

Florida Renaissance Festival's Recommended Curriculum Guide for Schools

This study guide is designed to serve as a key to opening up one of the most fascinating times in England's history. During Henry VIII's reign, England underwent a variety of dramatic changes, both nationally and as a world power. What we have attempted to do is organize the wealth of information about Henry VIII's reign into a clear, concise and easy to follow guide.

This booklet is complements of 16TH CENTURY, INC., a Florida not-for-profit cultural and educational organization, and is designed to be used by teachers in presenting studies of the reign of Henry VIII and the 16th Century.

Within each chapter, suggested vocabulary words are presented in boldface.

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HENRY VIII

I. LIFE

Born: June 28, 1491 - died: January 27, 1547

Reigned: April 22, 1509 to January 27, 1547

Henry VIII was the very model of a strong king. Not only was he physically impressive (standing over six feet tall at a time when the average height for males was only 5'4"), but he was also highly intelligent. He had a very good memory, an excellent eye for detail, and was a shrewd judge of men.

Henry was not the first in line for the English throne. He was born the second son to Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. His siblings included an older brother, Arthur, and two sisters, Margaret and Mary. As the second son of the King, Henry was destined for the Church; specifically, he was expected to become the Archbishop of Canterbury. As a young lad, Henry divided his time between theological studies, artistic endeavors, and sports. Henry was quite accomplished as a musician. He played several instruments, among them the lute, recorder, flute, and harp. He composed many songs, his most famous being "Greensleeves" (the melody which you may know as the Christmas Carol What Child Is This). He was also quite a dancer and a poet. It should also be noted that with his red hair, fair complexion, and muscular build, Henry was considered to be quite handsome. In addition to his social accomplishments, Henry was an outstanding athlete. He was an extremely fine jousting and enjoyed falconry, hunting, and tennis. In contrast, Henry VII (the father) was cold, calculating, conservative, and guided his foreign policy by matrimony rather than by war. So, when Arthur died in 1502, leaving a widow (Catherine of Aragon), all eyes turned to Henry as next in line for the throne, and the stage was set for England's greatest king. Henry VIII was crowned on April 22, 1509, at the age of seventeen. He brought to the throne his zest for life, and the early part of Henry's reign was looked upon as a time of celebration by all of England. As a leader, he was inspiring; even ambassadors from other countries sang Henry's praises.

Two months after he was crowned, Henry married his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. Henry had to gain a special dispensation from the Pope which declared Catherine's previous marriage annulled and cleared the way for Henry. Although young Henry was in love with Catherine, who was the daughter of King Ferdinand of Spain, their marriage also created an important political alliance which would forever influence Henry and his reign. As a young king, Henry was ready for the glories of war. He had his sights set on France, whose history of feuding with England was ancient and well known. In 1511, Henry joined the Holy League which united Pope Julius II, England, Switzerland, Venice, and Spain against France.

In 1513 Henry lead an army into France. In August of that year, the Battle of Spurs occurred. This battle, so named because of the hasty retreat of French troops, gave Henry his first victory of note. The French towns of Tournai and Therouanne were also captured by the English in July and August.

Meanwhile, back in England, on September 7, 1513, a battle took place between England and Scotland (a long-time ally of France). This battle shaped the relationship between these two countries for most of Henry's reign. This was the Battle of Flodden Edge, where a vastly superior Scottish army lead by King James IV was defeated by English troops lead by the Earl of Surrey. During that battle, more than ten thousand Scotsmen were killed including King James IV himself and several Scottish lords. King James' widow, who was King Henry's sister, Margaret, became Regent; their son, a young child at the time, became King James V.

In 1514, Henry signed a treaty with France. In this treaty, France agreed to give the town of Tournai to England and to pay a large pension. To cement this agreement, Henry betrothed his younger sister, Mary, to King Louis XII of France.

MAJOR POLITICAL POWERS DURING HENRY VIII's REIGN

Kings of Spain

Ferdinand of Aragon (died, 1516)

Charles V (1516 - beyond Henry's reign)

Charles V, grandson of Ferdinand and nephew of Emperor Maximilian, drew his support from many locations. After only three years as King of Spain Charles V also became the leader of the Holy Roman Empire (a collection of German principalities). In addition to these two powerful titles, Charles ruled over some of Asia and Africa, Naples, Sicily, the Mediterranean Empire of Balearic Islands, and the Netherlands (including Antwerp, which was an important trade center). Even though Spain only had a population of eight million, Charles V's other holdings made him the most powerful man in all Europe.

Kings of France

Louis XII (died 1515)

Francois I (1515 - beyond Henry's reign)

In Henry VIII's time, France had a population of approximately twelve million people, the largest of any single country. It was the only European power that was capable of competing with Charles V (see Spain) on equal terms.

Kings of Scotland

James IV (died 1513)

James V (1513 - 1542)

Scotland was a very small power in the European scheme of things. But it was geographically important to England because of the border shared by the two countries. Scotland had a history of border skirmishes with England. Due to these border disputes, Scotland was a willing ally with France whenever the opportunity arose.

Popes (THE CHURCH)

Julius II (died 1513)

Leo XI (1513 - 1521)

Clement VII (1521 - 1534)

Paul III (1534 - beyond Henry's reign)

During Henry VIII's time, the Catholic Church was both a religious and a military power. The Pope had his own army which wielded not only physical strength but also spiritual force (because the Church had power over your soul).

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

This country was a constant source of concern because of its frequent forays into Italy. The Ottoman holdings included the North African coast and the eastern Mediterranean.

PORTUGAL

Portugal was a major power due to its lucrative trade with the West Indies.

INDEPENDENT, MINOR POWERS DURING HENRY VIII'S REIGN

*Republic of Venice

*Switzerland (neutral but still a good recruiting ground for mercenaries)

*Elective Kingdom of Poland

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF EVENTS REGARDING ENGLAND, SPAIN, AND FRANCE

DATE EVENT ENGLAND'S GAIN

1512 * England declares war on France

1513 * Battle of Spurs

* Capture of Toulouse

* Capture of Therouanne

1514 * France signs peace treaty with England

DATE EVENT ENGLAND'S GAIN

1520 *Meeting on the Field of the Cloth of Gold:

A meeting between Henry VIII and Francois I near Calais.

1522 *Charles V and England declare war on France

1523 *England's contribution to the war dwindles because of poor finances.

1525 *Battle of Pavia - Charles V's generals captured Francois I, and peace is restored.

1527 *Charles V's armies capture Rome

1528 *Wolsey allies England with France in a war against Charles V. *England refuses to fight

*This begins Wolsey's fall from power

1529 *France signs peace treaty with Charles V.

1543 *England declares war on France NONE

1546 *England signs peace treaty with France *Retains Boulogne until 1554

*France promises to pay England sizable pensions

MAJOR BATTLES/WARS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

DATE EVENT ENGLAND'S GAIN

1512 *War declared by England

1513 *Battle of Flodden Edge *Eliminated a military threat

* King James IV killed

* More than 10,000 Scotsmen killed

* A child ascends to the throne of Scotland, and Henry's sister serves as Regent. *Eliminated the threat of Scotland (which set the stage for war with France)

1542 *England declares war on Scotland - Battle of Solway Moss-

A battle in which few deaths occurred, but a large number of Scottish lords surrendered.

News of this hastened the death of the ailing James V.

III. INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

THOMAS WOLSEY

(Born: 1473 - died: 1530) Thomas Wolsey, a commoner who was the son of a butcher and innkeeper, became one of the most powerful men in England during Henry VIII's reign.

WOLSEY'S RISE TO POWER 1509

Appointed Dean of Lincoln (accumulative offices) 1513 - appointed to several other Deaneries

- Given Bishopric of Tournai 1514 - named Archbishop of York

1515 - Named as a Candidate from the Pope

- appointed Lord Chancellor of England

- appointed Chief Councilor for the King's Cabinet

1518 - Appointed Legate a Latere (this position gave Wolsey the authority to be the Pope's representative in England)

Cardinal Wolsey was a shrewd, vain, power-hungry opportunist. As Legate a Latere, he held a position of power in England second only to the King himself.

WOLSEY'S DECLINE

In 1527, Charles V sacked Rome and captured the Pope. This capture presented two problems for England. First, Henry VIII was trying to get a dispensation from the Pope to void his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. With the Pope being held hostage by Charles V (who was Catherine's nephew), this seemed unlikely. Secondly, by capturing the Pope, Charles V had more power than England wanted him to have.

In order to solve these two problems, Wolsey suggested that England ally itself with France, and, in 1528, these two allies declared war on Charles V. Even though there was political motivation, the Commonwealth of England was not in favor of the war: enthusiasm was low and funds were even lower. In 1529, France signed a peace treaty with Charles V and left England out. This was the beginning of the end for Wolsey.

With England "losing face" and the Pope still in Charles' power, Wolsey was unable to deliver on his promise to gain an annulment of Henry's marriage to Catherine. The king was not happy, and Wolsey's many enemies jumped at the chance to bring about his downfall. In 1530, Wolsey was arrested for high treason. He died a natural death.

Because Wolsey had held so much power, a vacuum was created in the Church upon his demise. There were no powerful Church leaders left in England, so the stage was set for the Church Reformation.

THOMAS CROMWELL (born: 1485-died: 1540)

To a great extent, Thomas Cromwell's rise to power was created out of Wolsey's death. Cromwell was born sometime around 1485 and became the country's first Parliamentary statesman. He demonstrated his statesmanship by his excellent use of Parliament:

- * He manipulated Parliament to get laws passed.
- * He used laws and Parliamentary opinion to guide the government.
- * He combined royal powers and Parliamentary powers into a working partnership.
- * His use of Parliament made the Church Reformation a relatively peaceful process.
- * His use of Parliament initiated Parliamentary practices which paved the way for present-day Parliamentary procedure.

CROMWELL'S RISE TO POWER

1532 - Gained Henry VIII's confidence by helping to annul the marriage with Catherine of Aragon

1533 - Named Chancellor of Exchequer

1534 - Named Principal Secretary and Master of Rolls

1535 - Appointed Vicar General by Henry VIII to oversee the Church of England

1536 - Named Lord of the Privy Seal

Cromwell formed the Privy Council from the Inner Ring of the King's Council . The Privy Council consisted of nineteen leading Councilors and a Clerk. The Privy Council was used in day-to-day operations of the government and also served as an intellectual resource for policy making.

CROMWELL'S DECLINE

Cromwell engineered the marriage between Henry VIII and Anne of Cleves in order to secure an alliance with Germany. Henry was extremely unhappy with this particular marriage and therefore unhappy with Cromwell. Cromwell's enemies (Stephen Gardiner and the Duke of Norfolk, in particular) charged Cromwell with sacramental heresy. Cromwell was tried, found guilty, and executed in 1540.

THOMAS CRANMER

(Born: ? - died: 1555) Thomas Cranmer served as Archbishop of Canterbury from 1532 until his death in 1555. He was the ecclesiastical leader of the new Church of England. Possible Protestant leanings combined with no real political interest made him vulnerable to attacks by Orthodox Catholics. However, Henry VIII always managed to save him, and Cranmer survived the King by eight years. In 1553, however, Queen Mary I (Henry's daughter by Catherine of Aragon) had Cranmer arrested for treason, and he was burned at the stake in 1555.

IV. THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII

CATHERINE OF ARAGON

(Lived: 1485-1536; reigned: 1509-1533)

Catherine of Aragon was Henry's first wife. She was the daughter of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. At the age of 16, she was married to Henry's older brother, Arthur. Five months later she was a widow. King Henry VII refused to allow Catherine to return home to her parents; she was a royal pawn.

After spending almost eight years under extreme conditions (Henry reduced her staff of Spanish servants, constricted her ability to move about the court and to practice her Catholic religion as she desired, and reduced the amount of royal moneys spent for her personal support), she married her late husband's younger brother, Henry. In order to marry his brother's widow, Henry VIII had to circumvent Biblical warnings ("If a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing."). Theirs was a marriage begun in true love, but Henry grew tired of her and became exasperated with her failure to produce a living male heir to the throne. In the twenty-four years of their marriage, Catherine endured six pregnancies resulting in only one living child, a daughter named Mary (who later reigned as Mary I).

After Catherine proved unable to bear a son, Henry became convinced that God was punishing him for an incestuous marriage; in addition to this spiritual issue, Henry had become enamored of a lady-in-waiting, Anne Boleyn. The process leading to the royal divorce became known as "the King's Great Matter". Out of this conflict (the Pope refusing to nullify the marriage he had previously blessed), England broke with the Roman Catholic Church. Catherine, an extremely devout Roman Catholic, refused to accept the dissolution of her marriage. She spent the remainder of her life in forced seclusion but considered herself the true queen until her death.

ANNE BOLEYN (lived: 1507?-1536; reigned: 1533-1536)

Anne Boleyn was not popular among her English subjects. They were loyal to Catherine of Aragon, and many believed Anne had bewitched their king. Pope Clement VII had refused to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine, leading to the break with Rome and the establishment of Henry as Supreme Head of the Church of England. Meanwhile, Henry and Anne were secretly married in January of 1533.

Henry's archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, pronounced Henry's first marriage null and void, and Anne Boleyn was crowned queen in June. In September, she gave birth to her only living child, who later ruled England as Elizabeth I.

However, the King's desire for a son led him to grow weary of Anne. After only three years of marriage, Anne was charged with adultery and treason (although historians agree the charges were probably false), and she was beheaded in May of 1536.

JANE SEYMOUR (lived: 1509?-1537; reigned: 1536-1537)

Jane Seymour had, like her predecessor, been a lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Aragon and had also served Queen Anne. Less than two weeks after Anne's death, Henry married the quiet, gentle Jane. In October of 1537, she died giving birth to Henry's long-awaited son, Edward.

ANNE OF CLEVES (lived: 1515-1557; reigned: 1540)

Anne of Cleves was a political bride. Henry needed allies in Germany, so he agreed to this marriage after seeing a rather hastily-produced portrait of the woman. Their first meeting, however, revealed that Anne's portrait was none too accurate. Comments from the court at the time claimed that Anne of Cleves bore a rather horse-like visage. Henry married her, but the marriage was declared null and void after six months. After the divorce, Anne was granted a pension and remained on friendly terms with her royal ex-husband.

CATHERINE HOWARD (Lived:?-1542; reigned: 1540-1542)

Catherine Howard was quite young (although the date of her birth is unknown) at the time of her marriage to Henry, who was approximately thirty years older than she. Catherine's past contained numerous rumors of intimate relationships with various men, and she was secretly engaged to another man when the King took an interest in her. The relationship was encouraged by the Conservative party in an attempt to further discredit Henry's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, who had arranged Henry's previous marriage to Anne of Cleves.

The plotting worked, and Henry married Catherine on the very day Cromwell was executed. In 1541, Henry's archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, was compelled to reveal to the King the numerous rumors of his young wife's infidelity. Catherine was charged with unchastity before marriage and with adultery. Both charges were probably true. She was beheaded in February, 1542.

CATHERINE PARR (lived 1512-1548; reigned 1543-1547)

Catherine Parr was more of a nurse and companion than a wife to the elderly, sickly king. She had been twice widowed before her royal wedding. Although she was secretly engaged to Sir Thomas Seymour (brother of Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour), Catherine married the king instead in July of 1543. She proved to be a good influence on the king: she was a devout Protestant who spent much of her time discussing theology with the king (much to the dismay of Henry's clergymen) and was successful in mitigating the king's excessive acts of cruelty in religious persecutions of the time. She was instrumental in restoring to favor the King's daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. During Henry's absence from court during the Siege of Boulogne in 1544, Catherine acted as Regent. Just months after Henry's death, Catherine married her true love, Thomas Seymour. She died in childbirth in 1548.

V. PARLIAMENT

During Henry VIII's reign, Parliament and the Crown developed a level of cooperation that set the tone for future. Cooperation between these two parties fully developed in the 1530's when Cromwell entered the scene. When Wolsey was in power, there was a lot of friction with Parliament. On two occasions (1522 and 1528), Parliament refused to grant taxes to fund wars to which Wolsey had committed England. Although Henry VIII and Wolsey created foreign policy, it was Parliament that held the purse strings. Parliament was (and is) made up of two sections called Houses:

The House of Lords - consisting of Church officials, lords, and other nobles

The House of Commons - consisting of knights of shires and burghers (prosperous, solid citizens) of boroughs

Parliamentary powers:

- * Only Parliament could pass new taxes, often referred to as grants.
- * If the King wanted the force of law to support one of his proclamations, he had to get the law passed by both Houses (Lords and Commons) and embodied into a law.
- * The House of Commons was represented by a Speaker. The Speaker, while acting in his position, could speak openly to the King and either praise or criticize royal policies with impunity.
- * Parliament, like most governments, would give advice on a wide range of subjects.
- * Parliament enacted laws to embody the King's policies, thereby giving them legal sanction and making them enforceable by law.

EXAMPLES OF PARLIAMENTARY USAGE DURING HENRY VIII'S REIGN

It is important to realize that, in Henry VIII's time, there was no annual meeting of Parliament. The King would call for a meeting of Parliament only when he wanted one. Consequently, Parliament could go for years without meeting.

1510

First Parliament meeting called under Henry VIII This meeting was noteworthy in that it claimed the first two persons to die under the charge of treason during Henry VIII's reign. John Dudley and Richard Empson, the ministers responsible for collecting government revenue during the reign of Henry VIII, were charged not only with treason but also with subverting the laws and impoverishing the King's subjects. Historians view these executions as a popularity move by Henry to solidify his public standing. (A present-day example of such a move would be if a new president decided to abolish the IRS.) At any rate, Parliament readily endorsed the executions.

1512

Request for funding for a war against France Parliament agreed to new taxes/grants to support England's war.

1523

Wolsey requests funding for a war against France Parliament sat in meetings for over four months (a very long time for 16th Century Parliaments) and spent almost all of that time refusing Wolsey's requests for taxes/grants to support England in its war with France.

1530's

Cromwell's effect on Parliament With the rise to power of Thomas Cromwell, Parliament changed forever. Cromwell's presence marked the end of the medieval political system and the beginning of the modern workings of Parliament. Primarily, the changes concerned the way in which Parliament was utilized. The main differences were as follows:

1. Parliament was used to spread information throughout the realm.
2. Parliament was manipulated to illustrate the show of support by the Commonwealth for the King's policies via laws and statutes. By using a series of laws, Parliament was able to make radical changes like the Church Reformation relatively peaceful. By creating statutes that legally enforced the Church Reformation. Parliament demonstrated its power not only over the government but also over the Church itself. This demonstration of the power of Parliamentary statutes is the cornerstone of modern English government.
3. Parliament unified the government through representation.

1536

Parliament reacts to judicial system changes Parliament supported Cromwell's policy which states that only the King could appoint judges and justices. Also, only the King could grant pardons for those charges with a felony or treason. For the first time in England's history, the judicial system was centralized, and this centralization gave the nation a sense of unity. Most importantly, it brought Wales and Northern England under the rule of the King. Another important thing established by Cromwell and Henry VIII to ensure the unity of England was the representation of all England and its territories in Parliament. Even Calais (which was located in France) had members in Parliament. This nationwide representation in Parliament ended the situation of "kingdoms within a kingdom" and allowed the creation of a true national government.

One good illustration of Parliament's role in Henry VIII's reign is found in a speech Henry made to Parliament in 1543:

"We at no time stand so highly in our estate royal as in the time of Parliament, wherein we, as head, and you, as members, are conjoined and knit together as one body politic."

VI. CHURCH REFORMATION

The Church Reformation had little to do with theology in that there were no major changes of doctrine. Rather, it was a jurisdictional change. In the past, the Church's power had come from the Pope in Rome. With the Reformation, the head of the Church became the King. It made the Church IN England the Church of England.

MAJOR REASONS FOR REFORMATION (Secession on from the Papacy):

1. Henry dissolved his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.
2. Henry desired marriage to Anne Boleyn.
3. Anne Boleyn was pregnant (hopefully with a male heir).
4. England would gain Papal revenue.
5. England would gain Church-owned lands (1/3 of the land in England).
6. England was not well represented in the Church of Rome; there were no English ambassadors in the Pope's hierarchy.
7. Nobles and lords were jealous of the amount of land and wealth owned by the Church.
8. Divine Right (In the custom of the time, Henry VIII believed that he had been chosen to rule England by God. Therefore, if God had chosen him to rule England, it was only fitting that he should rule the Church as well.)

Even though there were many valid reasons to break with the Pope's authority, it is astonishing that it was done with so little repercussion. England was a very religious nation, and without the proper series of events, the country could have been thrown into civil war.

WOLSEY'S PART IN THE CHURCH REFORMATION

Even though Thomas Wolsey was not alive during the Church Reformation, he helped create an environment that was ripe for change. He did this in a number of ways:

1. As Legate a Latere (the Pope's representative in England), he manipulated his office to gain wealth and power. By 1530, the churchmen of England were very tired of the Wolsey/Pope influence.
2. Wolsey selected foreign bishops to serve as English representatives. These bishops served their positions without ever residing in England. Therefore, there was a lack of Church representation in England to oppose the Reformation.
3. When elderly bishops would die, Wolsey would leave their positions unfilled and draw the money and power for himself.

Consequently, when Wolsey died, there was not a very strong power base of Church leaders. Wolsey had taken all the Church power for himself, leaving no one to step into his shoes. Without a strong church leader, there was no strong, organized opposition to the Church Reformation.

KEY FACTORS IN THE LEGALIZATION OF THE CHURCH REFORMATION

Thomas Cromwell and Henry VIII led the Parliament to create a series of statutes that made the Reformation legally enforceable:

1529 Parliament launched a vigorous attack on clerical abuses.

1532 The Submission of Clergy was passed; this legal break granted the King the following powers:

1. Papal revenues were now to be sent to the King
2. The King (not the Pope) had the power to appoint and ordain bishops and Archbishops.
3. All new canons needed to have the King's approval.
4. All old canons would be reviewed by a committee of 32 people selected by the King.
5. The King was the ultimate source of Canon law in England.

1533 Parliament passed the Act in Restraint of Appeals. This gave Cranmer the power to legally annul the marriage between Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, with no possibility of appeal to Rome.

1543 Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy. This declared the King to be the Supreme Head of the Church of England.

1534 Parliament passed the Act of Succession. This act required all English people to take an oath of loyalty to the King and Queen (Anne Boleyn). An oath that the King was the Supreme Head of the Church of England, and an oath claiming that Elizabeth, Henry and Anne's daughter, was the sole heir to the throne (the oath thereby renounced Mary as a legitimate heir). Failure to take any of these three oaths was considered treason and subject to a penalty of death.

KEY FACTORS IN THE LEGALIZATION OF THE CHURCH REFORMATION

1535 Thomas Cromwell was appointed Vicar General by the Supreme Head to oversee the Church of England. Cromwell used his power to start closing down the monasteries. The main benefit was that the lands these monasteries occupied would then go back to the Church (the King). Cromwell sent agents to all the monasteries to strictly enforce the vows that the monks had taken. These vows were:

1. Celibacy
2. Clean living (free of sins)
3. Asceticism (practice of strict self-denial as a measure of spiritual discipline)
4. General obedience to all their vows with all the rigor possible.

1536 Parliament enacted a law stating that any monastery below a certain size should be disbanded. The theory behind this act was that the smaller monasteries were more corrupt. Parliament's act, in effect, decided that there was a financial line between "corrupt" and "non-corrupt". Monks from smaller houses could either retire (with a pension) or go to a larger monastery.

1536 The Pilgrimage of Grace occurred. This was a Northern uprising against Church Reformation, inflation, and a variety of private interests. Although there were over 30 thousand armed rebels, no actual battles were fought. The rebellion ended when the King agreed to the demands made by the rebel leader, Robert Aske. However, the King had no intention of keeping any promises made to rebellious subjects, and within six months over 200 people were executed for treason (including Robert Aske, who had theoretically been granted a King's pardon).

The benefit to England from the Pilgrimage of Grace was that it paved the way for more reforms, both political (see Parliament's 1536 union of Wales and Northern England) and religious. These reforms strengthened Henry's rule and served to unify England, first by bringing northern England into control and, second, by using northern England's reforms as a guideline for Wales' inclusion. 1536 Henry VIII issued the Ten Articles. Fearful of radical, Protestant-based reforms, Henry issued the Ten Articles, which were a compromise between the old and new religions.

1539 England was being split in two by a religious controversy between radicals (Protestant-based) and conservatives (Catholic-based). Parliament held a debate, and the conservatives prevailed. The radicals backed down when they saw the trend of how the Commonwealth felt. Also, Parliament enacted a statute which enforced the Six Articles of Faith. These articles embodied a full Catholic-based doctrine.

The Church Reformation had numerous effects on England as a nation. Two of the most important were:

1. Income to the Crown - Cromwell doubled the yearly royal income.
2. Elimination of foreign influence - By ridding England of the Papal influence, Henry VIII and Cromwell eliminated foreign influence, thereby making England a sovereign state. Henry VIII was now the Supreme Ruler of England, both spiritual and temporal.

QUESTIONS REGARDING MAPS 3 – 5

Using the maps on pages 25, 26, and 27:

1. List two ways the Church Reformation benefitted England.
2. List two ways the Reformation hurt England.

VII. CUSTOMS AND MANNERISMS

Customs and mannerisms in Henry VIII's time were dictated by fashion, flirtation, survival, and superstition. Listed below are some examples of customs and mannerisms of the time:

WOMEN'S CLOTHING The popular fashion for women's clothing was to have a tightly corseted bodice that was very low-cut. Women's fashions of the time were designed to show off their bosom.

Just as the bosom was the focal point of women's fashions, the calf of the leg was the emphasis in men's clothing. Men took every opportunity to show off this physical attribute. Men wore stockings and short pants. They would stand with their right foot pointing away from their bodies, then present the right leg forward to show off that calf.

MEN GREETING MEN: When men would meet each other, they would not shake hands as they would today. Rather, they would grasp each other's right wrist and give a firm shake. Then they would pat each other on the back with their left hands. There was a very practical reason for this: they were checking sleeves and backs for hidden weapons. Men shook right hands for two reasons: one was to prove that the man held no weapon in that hand; the other was the belief that lefthandedness was a sign of the devil (so a man would hide this fact if that were the case). The modern day practice of shaking hands probably evolved from this custom.

WOMEN GREETING WOMEN: Women greeted other women with the latest craze from the Continent: the French kiss (no, it's not what you think). Women would face each other and lightly grasp each other by the shoulders. Then they would kiss the air on either side of the other woman's cheeks, three times. One would never actually touch the cheeks for reasons of courtesy as well as fear of contracting the plague. This type of kiss is still practiced commonly in France today between both men and women.

THE FORK: Another new trend from France was the use of the fork as an eating utensil. The fork was fairly common among the nobility but was not very widespread among the peasant class. Peasants continued to eat with their fingers as they feared the fork's tines were some sign from the devil (perhaps they were afraid to put the devil's pitchfork in their mouths).

"GARDALOO" The term "gardaloo" (also from the French) was used as a word of warning. People used chamber pots at night instead of going to the out-house. In the morning, they would open their windows, shout "Gardaloo!" and toss the contents of the chamber pot out the window. If you heard this warning in Henry VIII's time, you would be wise to stand clear!

EVIL SPIRITS/GOOD

LUCK CHARMS Both peasants and nobles alike firmly believed in evil spirits and the power of good luck charms to ward them off. People often sewed tiny bells or coin-like metal disks (known as bezants) to their clothing in the belief that the noise would scare away evil spirits. People also wore crosses or carried Bibles to ward off evil.

WITCHES/

POSSESSIONS People readily believed in witches and possession by evil spirits. Many people believed, in fact, that Anne Boleyn herself was a witch and that she had cast a spell over Henry to make him fall in love with her. There were various signs that one could use to ward off the evil that emanated from such evil persons. One sign was to make the sign of the cross when passing by an evil person. Another was to cross your fingers (making a small cross) and point them at the person as they passed. This is most likely how the custom of crossing one's fingers for good luck began.

VIII. RENAISSANCE LANGUAGE

The Renaissance language cherished a quick and creative wit in a highly descriptive ornate style of prose, Ciceronian. The language had many freedoms with multiple dialects, no grammatical structures, chaotic spelling variations and changing definitions of words. Inventive swearing, insults and compliments became a characteristic of 16th Century language.

Opposite meanings and double comparatives are used freely in English Renaissance language. Some example of these are as follows:

Awful: deserving of awe.

The most unkindest cut of all.

Litotes, or extreme understatements were also widely used as stylistic form of language in this time period. This example is from Thomas More, "Man will not be perfect, for a few more years."

England's love affair with language continued through the 17th Century. William Shakespeare's plays and sonnets are testimony to that love.

HENRY VIII AND RENAISSANCE LITERATURE

Approximately fifteen years before Henry VIII's birth, the invention of Caxton's printing press in 1476, set forth a revival of social consciousness and the spread of education. Various authors, including Henry himself, created great pieces of literature and ventured into new realms of thought. Some important literary works that have a strong connection with Henry VIII and his reign are as follows:

HENRY VIII. Defense of The Seven Sacraments. This book was written in Latin with the help of Thomas More. It attacked the ideas of Martin Luther's

Theses. After the completion, Pope Leo X gave Henry the title, "Defender of the Faith." Henry's attempt was of dynastic not religious motives.

THOMAS MORE (1478-1535). Utopia. This satire of the English of the day was written in Latin and was an appeal to all of Europe to reconsider social institutions in the light of reason and to achieve economic equality and peace. As Henry's Lord Chancellor, he was a great leader of the intellectual movement known as humanism and gave up his life rather than pledge allegiance to Henry and sign the Oath of Succession, making Henry the head of the English Church.

SIR THOMAS WYATT THE ELDER (1503-1542). They Flee From Me, My Galley Charged With Forgetfulness. Wyatt spent most of his life as a courtier and diplomat, serving Henry VIII as Clerk of the King's Jewels and as ambassador to Spain and to the Emperor Charles V. He used the courtly love tradition in his poetry. The unattainable women in "They Flee From Me" is aimed at Anne Boleyn. The tone of most of his poetry uses the *dolendi voluptas* or delightful sorrow.

HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF SURREY (1517-1547). "The Long Love That Doth Reign and Live Within My Thought." Surrey was descended from kings; brought up with Henry's illegitimate son, the Duke of Richmond, who married Surrey's sister. His cousin was Catherine Howard. Surrey's importance as a poet rests upon his continuing the practice of the sonnet in English form, for it was later used by Shakespeare. "The Long Love..." is an imitation of Petrarch, one of Geoffrey Chaucer's contemporaries and the first humanist. This is the first poem to be published in blank verse to imitate normal speech.

OTHER FOREIGN INFLUENCES OF THOUGHT NICOLO MACHIAVELLI (1469-1527). The Assistant Secretary of State of the Republic of Florence from 1498-1512. A strong moralist with a style of an ancient orator from the Roman state. In 1500, Thomas Cromwell brought his Prince back to organize ideas of Rhetoric in Henry's court.

DESIDERIUS ERASMUS OF ROTTERDAM (1466-1536). Thomas More's friend, had a strong influence on the fields of education. Education was based on the classics and the Bible. Led the fight against the intellectual domination of the church. The Voltaire of the 16th Century.

MICHEL EYQUEM SEIGNEUR DE MONTAIGNE (1533-1592). "Essays." A classic of French literature. A way of musing aloud in a style spoken rather than written.

IX. SPORTS & PASTIMES

JOUSTING Jousts and tournaments were among the most popular of all sports, most likely because Henry VIII not only loved them, but he was excellent at them. Jousting, from the Latin "juxtare" to meet together, was a way of practicing mounted combat between parties of knights. As far as skill is concerned, jousting had an advantage over tournaments because the knights could show off their prowess in single combat. However, some tournaments were so large and spectacular that they were dazzling to the on-lookers. Henry VIII staged some elaborate tournaments and jousts. He would actually erect small castles to attack and make big shows of banners and shields. These tournaments were often held in celebration of some event, such as the birth of a royal child. In 1536 he held a tournament of Greenwich, the site of the finest armory in all of England, to celebrate the news that Anne Boleyn was pregnant. This was one of the last tournaments in which he ever participated because he was knocked from his horse and the animal, who was also wearing full armor, fell on him, almost killing him. The Queen later miscarried saying the fear brought on observing this accident caused it.

BEAR BAITING The cruel practice of bear baiting was extremely popular. A bear was tied by one hind leg to a tree or post and hunting dogs were turned loose to taunt and attack it. The "game" continued until the bear was killed. Spectators placed bets on the longevity of certain dogs and the bear.

ARCHERY Archery was compulsory. Every English man between the ages of 16 and 60 was compelled by law to own a longbow, and target practice areas were set up (also by law) in every village. Another law required that every father give his son a bow upon his seventh birthday. Like jousting, the sport of archery was intended to prepare men for battle.

HUNTING Nobility enjoyed hunting as a sport. Game included hare (rabbits), hind (deer), wolf, wild bear, and fox. Shooting was done with bows and arrows, or the prey might be pursued by greyhounds (a favorite practice of the ladies who often accompanied their lords on a hunt). Another popular form of hunting among the upper classes was falconry. These birds of prey were considered so valuable that they were protected by a Royal edict. Anyone found guilty of killing a falcon could be put to death.

EMBROIDERY/ TAPESTRIES

Women of all classes practiced needlework as a pastime as well as a necessity.

THEATRE In Henry VIII's time there were no movies or television shows. Therefore, theatre was VERY popular. Traveling troupes of male actors (women were not allowed on stage) would visit villages and perform on makeshift stages.

The actors depended on the generosity of the villagers for their incomes. A very popular form of theatre was the Commedia d'el Arte, which was a very broad, slapstick style of performing (similar to the Three Stooges).

OTHER GAMES Many games that are popular today were also popular during Henry VIII's time. Adult games included dice, chess, backgammon (called 'tables'), bowling, bocci ball, and cards. Children's games included skipping, leap frog, marbles, and blind man's bluff.

X. MISCELLANEOUS FACTS REGARDING ENGLISH LIFE DURING THE TIME OF HENRY VIII

* The population of England was approximately 3.5 million (which was considered crowded). London was a city of approximately 160,000 residents.

* The lifestyle of many commoners was based on agriculture. The chief livestock was sheep (there were approximately three sheep per person in England).

* There was a very rigid class system in Henry VIII's time. The social levels for non-nobles were:

1. Wealthy merchants
2. Lawyers and clerks
3. Master craftsmen
4. Merchants/middle class
5. Journeymen/apprentices
6. Independent traders
7. Domestic

People did not do much griping about one's level in society; they fairly readily accepted there was no escaping one's birth. However, within each level of society, there was a good deal of snobbery.

* Shopping was possible in four venues: markets, fairs, in-town shops, and at home (from traveling peddlers). Markets, which were sponsored by the local lord, dealt mostly with food items and were usually held on a weekly basis. Fairs were rarer than markets, lasted longer, and offered a wider variety of goods. They were usually held in conjunction with some festival.

* People drank ale (beer) instead of water. Only the very upper classes and royalty drank wine.

* Medical texts expressed a deep mistrust of fresh fruits which were believed to cause melancholy, poisoning, and illness.

* Most English villagers were functionally illiterate. They might be able to recognize a few letters or numbers, but reading and writing were skills that basically belonged to members of the clergy and to nobility. Because of this, business signs often included a drawing or carving of the trade.

* This was an extremely male-dominated society. Women were expected to marry soon upon reaching child-bearing age, and their chief duties were to maintain a home and to bear as many children (preferably male) as possible. Infant and child mortality rates were extremely high. Also, the more children you had, the fewer helpers you had to pay to get the work done.

QUESTIONS REGARDING MAP 6

Utilizing Map 6, following, provide a simple overview in response to this question:

What was the attitude of continental Europe in regard to England's intellectual status? (HINT: Notice the location of Scotland and remember that Scotsmen were considered barbarians.)

XI. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE TIMES

The Renaissance affected different aspects of life in England at different times. The humanistic approach to life started in the 1470's, whereas the parliamentary renaissance did not happen until the 1530's. To simplify matters, here are some examples of the differences between medieval and renaissance viewpoints:

MEDIEVAL RENAISSANCE

XII. SUMMATION

King Henry VIII was an amazing man in an amazing time. During his reign, England saw the birth of nationalism, the establishment of England as a European power, the reformation of the Church, the union of Wales and Northern England, the refinement of Parliamentary procedure, and the organization of the Privy Council. These were not modest achievements, nor was Henry VIII a modest man. God has not only made us king by inheritance, but has given us wisdom, policy, and other graces in most plentiful sort, necessary for a prince to direct his affairs by honor and glory.

Henry VIII, 1536

SUGGESTED PROJECTS AND CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. Hold a complimenting contest in your classroom. Students will create their own compliments, then select an opponent. The more elaborate the compliment, the better, and the last person to run out of compliments wins. (The best formula for creating a Renaissance-style compliment is to compare your subject to beautiful things. For example: "Your eyes are more radiant than a thousand stars on a crisp, clear night." One of the richest sources for inspiration is Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet !)
2. Design and build a model of a castle. During Henry VIII's time, he built the castles of Deal, St. Mawes, Walmer, Sandown, Pendennis, and re-built Dartmouth. However, due to the utilization in Henry's time of gunpowder and cannons, the design of his castles was radically different from medieval castles. Henry's castles were circular or semi-circular structures made up of several circular sections. Medieval castles, for the most part, were square or rectangular. Rounded walls gave Henry's castles a more deflective surface against cannon fire, and a better field of fire for his own guns and cannons inside the castle. His castles also had a low profile (less of a target for cannons) and thick walls. Utilizing Henry VIII's criteria for design, build a castle.
3. Research and create a menu for a King's banquet. Remember that England is an island. There were plenty of sheep, and don't forget the delicious eels that Henry VIII was so fond of. Also, spices were quite a luxury because of their expense.
4. Create your own raiment (clothing). Have your class either design or actually build their own 16th Century peasant clothing. Utilize the costume supplement to give guidelines to your students. Also, the paintings of Bruegel are a great visual source. (We avoided nobility's clothing due to the expense and difficulty of construction.)
5. Coats of Arms were symbols that families, towns, and even governments rallied around. Many coats of arms contained lions, eagles, and mythical beasts. Create a coat of arms for your class or your school. Or research to see if your family has its own coat of arms. If not, create one. (An excellent resource is *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* by A. C. Fox-Davies. See Resource list).
6. Have your class practice greeting one another in the 16th Century style (see 'Customs & Mannerisms' section).
7. Present a debate between Henry VIII and the Pope in regard to the divorce from Catherine of Aragon (a la 'Can This Marriage Be Saved?').
8. Present an explanation of Parliamentary procedure.

9. Write a letter or a journal entry from the point of view of an historical figure. For example: a letter from Wolsey to Henry VIII regarding Parliament's refusal to grant him funding for a war; a journal entry from Anne Boleyn concerning her wedding; a journal entry from Catherine of Aragon regarding Henry's wish for a divorce. Be creative! Pick any one or make up one, but make sure the letter or journal entry deals with a specific event.
10. Act out a meeting between Henry and his advisors regarding one of his marriages.
11. Prepare a panel discussion or a debate regarding 'the King's Great Matter.'
12. Stage a pretend dinner party including Henry and all six of his wives.
13. Demonstrate the various stylish mannerisms of the day such as 'making a leg,' 'French kissing,' 'gardaloo,' and various means of warding off evil.
14. Although there were no newspapers in Henry VIII's time, create one for your class and include stories regarding Henry's activities, Parliament's activities, the various military actions, and religious happenings.
15. Write an obituary notice for Henry VIII and for each of his six wives.
16. Stage a Christmas celebration in renaissance England. What would be on the menu? What songs would be sung? Was there a Santa Claus?, etc.
17. Set up a small kingdom. Determine what jobs/roles need to be filled to operate the kingdom. (Examples: King, Queen, Lord Chancellor, Royal Cook, Innkeeper, Merchant, Master Artisan, Nobles/land owners, peasants.) Have the King decide he is going to have a big feast and all the subjects are involved somehow in the preparation.
18. Create a time line based on the information presented in this booklet. Utilizing either computer or craft paper, highlight the important dates of Henry's reign.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING CLOTHING

SKIRTS McCalls #4463 - Full circle skirt. You will need to lengthen the pattern to floor length. Remember to buy extra yardage for the lengthening. This pattern will make a very full, flowing skirt.

McCalls #3254 - Basic skirt. Again, you will need to lengthen this to floor length. Also, if you want to make it fuller, cut out twice the normal number of panels and gather them up at the waist.

McCalls #4669 - This is a dress pattern, but it can easily be modified to make just a skirt. Cut out only the skirt portion of the pattern and add a waistband. This pattern is already floor length.

WOMEN'S BLOUSES Butterick #6731 - Pirate costume. Lengthen sleeves on blouse to at least 3/4 length and use drawstrings instead of elastic.

Simplicity #7650 - Use View #2 or #3; shorten for blouse. Use drawstring instead of elastic.

Simplicity #9601 - Blouse. Don't put the ruffle on.

MEN'S SHIRTS Vogue #7990 - Shirt. Use as is, or you can add cuffs and collar.

Butterick #6731 - Pirate costume. Use as is BUT use a drawstring instead of elastic.

MEN'S TROUSERS Vogue #7990- Pants. Bunerick #6731 - Pirate costume.

HATS Simplicity #7650 - Women's muffin cap and coif.

Vogue #9454- Berets.

CAPES McCalls #3934

Vogue #7110

Vogue #7366

Simplicity #5199

APPROPRIATE FABRICS Anything 100% cotton (but no denim!), muslin, wool and wool blends, canvas (for bodices), gauze, poly/cotton blends (greater than 50% cotton), rayon. Velvet and brocade (for nobility only). Leather is perfectly fine for vests and jerkins.

INAPPROPRIATE FABRICS Prints, stripes, or plaids (unless your costume is Scottish), polyester, knits, corduroy.

COLORS Don't be afraid of bright colors (no neon colors though). Purple is only for royalty, but anything else is fair game.

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