

Henry VIII

Prince Henry Tudor was born on the 28th of June (1491) in the English town of Greenwich, located in England. Interestingly, he was the second son of King Henry VII and Queen Elizabeth of York - their third child overall. He had an older brother, Arthur, and two sisters named Mary and Margaret. As he was not the first heir to the throne, Henry was educated to become a member of the clergy (A man of the church), which meant that he received an excellent education being fluent in four languages - English, Latin, French and Greek. However, this all changed when Henry reached the age of 10 as his older brother Arthur, died of an ear infection, which meant that Henry was to be the next King.

Reaching the age of 17, in the year 1506. The King of England (Henry VII) died and his eldest remaining son - Henry VIII - took to the throne becoming the King of England. After nine weeks as king, Henry decided to marry the Princess of Spain (Catherine of Aragon), who was his older brother's widow therefore they had to ask permission from the Pope to be married.

For the next twenty years, the two had a successful marriage. Catherine gave birth to a daughter (Mary I) but despite failing pregnant a number of times, she failed to give birth to a male heir. Ultimately, this angered Henry and he went to the pope to have the marriage annulled, which he refused. Infuriated, Henry retaliated by breaking away from the Catholic Church, who had been the leading religion in England for over one thousand years. Thus creating the Church of England, where he was the leader. (This became known as the dissolution of the Monasteries and is one of the important events during Henry's reign of England).

Now that he was the leader of the church, he divorced Catherine of Aragon (against her wishes) and married the young Anne Boleyn, who was already pregnant with his child. During their marriage, Anne gave birth to a daughter, who was Henry's second child, Elizabeth I. Unfortunately, she again neglected to give birth to a son so Henry made a false accusation that she had flirted with another man and that she was a witch. She was executed in 1536, in the tower of London, where she was beheaded for her crimes.

Immediately after, Henry married his third wife, Jane Seymour, who gave birth to a son, who was Henry's third and final child Edward VI. Jane however died twelve days after giving birth due to complications during the pregnancy. Not long afterwards, Henry married Anne of Cleves, whom he said looked like a horse, so he divorced her after only six months. Next came Catherine Howard, who was the cousin of Anne Boleyn. Henry was 50 years old when he married the 19 year-old Catherine, who was beheaded after being accused of adultery (cheating on Henry VIII).

Finally Henry married his sixth wife, Catherine Parr. She was more like a nurse to Henry as a jousting accident had made it so that he struggled to walk and his body became covered in horrible boils. He grew incredibly fat and died in his bedchamber on January 28th, 1547. It was told that they had to use a crane to remove Henry from the room, as he was too large to lift. He was buried next to Jane Seymour, his third wife. (Many historians have argued that he was buried next to Jane, as she was his favourite wife because she gave him a son).