

# The Tudors

## The Young King

twinkl

# Learning Objective

- To understand how Edward VI's reign affected England.

# Success Criteria

- To know who Edward VI was.
- To understand how religion changed in England during Edward's reign.
- To analyse the role of Edward's protectors.

# When I Was Nine



Think back to when you were nine years old. Note down what your main likes, dislikes and responsibilities were. Aim to write down three things under each heading.



# When I Was Nine



When Edward (son of Henry VIII) was nine, his life changed forever. His father died, leaving him as the King of England. His mother, Jane Seymour, had died shortly after giving birth to him, so Edward was now looked after by people who were not his parents.

Edward became king in 1547. At this time, England was fighting a brutal war with Scotland and undergoing huge religious changes as Protestantism began to overtake Catholicism across the country.

Compare your lists with how you think Edward's lists would look. Use your Activity Sheet to note down what you think Edward's likes, dislikes and responsibilities would be.



# Edward VI

Edward was a healthy boy, no more prone to illness than others at his time. He had a good relationship with his half-sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, who would both go on to be future queens. He especially liked Mary, although he disagreed with her about religion.

Edward was raised as a strict Protestant, his father having made the Church of England. Mary on the other hand was a Catholic, and Edward often stated that he wished she would stop doing foreign things and dancing foreign dances in the Catholic style.

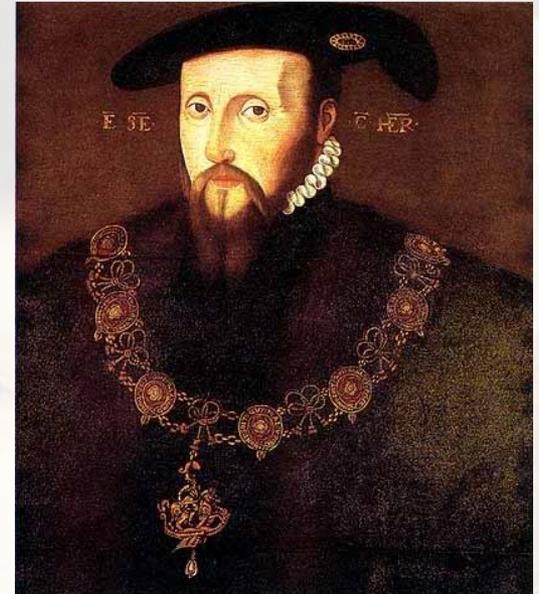
Edward's religious faith would have a great impact on England, but it was not Edward that called the shots; he was advised by a powerful 'Protector' at all times.



# Somerset

As Henry VIII died, he put in his will that Edward should be protected by a council of advisors who would run England in his name.

It took Edward Seymour, an uncle of Edward VI, only a short time to fill this council with his own supporters and declare himself Protector to Edward VI. This gave Edward Seymour, the Earl of Somerset, almost total power in England; in effect, a king in his own right.



# Northumberland



Somerset only held power in England until early in 1550. His expensive wars against Scotland and his poor financial management meant that he was overthrown by another powerful man; John Dudley, the Earl of Northumberland.

Northumberland is often seen as a sneaky figure, famous for taking down Somerset and trying to pass the crown to his daughter-in-law Jane Grey.

It would seem that Northumberland had a good head for ruling however and he recovered the collapsing economy. Although he never officially named himself as Edward VI's Protector, he fulfilled the same role that Somerset had done.



With a partner, examine the Fact Cards on Somerset and Northumberland. Rate each man with a score out of five, five being highest, as to how well they did in providing for Edward VI, the country, and the Church. Which man will come out as the more successful?

# Changes

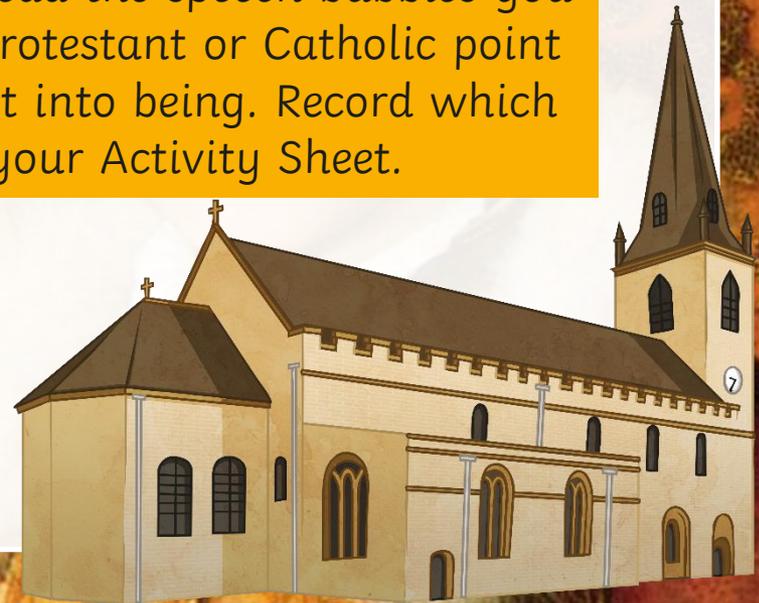


One area that Edward VI had personal interest in was religion. Under the protection of both Somerset and Northumberland, Edward pushed through some strong religious reforms.

Edward's father (Henry VIII) had already split with Rome, but allowed Catholics the freedom to practice their religion in their own way, to a large extent. Edward VI's reign saw more and more laws and regulations brought into effect, changing the way people practised religion.

In a group, move around the room and read the speech bubbles you find. Each speech bubble gives either a Protestant or Catholic point of view of the changes Edward VI brought into being. Record which view each bubble is showing on your Activity Sheet.

When completed, discuss with your group which three religious changes were most important and why. Use this discussion to then explain how people in England were effected by religious law.



# Death

Edward VI died at the age of 15. He never took control of England in his own right and is often seen as a 'puppet king'; somebody who danced to the instructions of Somerset and Northumberland.

Edward's health deteriorated rapidly over the last six months of his life, leading to his death. Some historians believe that he died of a disease, whereas others speculate that his death was more... suspicious.

Using your Activity Sheet, read each of the points of evidence given for Edward's death and colour-code them. Use one colour for evidence that points to natural causes, and another colour for evidence that points to murder.



When you have balanced all of the evidence given, explain how you think Edward VI died on your Activity Sheet.

# Puppet King?



Do you think that it is accurate or fair to say that Edward VI was a puppet king?

Using what you have learnt today about Edward VI, Somerset and Northumberland, write a short statement that either agrees or disagrees with the idea that Edward was a puppet.



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