



THE TUDOR DYNASTY



↑ *Portrait of Henry VIII* by Hans Holbein the Younger (1540), oil on canvas, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica, Rome.



↑ *Napoleon I on his imperial throne* by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres (1806), oil on canvas, Musée de l'Armée, Paris.

LEAD IN

1 Look at the pictures, which show two rulers belonging to different epochs. Then answer the following questions.

1. What symbols of power are seen in the images?
2. What royal symbol is not seen in the picture of Henry VIII?
3. What is Napoleon wearing on his head?
4. What impression do their rich clothes and jewels make?
5. What do the expressions on their faces suggest?

Share your ideas with the rest of the class.

VOCABULARY Lab

2 Read the paragraphs and find the English translations of the following words (1-8).

1. sconfitto
2. succeduto
3. regno
4. maschio
5. erede
6. esecuzione
7. credenze
8. persecuzione

The years from the accession of the first Tudor monarch (1485) to the death of the first Stuart king (1625) brought profound changes to England. Culture flourished and the national and imperial power grew. At the same time the country was subject to fierce internal conflicts, fruit of an explosive mixture of politics and religion.

The War of the Roses and Henry VII. The long dynastic struggle, known as the **War of the Roses**, between the House of Lancaster, whose symbol was a red rose, and the House of York, symbolised by a white rose, came to an end in 1485 when the Yorkist king **Richard III** was defeated and killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field. The victor, **Henry Tudor of Lancaster**, became king as Henry VII. The new king united the two families by marrying Richard's niece, Elizabeth of York. Henry was a strong king, who limited the power of the nobles and exercised a system of government which is sometimes called 'The Tudor Despotism'.

Henry VIII and the break with Rome. When Henry VII died in 1509 he was succeeded by his son, **Henry VIII**. Henry married Catherine of **Aragon**, the widow of his brother Arthur. Henry VIII was initially a true Renaissance man, athletic, intelligent and cultured, but his reign is remembered mainly for his break with the Pope and his six marriages. It was vital for him to guarantee the succession of the Tudor line. In 1516 his wife Catherine gave him a daughter, **Mary**, but in 24 years of marriage she did not produce a surviving male heir, and without a son the Tudor line was at risk. Henry's request to Pope Clement VII in 1527 to annul his marriage was rejected. The angry king refused to accept the authority of Rome and with the **Act of Supremacy** of 1534 declared that he was the Supreme Head of the Church in England. This decision led to the Schism between the Church of Rome and the Church in England or 'Anglican Church'. While many of his subjects accepted their king's break with Rome, some men opposed it. Henry's friend and trusted Lord Chancellor **Sir Thomas More** was executed in 1535 for refusing to recognise Henry as the head of the church.



HERSTORY



↑ *Portrait of Anne Boleyn* by unknown artist (ca. 1533-36). Copy after a lost original, National Portrait Gallery, London.

Anne Boleyn

Henry needed a male heir and felt a strong attraction for the young Anne Boleyn, one of Catherine's maids-of-honour. Anne, secretly married to the king in November 1532, became pregnant and an official wedding was held in January 1533 to legitimate the future child. The Archbishop of Canterbury declared Henry's marriage to Catherine void and affirmed the validity of his marriage to Anne, prompting the Pope to excommunicate the king. The king and the court hoped for a male heir, but on 7th September Anne gave birth to a girl, the future Queen Elizabeth. Henry, however, showed his affection for Elizabeth and named her rather than his 17-year-old daughter Mary his heir. When Catherine died in January 1536, Anne was pregnant again. Sadly, on the day of Catherine's funeral, Anne lost her baby. The king was now determined to marry Jane Seymour, one of Anne's maids-of-honour. A plot was invented, accusing Anne of adultery with four courtiers and of incest with her brother George. There was no evidence against them, but all the men were found guilty and were beheaded on 17th May. Anne was likewise found guilty of treason. She was condemned to death but as a gesture of respect a skilled swordsman was brought from France to behead her with 'little pain'. Her final words to the crowd at her execution showed great dignity. She wished to save Elizabeth and her family from any further consequences.

3 Answer the following questions.

1. What two factors made Henry decide to marry Anne Boleyn?
2. What led the king to reject (and condemn) Anne Boleyn?

The short reign of Edward VI. Ten days after Anne Boleyn's execution, Henry married **Jane Seymour**, mother of his only surviving son, **Edward**, and thus guaranteed the Tudor succession. Jane died two weeks after giving birth. Three more wives (but no more children) followed. On Henry's death in 1547, he was succeeded by his nine-year-old son **Edward VI** with the nation controlled by a Council of Regency. Edward's reign saw England shift from an Anglican Church that remained very similar in its beliefs and practices to the Roman Catholic Church to a more Protestant position.

'Bloody Mary' and the Puritans. On Edward's death in 1553, his half-sister **Mary Tudor**, the daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, was proclaimed queen as **Mary I**. As a devout Catholic, Mary was determined to restore Roman Catholicism in England. She persecuted Protestants, sending many to death at the stake. This won her great unpopularity and the name of **Bloody Mary**. Mary's persecution led many Protestants to abandon England and go to Protestant cities like Geneva and Basel, where they came into contact with the ideas of John Calvin (1509-64). When Mary died they returned to England and formed a Calvinistic group called the **Puritans**, extreme Protestants who wanted to 'purify' the church and remove all traces of Roman Catholicism.



↑ *Portrait of Mary I* by Master John (1544), oil on panel, National Portrait Gallery, London.

CHECKPOINT

4 Answer the following questions.

1. How did Henry Tudor become King Henry VII?
2. What connection did Catherine of Aragon have with the Tudor dynasty?
3. Why did Henry VIII need to marry again?
4. What did the Act of Supremacy provoke?
5. Which king followed Henry VIII?
6. Why is Mary I referred to as 'Bloody Mary'?

CINE CLIPS
THE OTHER
BOLEYN GIRL



VIDEO

ORACY Lab PRESENTATION

- 5 Make a list of bullet points to highlight the changes in religion in the Tudor period. Use them to make a brief oral presentation.