, after he died, she was part of Mary I's coronation procession and remained close to her stepdaughters.

After she separated from Henry, Anne had a strong position at court.

*Madame la Cleve has a more joyous countenance than ever. She wears a great variety of dresses, and passes all her time in sports and recreations.*

The French Ambassador writing about Anne of Cleves





The Met CCo

**Reigned:** 1540 - 1541

**Lived:** c.1521 - 1542 | **Birthplace:** London

# CATHERINE HOWARD

*A gracious, young queen who had a sad ending*

Catherine's father, Edmund Howard was a son of the Duke of Norfolk. Her mother, Joyce, died in 1528 and Catherine was sent to live with her step-grandmother, Agnes Tilney, the **dowager** Duchess of Norfolk. She had a stable life there and was taught to read, write, dance, play music and good **etiquette**.

- In 1539, her uncle helped to get Catherine a position at court.
- She became a **lady-in-waiting** to Anne of Cleves.
- Henry was attracted to Catherine.
- They got married in 1540.
- Henry was almost 50 years old and Catherine was still a teenager.

There is evidence that the men around her used Catherine and her position as queen to help themselves. In 1541, she began spending time with Thomas Culpepper. They wrote each other letters that seem romantic.

**Q:** Give one example that shows Catherine had little control over her life.

**Q:** Experts are unsure if this image is of Catherine. There are very few images of her that survive today. Why might this be?

Some evidence suggests Thomas might have pressured her, so she may not have felt completely free to say no to receiving and writing letters.

Catherine was at Hampton Court Palace when Henry found out about the letters. He ordered an immediate investigation. She was put under **house arrest**.

Eventually, she confessed that she had had **affairs**. However, she may have also been pressured to say this.

Henry was angry and she was sentenced to death. In 1542, she was taken by boat to the Tower of London. She was so determined to act properly; she even practised laying her head on the execution block. She was executed three days later. She was buried in the chapel nearby.

She was around 20 years old when she was executed.

*It makes my heart die to think I cannot be always in your company.*

*Yours as long as life endures.*

One of Catherine's letters to Thomas Culpepper.





© National Portrait Gallery, London

**Reigned:** 1543 - 1547

**Lived:** 1512 - 1548 | **Birthplace:** London

# KATHERINE PARR

An intelligent queen who inspired other women

Katherine's father was a **courtier**, Sir Thomas Parr, and her mother was Maud, a **lady-in-waiting** to Katherine of Aragon. She was very clever, fluent in French, Latin and Italian and liked music and dancing.

- Her first marriage was to Sir Edward Burgh.
- He died and she became a **widow**.
- Her second marriage was to Lord Latimer.
- He was about twenty years older than her and in poor health.
- Katherine took care of him until he died.

She was a strong supporter of the **English Reformation**. She met and fell in love with Thomas Seymour, Jane Seymour's brother. But Henry VIII proposed to her, and they got married at Hampton Court Palace in 1543. In the Tudor period, marriages were usually about money and power, not love.

**Q:** Why do you think Katherine accepted Henry's marriage proposal, even though there is evidence she was already in love with Thomas Seymour?

**Q:** What evidence is there that Katherine was good at connecting with people?

- Katherine was a loving stepmother to Henry's three children and became very close to Elizabeth in particular.
- She supported other women to learn, write and paint.
- She became **regent** while Henry fought in France in 1544 and did very well in this role.

She had disagreements with Henry about religion. His **ministers** tried to turn him against her. This could have ended badly for Katherine, but she told Henry she had only argued with him to learn from him, and he forgave her.

Katherine was loyal to Henry until he died in 1547. Then, she married Thomas Seymour and gave birth to their daughter, Mary, in 1548. Katherine died a few days after.

*I am bound to serve  
you and revere you  
with a daughter's love.*

Part of a letter from  
Elizabeth to Katherine.

The first English queen to write  
and publish her own books.





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**Reigned:** 1507 – 1547

**Lived:** 1491 - 1547 | **Birthplace:** London

# HENRY VIII

The King who married six times and created the Church of England

Henry VIII was the second son of Henry VII. His elder brother, Arthur, died in 1502. Henry VIII became king aged 17 after his father died.

- Wrote music and poetry.
- Graceful dancer and excellent sportsman.
- Married his brother's **widow**, Katherine of Aragon.
- In 1516, their daughter Mary was born.

During his time as king, he had two big challenges: having a male **heir** and getting the Pope's permission for a **divorce**.

Henry and Katherine did not have a son to become **heir**. Henry thought God was punishing him for marrying his brother's **widow**. He asked the **Pope** to declare that their marriage had been **invalid**, but the **Pope** refused. So, Henry broke away from the **Roman Catholic Church**.

**Q:** Henry was very popular when he first became king. Why do you think that was?

**Q:** Why was Henry determined to end his marriage to Katherine of Aragon?

**Q:** How does the artist convey Henry's power in the portrait?

- Married his second wife Anne Boleyn in 1533.
- Created a separate **Church of England**.
- Made himself the **Supreme Head** of the **Church of England**.
- In 1534, got **Parliament's** support to make changes to the way the Church was run, and this started the **English Reformation**.

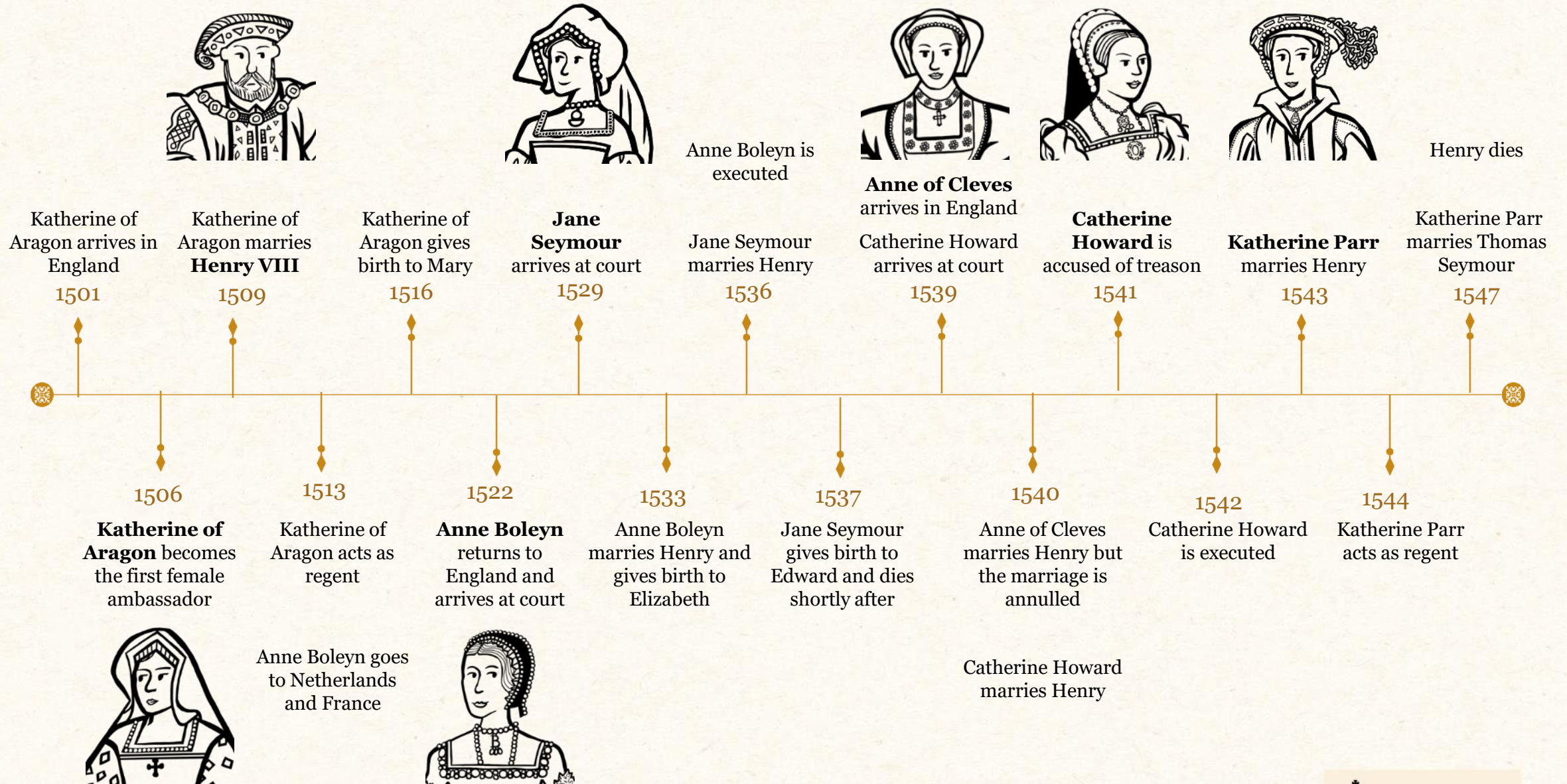
Henry and his chief **minister**, Thomas Cromwell, closed hundreds of **monasteries**, and took land and treasure. Henry used this **wealth** for developing England's **navy** and building projects at Hampton Court Palace.

He and Anne had one child, Elizabeth, but not long after he accused Anne of **treason**, and she was executed. Around this time, he had an accident whilst **jousting** where he was knocked unconscious for a few hours.

His third wife, Jane Seymour, gave birth to his only son Edward at Hampton Court Palace. After she died, he married three more times, and executed another of his wives, Catherine Howard. When Henry died, he was buried with Jane Seymour in the Chapel at Windsor Castle.



# SIX TUDOR QUEENS TIMELINE





# CLASSROOM TASKS



- 1 Create a timeline of each Tudor queen's life using the information in their biographies.

You could combine all six queens onto one timeline and use a different colour for each of them.

- 2 Read the biographies of the six Tudor Queens. What similarities and differences can you find in their lives?

- 3 Looks closely at the portraits of the six Tudor Queens. What similarities and differences can you find in how they are portrayed and what clothing they wore?

- 4 Which of the six queens do you think had the most choice and control over their lives?

You could plot this along a line.

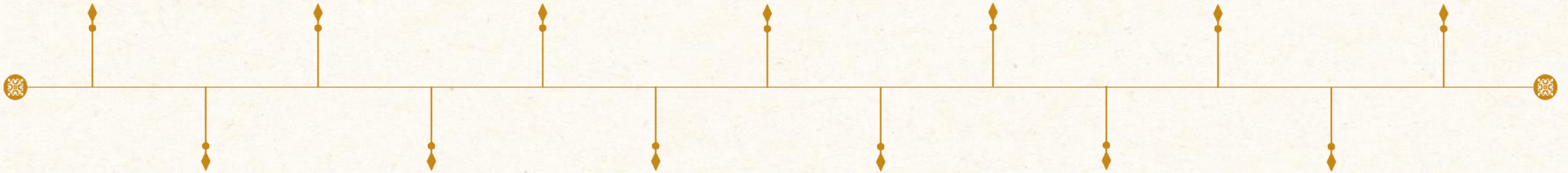
No  
control

Lots of  
control

- 5 Think of one word to describe each queen. Can you come up with an alternative to the 'Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived' rhyme?



# SIX TUDOR QUEENS





# VOCABULARY LIST 1



**affair** | romantic relationship between two people, one or both of whom are married to someone else

**alliance** | agreement between people or countries to help each other

**allowance** | set amount of money to spend

**ambassador** | the official representative of a foreign ruler at the royal court

**Catholic** | member of the Roman Catholic Church - a type of Christianity that follows the teachings of the Pope

**chief minister** | the king or queen's main advisor who has a lot of power

**Church of England** | the Christian church in England based on the Protestant faith, established by King Henry VIII, with the king or queen as its head

**convent** | buildings where religious communities of women called nuns live and worship

**courtier** | nobleman or noblewoman who spends a lot of time at the royal court

**divorce** | the legal ending of a marriage

**courtly lover** | knight who performed noble deeds for the woman he loved

**English Reformation** | name given to ending the Pope's control of the English Church and the religious changes that followed

**entourage** | a group of people attending or surrounding an important person

**etiquette** | the rules for polite behaviour in society that people were expected to follow

**femme sole** | a single woman who can act independently

**government** | group of people that have the authority to rule a country



# VOCABULARY LIST



**heir** | person who will become the next king or queen

**house arrest** | kept as a prisoner in a house, castle or palace rather than a prison

**illegitimate** | child whose parents were not legally married to each other when they were born

**invalid** | not legal

**jousting** | sport developed in the Middle Ages as training for soldiers who fought on horseback

**lady-in-waiting** | one of the queen's companions who is there to do as the queen wishes

**monasteries** | buildings where religious communities of men called monks live and worship

**minister** | someone with a lot of power and responsibility in government

**navy** | ships built and maintained to defend a country

**nobleman/woman** | person of high rank in society

**Parliament** | the group of people elected to make and change laws in a country; in the past only very rich and powerful people were Members of Parliament

**peacemaker** | someone who tries to stop people from arguing or fighting

**plot/plotting** | secretly plan to harm someone, especially a government or ruler

**Pope** | the head of the Roman Catholic Church

**Protestant** | A type of Christianity that believes people do not need officials (such as the Pope or Bishops) to communicate with God



# VOCABULARY LIST

**regent** | person who rules when the king or queen is unable to

**regnant** | a queen who rules in her own right, not because she is the wife of a king

**Roman Catholic Church** | Christian religion with the Pope as its head

**Supreme Head** | the highest in rank

**treason** | the crime of acting against your own country, especially by trying to kill the king or queen, or overthrow the government

**wealthy** | having a large amount of money, property, land and valuable possessions

**widow** | woman whose husband has died

