

Henry's Six Wives

Henry divorced two of his wives (Catherine of Aragon and Anne of Cleves), he had two of his wives executed (Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard) and one of his wives (Jane Seymour) died shortly after childbirth. His last wife (Catherine Parr) outlived him.



Why did Henry VIII have six wives?

Monarchs in the Tudor times rarely married for love. Often they married to link up families to other rich and powerful families both from England and from other important countries.

Henry had six wives because....

He had the first wife because he was betrothed to her by his father.

He had the second wife because he fell in love and also needed a legitimate male heir.

He had the third wife because he still needed a male heir.

He had the fourth wife because of diplomatic reasons.

He had the fifth wife because he fell in love again.

He had the sixth wife because he was old and sick and needed a companion and nurse who wouldn't give him too much trouble.

Henry's main aim was to make sure that the Tudors would keep on ruling England after he died. Henry believed that only a boy could inherit his kingdom. But his son Edward ruled only for six years.



Who were the six wives?

They were (in order)



Catherine of Aragon

1. Catherine of Aragon (divorced)

Born: 16 October, 1485 at Alcala de Henares, Spain.

Nationality: Spanish

Married Henry: 11 June, 1509 at Greenwich Palace, Kent.

Divorced: 23 May, 1533

Died: 7 January, 1536

Buried: Peterborough Cathedral.

Catherine of Aragon was a Spanish princess who had previously been married to Henry's brother Prince Arthur. Henry was betrothed to Katherine by his father in 1509 and they had a daughter **Mary** who later become **Queen Mary 1**. Catherine had six children but only Mary survived. In 1527 Henry announced his desire to divorce Catherine because she had failed to produce a male heir.

2. Anne Boleyn (executed)

Born: circa 1500-1502 at Blickling Hall in Norfolk.

Nationality: English

Married Henry: 25 January, 1533, at York Palace, London.

Divorced: 17 May, 1536

Died: 19 May, 1536, executed for high treason, Tower Green, **Tower of London**.

Buried: Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London.

Anne grew up in the family home of Hever Castle in Kent and was a young and beautiful lady-in-waiting to the former queen, Catherine of



Anne Boleyn

Aragon. She gave birth to the future **Queen Elizabeth**. When Anne miscarried a second child Henry accused her of witchcraft and had her **beheaded** on May 19th 1536 at the Tower of London for adultery and incest.

3. Jane Seymour (died)

Born: circa 1507-1509 probably at Wulf Hall in Savernake Forest, Wiltshire.

Nationality: English

Married Henry: 30 May, 1536 at Whitehall Palace, London.

Died: 24 October, 1537

Buried: St. George's Chapel, **Windsor Castle**.

Jane was born between 1507 and 1509. Henry married his third wife on May 30th, 1536, just eleven days after the execution of Anne. Jane gave birth to a baby boy on 12th October 1537. Henry was said to be devastated when she **died** 12 days later of blood poisoning. Jane was buried at Windsor Castle, later to be joined by Henry. Her son succeed Henry to become **Edward VI**.



Jane Seymour



Anne of Cleves

4. Anne of Cleves (divorced)

Born: 22 September, 1515 at Dusseldorf, Cleves, Germany.

Nationality: German

Married Henry: 6 January, 1540 at Greenwich Palace, London.

Divorced: 9 July, 1540

Died: 16 July, 1557 at Chelsea Old Palace, London

Buried: Westminster Abbey.

Anne was born in 1515 in the small north German state of Cleves (close to the border of Holland). Her parents were John III of Cleves and Marie of Julich. Anne married Henry in 1540 to form a tie between England and the Protestant princes of Germany. After only six months Henry found the political alliance no longer to be to his advantage and so **divorced** her the same year. She died in 1557.

5. Catherine Howard (executed)

Born: circa 1525 at Lambeth, London or Horsham, Sussex

Nationality: English

Married Henry: 28 July, 1540 at Oatlands Palace, London.

Died: 13 February, 1542 executed for high treason of Tower Green, Tower of London.

Buried: Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London

Catherine was born between 1520 and 1525. Henry married Catherine Howard, Anne Boleyn's cousin and maid of honour to Anne of Cleves. In 1542 Henry once again accused



Catherine Howard

his wife of adultery and had Catherine **beheaded** at the Tower of London on 13 February 1542.

6. Katherine Parr (outlived Henry).

Born: circa 1512, either at Kendal Castle, Cumbria or Blackfriars, London.

Nationality: English

Married Henry: 12 July, 1543 at Hampton Court Palace.

Died: 7 September, 1548

Buried: Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire.

Katherine Parr, also known as Catherin Parr, was born around 1512. She was Henry VIII's sixth and final wife. She married Henry VIII on 12 July 1543 at Hampton Court Palace. Katherine outlived Henry - so she is said to have **survived**.



Katherine Parr

"Divorced, beheaded, died. Divorced, beheaded, survived..."