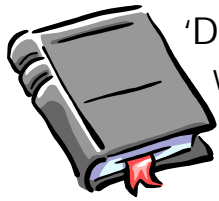


# The Break with Rome

Henry VIII began his reign as a loyal Catholic, accepting the Pope as head of the Church. The Pope even gave Henry the title,



'Defender of the Faith'. This was a reward for writing a book that defended the Pope against criticism from a German reformer called Martin Luther.

However, things did not stay the same - Henry VIII and the Pope had a quarrel. It was over Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. In 1527, Henry asked the Pope to free him from the marriage.



## Why did Henry do this?

Sources suggest there were various reasons ...

"Good wife though she was, Catherine of Aragon had failed in her primary function, to provide Henry with a healthy male heir. It had not been for lack of trying. She had borne her first baby in January 1510. It had been a daughter, still-born. Within a year she produced a son... but then the child had sickened and died. 1513 saw the birth of another boy, and 1514 yet another, but neither survived. In the same year Catherine was delivered prematurely of a fourth son, still-born. Not until 1516 did she produce a sturdy child, and then it was a girl, christened Mary. There were several more pregnancies, but no son came, and before long Catherine's pregnancies ceased."

SOURCE A:  
Robert Lacy: The Life and Times of King Henry VIII, 1972

"The King had tired of his wife and fallen in love with Anne Boleyn, who would give herself entirely to him only if he would give himself entirely to her."

SOURCE B:  
Scarisbrick, Henry VIII, 1968

*Before Henry, Catherine had been married to Henry's elder brother, Arthur. He died when he was 14 and Henry married his brother's widow. However, Henry later discovered bible passages that worried him:*

"And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing . . . they shall be childless. I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, and a curse if ye will not obey."

SOURCE C:  
Extract from Leviticus, XVIII

SOURCE D:  
Images of Catherine and Anne around the time Henry fell in love with Anne.



Catherine



Anne

# T A S K S

1. Create a table with two columns, with the titles - '**source**' and '**what it tells me**'. Work through the four sources, explaining what each one shows - **why did Henry want to be free from his first marriage?**
2. Select the source which you think was the most important reason and explain your choice.



By 1533, Anne was pregnant. What difference do you think this made to Henry's plans?

Henry VIII was desperate to find a solution. A growing number of people, including Anne, were Protestants. These were people who **protest** against the Catholic church. They felt the Pope had too much power and control over England. They also complained that the Catholic church was corrupt - shown by the wealthy monasteries.

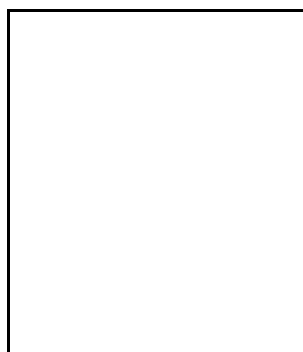
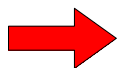
Henry did not really agree with all the complaints against the Catholic church, but was determined to have a male heir. Henry used Parliament to push through his changes. He became the head of the new Church of England.

Why was Henry so desperate to have a male heir?

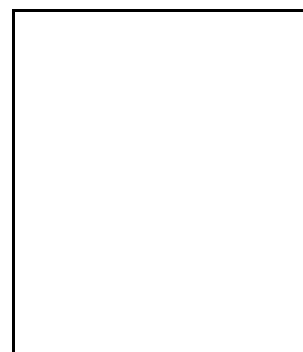
## T A S K S

Put the title, 'Henry's break with Rome'.

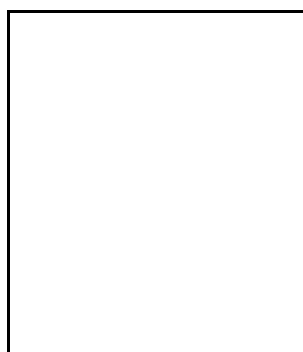
You need to create a diagram showing what Henry did. Draw four boxes and sketch a simple picture in each one. Make sure you put the captions underneath!



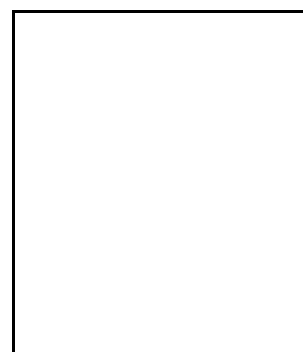
Henry used Parliament to help him.



Henry put himself in charge of the Church.



Henry executed people who stayed loyal to the Church.



Henry closed all the monasteries and took their riches.