

# The Tudors

## Who Was Henry VIII?



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## Learning Objective

- To investigate the character and reign of King Henry VIII and to test the common interpretation of him through a source enquiry.

## Success Criteria

- To identify key features of Henry VIII's character and reign.
- To analyse both contemporary and modern sources about Henry VIII and test them for reliability and utility.
- To undertake a source based enquiry on Henry VIII and make an overall judgment on his effectiveness as King.



# What Do We Already Know about Henry VIII?



Working in a pair or a small group, note down everything you know about King Henry VIII...

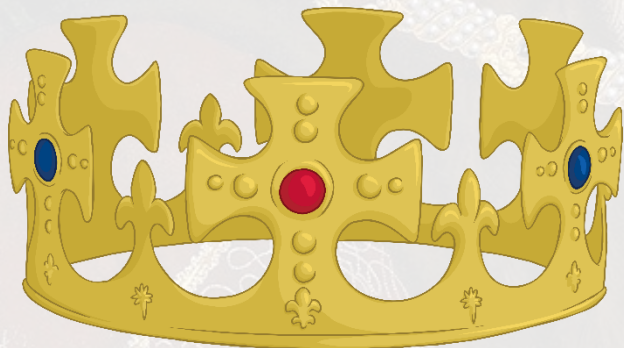




# Henry VIII's Interpretation Today

When most people think of Henry VIII today they think automatically of an obese King who had six wives and who chopped the heads off two of them!

However, there is much more to Henry VIII than just wives and a big waistline!





# Who Was Henry VIII?

Which of the adjectives on the activity sheet apply to King Henry VIII?

## Who Was Henry VIII?

Highlight each description which you believe applies to King Henry VIII.

obese	handsome	healthy	bankrupt
sporty	selfish	untrustworthy	Married to his brother's widow.
fashionable	musician	tyrant	Skilled in fighting.
Second in line to the throne.	athletic	charismatic	diseased
academic	religious	clever	cruel
Fluent in several languages.	sociable	tall	Skilled horseman.
womaniser	Untrained to be King.	composer	ambitious



Secondary

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# What Did Henry VIII Achieve as King?

Henry VIII was King of England from 1509 – 1547, and during that time, he **achieved** a great deal.

- He oversaw the **union** of England and Wales in the Laws in Wales Act of 1535;
- he **joined** England with Ireland in the Crown of Ireland Act of 1542;
- he expanded the **control** of royal power over his subjects;
- he oversaw the **English Reformation**;
- he used **execution** as a punishment for treason and heresy (mainly against people who tried to oppose him);
- he spent so much money on the Royal Courts he was on the verge of **bankruptcy**.

*All of the descriptions apply to Henry VIII!*

Although we view Henry VIII as the obese womaniser he became in his later years, he was a true Prince Charming in his younger years.





# What Was Henry VIII Like?

Working in small groups, you will need to investigate what Henry VIII was like; both in his personality and appearance.

To do this, you will need to analyse the sources for what they can tell you and **test their reliability** by looking at their provenance (where they came from).

Fill in your **Source Grid** as you progress through the sources to organise your conclusions.



## Key Terms

**Tyrant** – A ruler who is cruel and kills any opposition to themselves.

**Heresy** – A crime where someone is not of the same religion as the King or Queen.

**Charismatic** – Someone who has lots of personality and who people like to be around.





# Who Was Henry VIII?



Using the [Henry VIII Conclusions Activity Sheet](#), note down who you believe Henry VIII was, both when he was young and older.

Has anything you've learned today about Henry VIII surprised you?