

The Tudors Knowledge Organiser

Why did Henry VIII break England from the Roman Catholic Church?

- The Tudors began in 1485 with Henry VII. He secured the Tudor dynasty by securing the crown's finances, gaining control over the barons
- His son, Henry VIII, broke away from this stability by spending over 14 years trying to annul (divorce) his marriage to Katherine of Aragon.
- In order to solve this problem, Henry decided to completely break England from the Catholic Church in 1534.

The reasons why he did this were:

- To become more powerful by removing the influence of the Pope and the Church.
- To gain wealth, by acquiring the land and money of the Church and their monasteries
- To secure the Tudor dynasty by having a son. Katherine could no longer give birth and had only produced 1 girl (he needed a son to succeed the throne).
- In Europe, there were many protests against the Catholic Church. This was called the Protestant Reformation. People were angry about the corruption of the Church. Henry used this to make his break seem more legitimate.



The Reformation and Counter-Reformation

- Following Henry's break from the Catholic Church, religious upheaval began in England. After Henry died, his 3 children all consecutively succeeded the throne and made further religious changes.
- **Edward VI:** A young boy king who died at 16. Was a major Protestant and extended the Reformation. He introduced a common prayer book in English so that people could read the bible for the first time.
- **Mary I:** Henry's first child, raised as a strict Catholic and introduced the Counter-Reformation by turning England back to Catholicism. Was known as Bloody Mary for executing 300 Protestants.
- **Elizabeth I:** Henry and Anne Boleyn's daughter. Raised as a Protestant and returns England to Protestantism. However, she seeks a "middle-way" and says that Catholics can worship but must do in private.

Elizabeth I

- Elizabeth was constantly pressured into marrying by her council. However, she never did. She had some suitors such as Robert Dudley and Francis Duke of Anjou but ultimately decided to remain single
- Despite seeking a "middle-way" for religion in England, Elizabeth faced several Catholic rebellions, all designed to replace her on the throne with her cousin Mary Queen of Scots (Catholic)
- After several Catholic rebellions, Elizabeth made the decision to execute Mary Queen of Scots due to her involvement in them. No more Catholic rebellions took place.
- Catholic Phillip II of Spain launched a naval invasion of England in 1588 to remove Elizabeth from the throne. This was called the Spanish Armada.
- The Spanish Navy was seen as the best in the world but Elizabeth defeated them partially due to the weather (wind) which affected the Spanish ships.

