



HISTORY BITES

LITTLE NIBBLES OF HISTORY

Have we misunderstood Henry VIII?

Henry VIII is remembered for his six wives, we are taught that this was the reason he created the Church of England, what we aren't told is that he achieved so much more.

A few of his achievements:

He increased the size of the British navy from only 5 ships to 53.

Mounted the biggest invasion of France since the reign of King Henry V.

Built the first English gunship, The Mary Rose 1509.

Created a chain of coastal fortresses to protect England from the threat of invasion.

Decreased the power of the nobles while increasing the power of Parliament and the monarchy.



He also:

Established the Union of England and Wales.

Was given the title King of Ireland by the Irish Parliament in 1541.

Was a musician and a composer! They say he composed both 'Greensleeves' and 'Helas Madame'.

So all in all his list of achievements is quite impressive! So why do we think of him as a bit of a villain?

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His Problem

Was that although his marriage to Catherine of Aragon had yielded a daughter, Princess Mary, and he had a son (Henry Fitzroy) from one of his affairs. He was convinced that a queen would not be strong enough to stop other factions stealing the throne. How wrong was he! His daughter Elizabeth became one of our greatest monarchs.

However, he had been married to Catherine for over twenty years, as she was too old to bear children, he had to get rid of her or remain without an heir.

What did he do?

To start with, he tried to get the Catholic Church to annul his marriage, however Rome would not play ball and grant an annulment.

Therefore, the only way Henry could get one was to separate the English Church from Rome. He would then be in charge, and his divorce could be granted.

Henry started Church of England and appointed himself the supreme head of the church. Now free and independent of the Pope in Rome, he could get his divorce.

The result was that even though the Pope had refused to annul the King's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, the English population were more than happy to be relieved of the rule of Rome.





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The Effects of his decision in Europe.

His actions, which were simply so that he could divorce, started something amazing elsewhere, in fact, I think, much more than he ever imagined.

Basically, his actions boosted the spread of Martin Luther's protestant ideas, a German religious reformer, Basically, until now Martin Luther's views were only percolating throughout Europe, however, once the new Church of England allowed Protestant ideas to thrive it led to the growth of Protestantism across the whole of Europe.

Henry may not have been a Protestant, he probably wasn't, however, the new Church of England allowed Protestantism ideas to become part of the Church of England, aiding the spread of Lutheranism around Europe.

Therefore, there are several reasons to ask "have we got Henry VIII wrong, was he in reality a great King?"

To help your children understand this important time in history we've written a musical

HENRY VIII

The Break With Rome

which tells this story and has twelve amazing original songs that your children will walk round the school singing. Just go to

<https://eml.coolski.co.uk/index.php/product/henry-viii/>



Let's make history fun?

For more information:

<https://www.historyhit.com/henry-viii-becomes-head-church-england/>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/tudors/religion/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/rulers/henry-viii.html>

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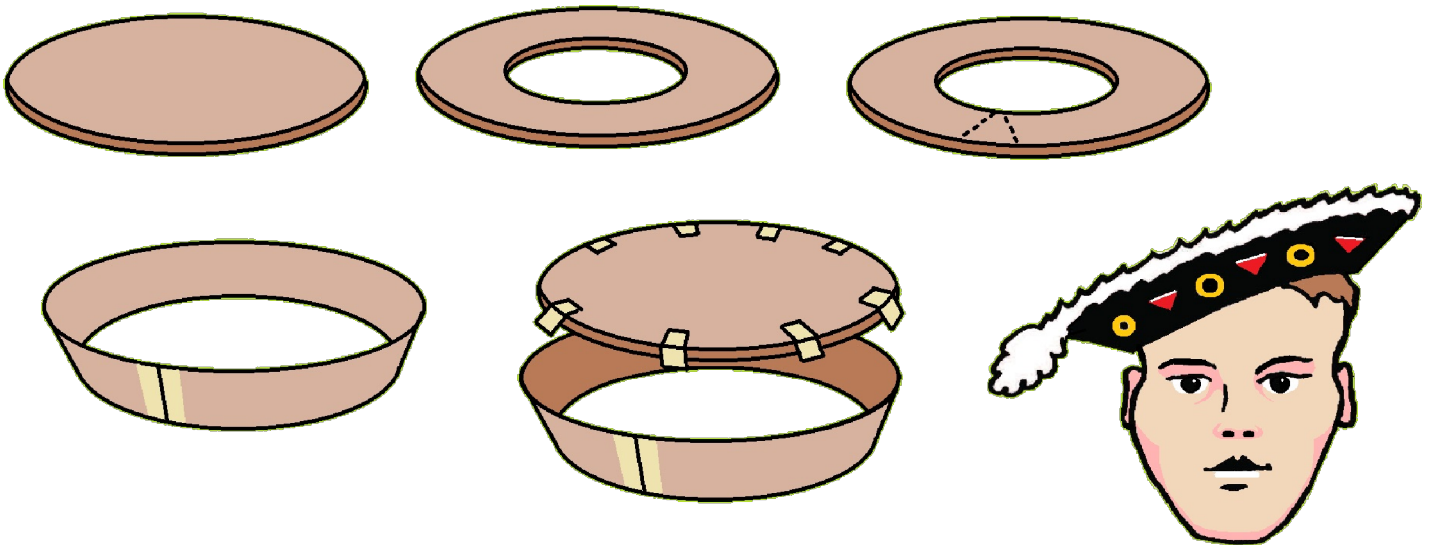
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2 lesson, one to make, one to create fringe and attach.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

HENRY XII BONNET

Many pictures of Henry VIII depict him wearing a bonnet, here are instructions how to create a version of his unusual hat



1. Cut out a large disc of cardboard or card, about 6cm bigger than the circumference of the wearers hed.
2. Cut out a smaller hole in the discs centre, keep enlarging this hole until the wearers head fits into it. Cutting out a smaller hole first ensures the hole isn't too big to begin with.
3. Then cut out a small thin triangle with its point touching the inner hole.
4. Pull the two edges of the missing triangle together and stick with masking tape. This action should draw the hat into the required shape.
5. Now draw around the top of the hat and create another card disc to create the bonnets top.
6. Paint the hat black. Then use double sided tape or PVA glue to attach a paper fringe around the top of the hat, white paper snipped repeatedly will create this. A longer bit of paper can be cut in the same fashion to create another feathery extension to this fringe.