

Henry VIII.

His Religious Policies. What he did with Religion- why he did these things. Was he a Catholic or a Protestant?

What did Henry VIII do with religion?

- Henry wrote a book that attacked Martin Luther (Protestant) and the Pope gave him the title "Defender of the Faith". He persecuted William Tyndale for writing a Bible in English.
- He broke away from the Catholic Church in Rome in 1533.
- He made himself Head of the Church IN England so that he could grant himself a divorce.
- In 1536 he and Thomas Cromwell passed the Act of Ten Articles that established some features of Protestantism into Henry's Church (that during Communion the spirit of Christ was "present" in the bread and wine).
- Henry closed down the small monasteries in 1536 and the large monasteries in 1539.
- In 1539 Henry ordered the printing of a Bible in English and a copy was placed in EVERY church (Oddly all the printing for the first edition was done in Paris).
- In 1539 Henry passed the Act of Six Articles which stated that his Church would be unmistakably catholic in its beliefs. It also placed limits as to who had the right to read the new English Bible...not everyone was allowed to read it.

What did Henry do that could be seen as being Catholic?

- In 1539 Henry passed the Act of Six Articles which stated that his Church would be catholic in its beliefs.
- Henry wrote a book that attacked Martin Luther (Protestant) and the Pope gave him the title "Defender of the Faith".
- He persecuted William Tyndale for writing a Bible in English.

What did Henry do that could be seen as being Protestant?

- In 1539 Henry ordered the printing of a Bible in English and a copy was placed in EVERY church. But reading it was restricted.
- He broke away from the Catholic Church in Rome.
- Henry closed down the small monasteries in 1536 and the large monasteries in 1539.
- He made himself Head of the Church IN England so that he could grant himself a divorce.

- He had his son, Edward, educated by Protestant tutors
- He persecuted monks, nuns and priests that would not accept his power over the church in England.
- The Act of Ten Articles seemed to question catholic belief that the bread and wine turn into the body and blood of Christ when blessed b the priest during Holy Communion.

Why did Henry make these changes?

- Henry made himself Head of the Church AND broke away from the Pope because he wanted a DIVORCE.
- Henry NEEDED MONEY. This led to the closing of the monasteries. Henry gained an extra £140,000 a year for eleven years by selling off monastic property.
- Henry wanted to remover all the POWER of the Pope and take it for himself. This was a long argument between the Pope and English kings going back at least four hundred years.
- Act of Six Articles made Henry's church very CATHOLIC.
- Protestants and Catholics were persecuted if they did not follow Henry's own will.
- Ordering a Bible in the English language may seem a very Protestant thing to do, but could this be just a way of showing the Pope that he is independent and able to do what he pleases...even if it would annoy the Catholic church. He limited who could read it.



Was Henry VIII a Catholic or a Protestant?

YOU DECIDE! BUT you must give **EVIDENCE** to support your point of view.

There is no right or wrong answer...only a strong argument or a weak one.

BE STRONG!

Was he Catholic?

Was he Protestant?

Was he a "convenient Protestant"?

Was he a "convenient Catholic"?

How far are his religious policies actually about religion?