

Who Was Henry VIII? Questions

1. Read source E. How can we tell if Henry VIII was a healthy man?

2. Compare sources C and D. How are the two descriptions different?

3. Could sources C and D both be accurate? (Think carefully if anything could be hidden in a portrait.)

4. Read source A and source D. Describe how Henry tried to look wealthy.

5. Compare sources C and F. Explain how and why the sources are different in their descriptions of Henry VIII.

6. How are sources B, D and I useful for helping us find out about King Henry's appearance?

The Tudors Who Was Henry VIII? Answers

1. Read source E. How can we tell if Henry VIII was a healthy man?

Henry participated in sports.

Horsemen/jouster must have been fit.

Very physically demanding sports – Henry would have to have been fit and healthy to have done well in them.

2. Compare sources C and D. How are the two descriptions different?

Source C – describes Henry as a very obese and unhealthy man with numerous sores oozing. He was described as needing help to move.

Source D – Henry looks powerful and well dressed. Large but not obese.

3. Could sources C and D both be accurate? (Think carefully if anything could be hidden in a portrait.)

Paintings can be painted more favourably, like air brushing photos.

Baldness could be covered by hat.

Scabs on legs could be covered by tights.

Obesity could be hidden by not having anyone else in the picture to provide a comparison.

4. Read source A and source D. Describe how Henry tried to look wealthy.

gold

Jewels – pearls, diamonds, rubies on clothes, jewellery and even dagger.

Fabric – expensive and abundant cloth like lace, satin and velvet.

Expensive surroundings – tapestries and carpets.

Fashion from around Europe.

Hosting feasts and parties.

5. Compare sources C and F. Explain how and why the sources are different in their descriptions of Henry VIII.

Source C – obese, immobile, sore ridden, balding and unhealthy.

Source F – talented, musician, religious, speaks many languages, sporty.

From different times - one is from Henry's younger years and the other from his later years.

6. How are sources B, D and I useful for helping us find out about King Henry's appearance?

Useful – all seem to agree on main features/appearance.

Not useful – all controlled by Henry, possible portraits are to please Henry rather than be accurate.

Portraits seen as propaganda and will therefore be favourable to Henry.