

# *The Six Wives of Henry the Eighth*

Activity developed by Joanna Booth when she was part of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Project in Preston. Joanna is now Education Officer for Manchester Cathedral, and is continuing to develop collaborative work with schools particularly areas like the reformation and topics which would involve the cathedral. You can reach her on <[joanna.booth@manchestercathedral.com](mailto:joanna.booth@manchestercathedral.com)>.

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The webaddress for this activity is <<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/sixwives.pdf>>

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

17, Barford Street, Islington, London N1 0QB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885

Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available by post or internet: "PAPERCLIP".

\*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening and other formative assessment.

\*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

\*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

\*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

\*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

\*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/sixwives.pdf>

# *The Six Wives of Henry the Eighth*

## Teacher Instructions

The A5 booklet needs to be made up using the page numbers as a guide for double siding. The blank grid needs to be enlarged to A3 and the completed grid needs to be cut up into cards. The speech bubbles need to be cut out as cards (you can use them as a disposable in which case the children can cut them out.) PS Did any of the Catherines start with a K??

## Activity One - gathering the information.

In groups of 4-6 children read the booklets as group reading activity taking turns to read a page. They can then sort the Who Might Have Said What cards onto sheets with the queens' names or real portraits if you have some. For this activity you can of course use your own information or a collection of bits of evidence rather than the booklet, and if you are really energetic you could have different information for each group. You can also add or take away speech bubbles as you see fit.

## Activity Two - making judgements.

The group has to decide who came off best and worst and rank order the queens on the grid. If the groups have difficulty agreeing (this may well be the most interesting part of the lesson!) they might be encouraged to share their reasons with the whole class.

## Activity Three - grid completion: consolidation of information.

Groups (you may want to use different groupings for this) place the cards on the blank matrix. You may want to differentiate by inserting some information on the matrix in advance.

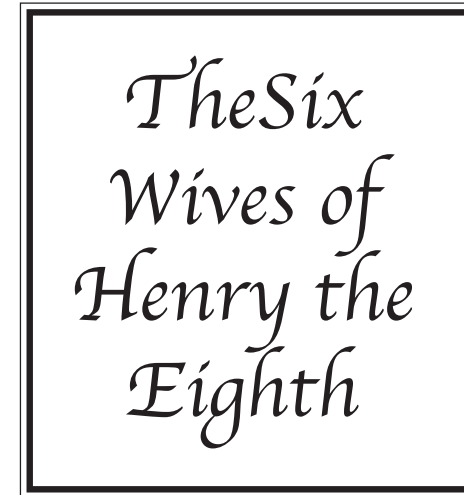
**Which of Henry's six wives was best off and which was worst off?**

Use the table below to rank the best to the worst off. Put your reasons why you think this.

Best off

Name of wife	Your reasons

Worst off



**Catherine of Aragon  
1485-1536**

Catherine came to England from Spain to marry Henry's elder brother, Arthur. A year later Arthur died and Catherine became engaged to Henry.

Catherine and Henry got married in May 1509, which was when Henry became king. They had six children, but only one, Mary, survived.

As Henry got older he became desperate for a son who would become king after he died. After twenty three years of marriage Henry divorced Catherine so that he could marry someone else.

After the divorce, in January 1533, Catherine of Aragon was sent to the countryside, where she lived comfortably and quietly until she died.

**Catherine Parr  
1512 - 1548**

Catherine Parr was the sixth wife of King Henry VIII. She had already lost two husbands by the time she married Henry in 1543.

Catherine had no children of her own, but she was noted for her kindness to her three step-children: Mary, Elizabeth and Edward.

During their marriage Henry became sick and his wife nursed him. Henry became worse and died in 1547. Henry and Catherine were still married when he died.

Later that year Catherine got married again for the fourth time, but she died the following year.

**Catherine Howard  
1520 - 1542**

Henry married Catherine Howard in 1540 after he had divorced Ann of Cleves.

Their marriage lasted for just over a year. Catherine was very pretty and full of fun. In 1541 she was accused of having boyfriends before she was married.

Then she was accused of having boyfriends after she was married. She was charged with treason and was beheaded on 13th February 1542.

**Anne Boleyn  
1507- 1536**

Anne Boleyn came to the court of Henry VIII in 1526. She was clever and educated and Henry fell in love with her.

Henry married Anne in January 1533, straight after his divorce from Catherine. Later that same year Anne gave birth to a daughter whom they called Elizabeth. Because the baby was not a boy, Henry was angry and disappointed.

Two years later Anne became pregnant again but the baby died. Henry decided to get rid of Anne. He said she was a witch and she was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Three months later, on 19th May 1536, she was executed after being queen for only three years,

**Jane Seymour  
1509-1537**

Jane Seymour had been a Lady in Waiting to both Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn. On 30th May 1536, only eleven days after Ann had had her head chopped off, Henry married Jane.

The following year Jane gave birth to a son called Edward, the longed for heir to the throne. Henry was very pleased.

Unfortunately Jane was very poorly after the birth and she died not long afterwards on 12th October 1537. Henry was very upset because he loved Jane. She had been queen for only one year.

**Anne of Cleves  
1515- 1557**

Anne of Cleves was the fourth wife of Henry VIII. She was German, and the daughter of the Duke of Cleves.

Henry fell in love with a portrait of Anne and, although he had never met her, agreed that she should come from Germany so that he could marry her.

Unfortunately, the painting was not a real likeness. Anne was so ugly that when Henry first saw her he said she had a face like a horse.

Henry had to go through with the marriage as he had already promised her father. They were married in January 1540, but he divorced Anne later that same year, giving her a very good pension.

## Who might have said what speech bubbles

I was only twenty two when I had my head chopped off!	I married Henry straight after the execution of his second wife.	Henry fell in love with me when I came to his court in 1526.	I used to be the lady in waiting to Catherine of Aragon and Ann Boleyn.	I was married to Henry for twenty three years.
I was the daughter of a German duke.	I had no children of my own, but I loved my three step-children.	If I had not died Henry would probably have stayed married to me.	Henry divorced his first wife so that he could marry me.	After my divorce I was sent back to Germany with a good pension.
I was accused of being a witch and sent to prison in the Tower of London.	Before I married Henry I was married to his brother, Arthur.	Henry was very disappointed and angry when I did not give birth to a son.	Henry really loved me. After I died he did not marry for two years.	I got married again after my marriage to Henry.
I was the mother of Henry's only son.	I gave birth to Princess Elizabeth.	I have been good wife. I really loved Henry and was very upset when he divorced me.	I was not pleased when Henry said I had the face of a horse.	My marriage to Henry lasted just over a year.

## Who might have said what speech bubbles

<p>So that Henry could get married again, he had my head chopped off.</p>	<p>I was very pretty and had lots of boyfriends.</p>	<p>After my divorce I received a good pension, and lived quietly in the countryside.</p>	<p>I nursed Henry through his last illness and was with him when he died.</p>	<p>Henry had never seen me when he agreed to marry me.</p>
<p>Henry and I had six children but only one of them lived.</p>				



## The Tudors - The Wives of Henry VIII

	<b>Married</b>	<b>End of Marriage</b>	<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Length of Marriage</b>
<b>Catherine of Aragon</b>	May 1509	January 1533	Divorced	Mary I	23 years
<b>Anne Boleyn</b>	January 1533	19th May 1536	Beheaded	Elizabeth I	3 years
<b>Jane Seymour</b>	30th May 1536	12th October 1537	Died	Edward VI	1 year
<b>Anne of Cleves</b>	January 1540	1540	Divorced	None	Less than a year
<b>Catherine Howard</b>	1540	13th February 1542	Beheaded	None	Just over a year
<b>Catherine Parr</b>	1543	1547	Still married when Henry died	None	4 years

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<b>Catherine of Aragon</b>					
<b>Anne Boleyn</b>					
<b>Jane Seymour</b>					
<b>Anne of Cleves</b>					
<b>Catherine Howard</b>					
<b>Katherine Parr</b>					