

Henry VIII's six wives



The six wives of Henry VIII

Henry married three Catherines, two Annes and one Jane. Here are some facts about each wife.

Catherine of Aragon

- Born 1485.
- Daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain.
- First married to Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII.
- Married Henry VIII in June 1509.
- Had several children, but only one survived – a daughter, Princess Mary.
- Henry divorced Catherine in June 1533.
- Died in 1536, aged 50.

Anne Boleyn

- Born 1502.
- Second wife of Henry VIII.
- Married Henry in January 1533.
- Had a daughter, Elizabeth, but not the son Henry longed for.
- Henry grew tired of Anne, charged her with treason and had her beheaded in the Tower of London on 19 May 1536.
- She was known as 'Anne of a Thousand Days'.

Jane Seymour

- Born 1509.
- Third and favourite wife of Henry VIII.
- Married Henry in May/June 1536.
- Had one child, Prince Edward, born 12 October 1537.
- Died on 24 October 1537.
- Buried in the tomb Henry was preparing for himself at Windsor Castle.

Anne of Cleves

- Born 1515.
- Fourth wife of Henry VIII.
- Anne was a German princess and married in January 1540 for political reasons.
- Henry had only seen a portrait of Anne, and when she arrived in England he found her dull and unattractive.
- Divorced in July 1540.
- Anne spoke no English and had no children.
- Died in 1557.
- Known as the 'Flanders' Mare'.

Catherine Howard

- Born 1521.
- Fifth wife of Henry VIII.
- Married in July 1540; she was 30 years younger than her husband.
- Had no children.
- Catherine was the cousin of Anne Boleyn and her life ended in the same way – she was beheaded in February 1542 for treason.

Catherine Parr

- Born 1512.
- Sixth and final wife of Henry VIII.
- Married in July 1543 by which time Henry was quite ill, so Catherine spent most of her time nursing him.
- Had no children with Henry.
- After the king's death in 1547, she married Thomas Seymour and died in 1548.