

Henry VIII: Catholic or Protestant?



Aim: To decide whether Henry VIII was more Catholic or more Protestant.

1. Copy the title and aim above.
2. You are going to revise last lesson. Decide whether these sentences are true or false. Write the letters a-f, then write true or false.

- a) When people were born in 1500, their parents would have them baptised.
- b) The local farmer, and never the priest, married people.
- c) You could buy 'indulgences' from a bishop – these would stop you being punished in purgatory.
- d) People gave money to the church when they died.
- e) The priest wore normal clothes and the church was just an ordinary room.
- f) In 1500, religion was really important to people – almost everyone was Catholic.

3. Next, read the paragraph below, then copy and complete the two sentences below.

The church did not use enough of its money to help the poor – bishops and monks just had a nice life. Many priests and bishops had several jobs and so could not do them all properly. The services and the Bible were still in Latin; so many people couldn't read them for themselves. The 'Lollards' in England had been protesting about all this for years, and then in 1519, a German monk called Luther started to attack the Catholic church there. Soon many people joined him – they were called 'Protestants.' There were many changes in churches all over Europe – this is called the 'Reformation'.

- Three things that made people unhappy with the church were:
 - 1) It did not use enough of its money to help the _____.
 - 2) Priests and bishops often had several _____.
 - 3) Church services and the Bible were still in _____.
 - A monk called _____ in Germany started many changes. The people who followed him are called _____.
4. You are now going to think about what Henry VIII did about all this. Look at the list of his problems and the list of his solutions on the top of the page. →

Divide one page in your book into 2 columns. Write the problems on the left hand side and his solution next to it on the right hand side.

Henry's problems

Henry wanted a son to be the next Tudor king. His wife, Catherine of Aragon had given him a daughter, but no son. The Pope refused to let him get divorced.

Henry was bankrupt from fighting too many wars.

Henry wanted to control the church because it was a big part of English life.

Henry's solutions

(These are mixed up – write each one next to the correct problem)

The monasteries were very rich – so Henry threw the monks out and took over their land – which was a quarter of the land in the country.

He ignored the Pope, and got his friend Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to marry him to Anne Boleyn. He told Catherine to go and live on her own.

He made himself head of the English church, rather than the Pope.

5. Henry had many problems, so his actions are quite confusing. Look at the list of things that he did, with the help of parliament, below. Write the letters a – e in your book, and then decide whether each action makes Henry more Protestant or more Catholic. Write 'Protestant' or 'Catholic' next to each letter.

- a) In 1532 and 1533, all payments to the Pope from the English Church were stopped.
- b) In 1534, Henry became head of the English Church, rather than the Pope.
- c) In 1536, Henry closed down the little monasteries.
- d) In 1538, Henry had a son – Edward. He decided that his teachers would be 2 famous Protestants.
- e) In 1539, an Act was passed in Parliament, which meant that Catholic beliefs and church services were to be followed. It said that Protestants should be *persecuted* (life would be made very difficult for them).

6. You decide!

Copy and complete the sentence:

I think Henry VIII was more Catholic than Protestant*/more Protestant than Catholic.* (Try to write a short paragraph to explain why you think this).