

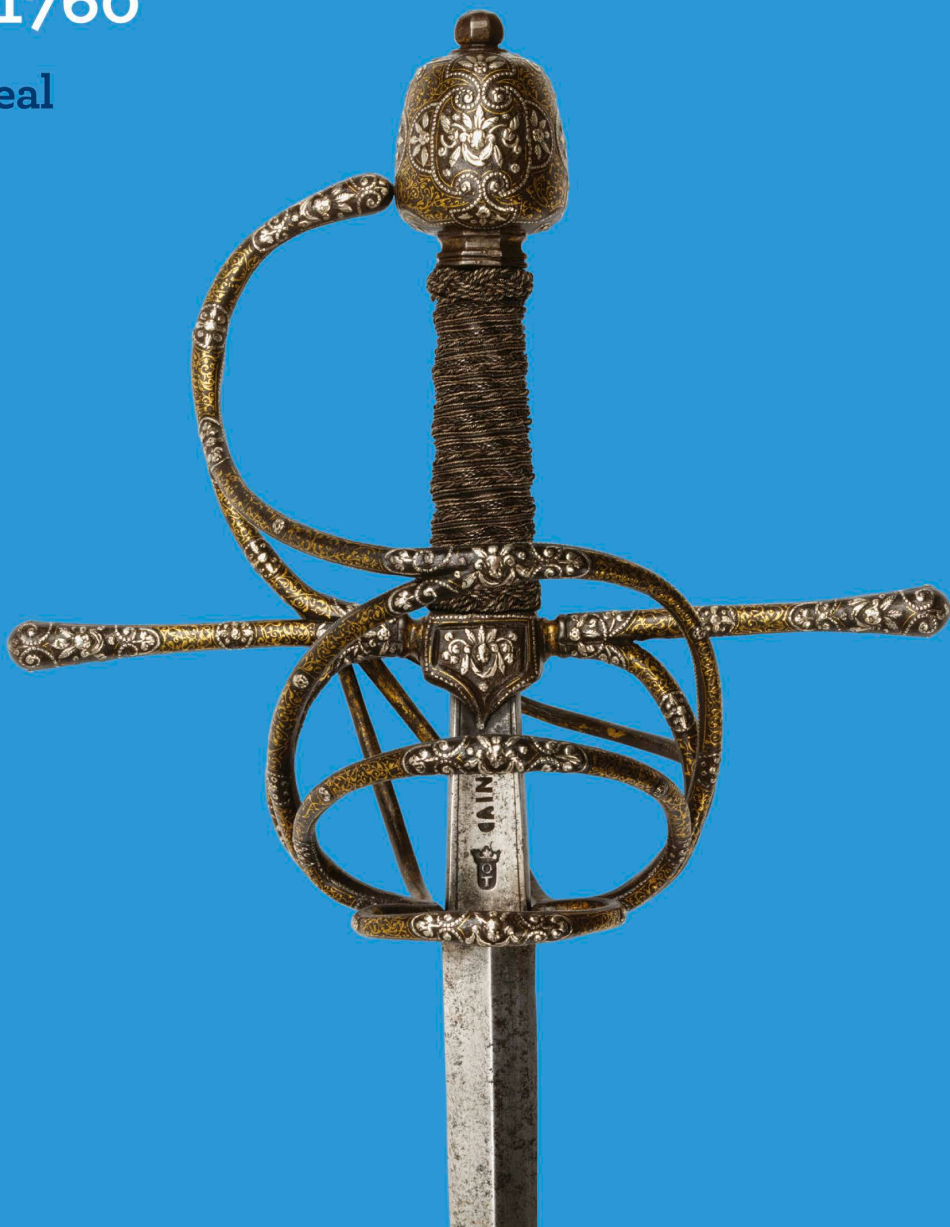
**Collins**

Key Stage 3

# Early Modern Britain

1509–1760

Robert Peal



Knowing History: Student Book 2

# Contents

## INTRODUCTION

4

### UNIT 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

Chapter 1: The young Henry VIII	6
Chapter 2: The Reformation	8
Chapter 3: Henry's 'Great Matter'	10
Chapter 4: The English Reformation	12
Chapter 5: Henry VIII and Edward VI	14
Knowledge organiser	16

### UNIT 2: The age of encounters

Chapter 1: The Italian Renaissance	18
Chapter 2: Print, gunpowder and astronomy	20
Chapter 3: Global exploration	22
Chapter 4: Christopher Columbus	24
Chapter 5: The 'New World'	26
Knowledge organiser	28

### UNIT 3: The later Tudors

Chapter 1: Mary I's Counter-reformation	30
Chapter 2: Elizabeth I	32
Chapter 3: The Elizabethan Golden Age	34
Chapter 4: The Spanish Armada	36
Chapter 5: Rich and poor in Tudor England	38
Knowledge organiser	40

### UNIT 4: The English Civil War

Chapter 1: James I and the Gunpowder Plot	42
Chapter 2: Charles I and Parliament	44
Chapter 3: The outbreak of war	46
Chapter 4: Fighting the English Civil War	48
Chapter 5: Trial and execution	50
Knowledge organiser	52

### UNIT 5: Commonwealth and Restoration

Chapter 1: Cromwell's Commonwealth	54
Chapter 2: The Restoration	56
Chapter 3: Restoration England	58
Chapter 4: The Great Fire of London	60
Chapter 5: The Glorious Revolution	62
Knowledge organiser	64

### UNIT 6: Georgian Britain

Chapter 1: Creation of Great Britain	66
Chapter 2: Parliamentary government	68
Chapter 3: Jacobite uprisings	70
Chapter 4: Georgian aristocracy	72
Chapter 5: Poverty, violence and crime	74
Knowledge organiser	76

## INDEX

78

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

80

# Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

## The young Henry VIII

When Henry VIII was crowned king in 1509, he was already the hero of **Tudor** England. He was tall and handsome, and a keen jousting, wrestler, archer, hunter and tennis player.

Henry VIII was taught by some of the greatest philosophers of the age, and could write poetry, compose music and speak French and Latin fluently. The scholar Thomas More wrote a poem to celebrate Henry's coronation, stating: "This day is the end of our slavery, the fount of liberty; the end of sadness, the beginning of joy". High hopes rested on the young king's shoulders.

Henry was not meant to be king, but he became heir to the throne aged 10 when his older brother Arthur died unexpectedly in 1502. When his father Henry VII died, Henry VIII inherited the throne. Straight away, Henry married his dead brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. Catherine was a pretty and intelligent Spanish princess six years his senior, and their marriage secured England's alliance with Spain.

Henry was 17-years-old when he became king. He ruled over a magnificent court, with continual entertainments and parties. Henry ordered regular jousting tournaments, which he often took part in himself. All of this jousting had a serious purpose, however: Henry VIII was training his noblemen for war. The new king dreamed of conquest, transforming England into a great European empire, ruling over Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France.

### War with France

Having allied with Spain and the **Holy Roman Empire**, Henry invaded France in 1513. The English army captured two towns, and won a victory against the French at the Battle of the Spurs. Henry's allies had changed their minds, however, and decided not to invade France. This left the English army unable to advance any further. Henry signed a peace treaty with France, securing new lands and an annual payment for England.

During the invasion of France, the Scottish King James IV (who was allied with France) took the opportunity to invade northern England with a large army of 60 000 men. With Henry absent, Queen Catherine organised England's defence against the Scots. The Scottish army was soundly beaten at the Battle of Flodden with thousands killed, including the Scottish King James IV. Catherine organised for the Scottish king's bloodstained tunic to be sent as a gift to Henry VIII in France.

### The Field of the Cloth of Gold

Victories over the French and Scottish in 1513 confirmed England's position as a major European power. Henry VIII's dream of empire was edging ever closer. But events took a bad turn in 1516 when France gained a new king, the warlike and shrewd Francis I. Henry's **Lord Chancellor**, Thomas Wolsey (see box), persuaded Henry to make peace with France.



Portrait of Henry VIII, painted shortly after his coronation

### Fact

In 2004, a historian looking through an inventory of Henry VIII's royal wardrobe made a surprising find: the king, who loved sport, owned a pair of leather football boots.

Henry was reluctant to let go of his ambitions. To make the peace between England and France seem more honourable, Wolsey organised a magnificent celebration of peace. In June 1520, Henry VIII and Francis I met in France. For two weeks the young kings tried to outdo each other with displays of wealth and flamboyance. Henry and Francis even met each other in the wrestling ring, where Francis I won, much to Henry's anger. Many of the tents in which the visitors stayed were made from cloth threaded with gold, so the event became known as the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold'.



*'The Field of the Cloth of Gold', painted for Henry VIII in 1545*

## Thomas Wolsey

Masterminding Henry VIII's early successes was a priest named Thomas Wolsey. The son of an Ipswich butcher, Wolsey rose from humble beginnings to become the most powerful man in England, aside from the king.

In 1514 Wolsey became Archbishop of York. The following year, the Pope made him a **Cardinal** and Henry appointed him Lord Chancellor, the king's chief advisor. Through sheer drive, Wolsey had gained complete control of English politics and the church. He worked tirelessly, organising the affairs of state so that Henry could enjoy himself. Whatever the king wanted, Wolsey would deliver.

Wolsey became magnificently rich, and liked to show off his wealth, travelling through London each morning in a grand procession flanked by two silver crosses. He built himself a house beside the River Thames, which was grander and larger than any belonging to the king. Wolsey named it **Hampton Court Palace**. Many in Henry's court were envious of Wolsey, resenting the fact that this 'butcher's boy' had risen to such wealth and power. His enemies nicknamed him the 'fat maggot', and began to plot his downfall.



## Check your understanding

1. Who was Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, previously married to?
2. What military successes did England enjoy in 1513?
3. Why did Cardinal Wolsey persuade Henry VIII to make peace with France?
4. What was the purpose of the Field of the Cloth of Gold celebrations in 1520?
5. What positions of power did Thomas Wolsey hold?

# Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

## The Reformation

At the start of the 16th century, the Roman Catholic Church was the single most powerful organisation in Western Europe.

From the forests of Poland in the East, to the coast of Portugal in the West, this one religion held sway over millions of lives. At the head of the Catholic Church was the Pope, who lived in Rome and controlled a large swathe of central Italy. Catholics believed that the Pope was God's representative on Earth, and he held enormous power. During the medieval period, popes called for crusades, started wars, and could make or break European royal families. However, by 1500, the Roman Catholic Church had developed a reputation for **corruption**.

### Corruption

The papacy had been taken over by wealthy, power-hungry popes who paid little attention to religion. Perhaps the most infamous was Pope Alexander VI, who was from a powerful Spanish family known as the Borgias. He threw all-night parties, stole money from the church, and had as many as ten children with his mistresses – even though the Pope, as a Catholic clergyman, was supposed to remain **celibate**.

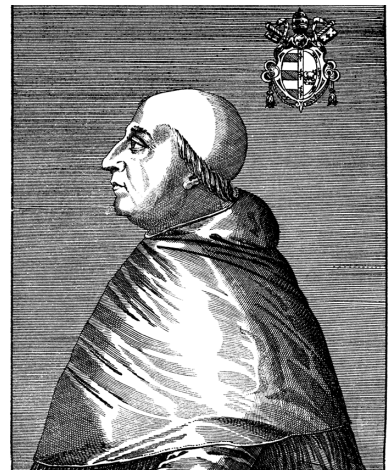
In order to raise money, the Catholic Church sold **indulgences**. An indulgence was a certificate personally signed by the Pope, which a Christian could buy to gain forgiveness for their sins. You could even buy indulgences for dead relatives, to shorten their time in purgatory.

There was also a lively market for 'holy **relics**'. Normally said to be body parts of saints or Jesus Christ, these relics were rarely genuine. Churches would buy and sell the fingernail of Jesus Christ, part of the tree from the Garden of Eden, or a vial of the Virgin Mary's breast milk. Pilgrims would pay churches considerable amounts of money to see and touch these relics, believing they had divine powers.

Lastly, the Catholic Church was enormously wealthy. Even holy orders of nuns and monks, who were supposed to live a life of simplicity and poverty in monasteries and abbeys, could be found living in luxury. The Catholic clergy wore **vestments** made of finest silk and velvet, and Catholic churches were richly decorated, with gold **altars**, wall paintings, burning **incense** and **stained glass** windows.

### Protestantism

Some priests began to argue that the Catholic Church had strayed from the true word of Jesus Christ, and been turned rotten by wealth. Jesus Christ lived a life of simplicity and



Pope Alexander VI



Money was raised to build St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican from the sale of indulgences.

preached against greed, they argued, so should the Catholic Church not follow his example?

These priests attacked the Pope and the Catholic Church, giving sermons and writing short books explaining their beliefs. They were greatly aided by the newly invented printing press (see page 20), which allowed their books to spread throughout Europe. Due to their 'protest' against the authority of the Catholic Church, they were given the name 'Protestants'.

**Protestantism** was particularly powerful in Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Belgium, where priests such as John Calvin and Martin Luther (see box) gained large followings. They proposed a simpler form of Christianity, replacing ritual and superstition with the word of the Bible, and richly decorated church interiors with plain, whitewashed walls.

Fundamental to Protestantism was the belief that all Christians should have their own relationship with God, formed through regular reading of the Bible. However, within Roman **Catholicism** the Bible could only be read in Greek, Hebrew or Latin, and all services were conducted in Latin. So, in secret, Protestants began translating the Bible into their own languages. This movement to reform Christianity spread across Europe and became known as 'the **Reformation**'.

### Fact

Counting up all of the relics from a particular saint, one Protestant tract concluded that the saint must have had six arms, and 26 fingers.

## Martin Luther

Born in Germany, Martin Luther became a monk at the age of 22. In 1510 he visited Rome, and was appalled by the wealth and corruption that he saw there.

In 1517 Luther wrote a list of arguments, known as the '95 theses', attacking church abuses, in particular the selling of indulgences. Luther nailed the 95 theses to the door of his church in Wittenberg, and this event is often said to have marked the start of the Reformation. In 1522, at a meeting known as the Diet of Worms, Pope Leo X declared Luther a **heretic** and an outlaw. On leaving the court, Luther was ambushed and kidnapped. However, his kidnapper was a German prince who offered Luther a hiding place at Wartburg Castle. In 1525, Luther married a former nun named Katharina von Bora who had abandoned her convent. Together they had six children. Luther also began to translate the Bible into German. He finished his German Bible in 1534, by which time much of Germany had converted to Protestantism.



Modern illustration of Martin Luther and his 95 theses

## Check your understanding

1. Why was Pope Alexander VI so infamous?
2. What was corrupt about the selling of indulgences?
3. How were Protestant churches different from Catholic churches?
4. Why did Protestants want to translate the Bible into their own languages?
5. What did Martin Luther do in 1517, which is said to have marked the start of the Reformation?

# Unit 1: Henry VIII and the Reformation

## Henry's 'Great Matter'

In 1522 Henry VIII invaded France again, only to be embarrassed when his ally, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, failed to turn up.

When Henry tried to raise money for a second invasion in 1525, there were riots across England, so the invasion had to be called off. Henry's hopes of conquering France were abandoned, and he was left humiliated and frustrated.

Henry's frustration off the battlefield was even more serious. His wife, Catherine of Aragon, was now 40 years old and had given him only one child who survived infancy – his daughter Mary. Henry desperately needed a male heir to continue the Tudor royal line, but by 1525 Catherine was unlikely to provide one.

By now, Henry had fallen in love with a younger, prettier woman called Anne Boleyn, who was a **lady-in-waiting** to Queen Catherine. Anne was highly educated, ambitious and flirtatious, teasing Henry that she would only make love to him if he took her as his wife. As part of the **royal court**, she was able to enrapture the king with her intelligence and wit. Before long, Henry was desperate to have Anne as his wife.

### The 'Great Matter'

In order to marry Anne, Henry first had to divorce Catherine. But this had to be approved by Pope Clement. Unfortunately for Henry, Catherine of Aragon's nephew was the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. He had recently captured Rome, taking Pope Clement as his prisoner. Charles ordered that on no account should Pope Clement allow Henry to divorce his aunt Catherine, and Clement obeyed.

Henry was absolutely determined to gain a divorce, and called the issue his 'Great Matter'. He claimed that he had solid, religious grounds to do so. The book of Leviticus in the Bible states if a man marries his brother's widow, the couple will remain childless. Henry used this passage to argue



Catherine of Aragon



Anne Boleyn



Modern illustration of Catherine of Aragon pleading her case against divorce

that his marriage to Catherine was never lawful in the first place, and God had cursed him by not providing a son. In 1527, Henry asked the Pope Clement to annul his marriage, but the Pope refused.

### Wolsey's fall

Henry asked his Chancellor Thomas Wolsey to persuade the Pope to change his mind. However, even his supremely powerful Cardinal Wolsey failed to do so.

Henry was furious, and Wolsey rapidly fell from favour. To try to win back the king, Wolsey gave him his magnificent Hampton Court Palace as a gift, but it was not enough. Wolsey was stripped of his job as Lord Chancellor in 1529, and fled to York. In 1530 he was ordered to stand trial on a trumped up charge of treason. During his journey from York back to London, Wolsey died a broken man. With his last words, Wolsey said: "Had I but served my God with but half the zeal as I served my king, He would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies."

### The break with Rome

For six long years, Henry tried and failed to get his divorce, but then he had a new idea. Anne Boleyn was a keen reader of Martin Luther's books. She, and many others, suggested to the king that if England were no longer a Catholic country, Henry would no longer need the Pope's approval to divorce.

Henry did not like Protestant ideas. In 1521, he wrote a book entitled 'Defence of the Seven Sacraments', which attacked Luther's ideas and defended the Pope. Henry had made it illegal to own Luther's books. He even burnt suspected Protestants at the stake for being heretics. Henry VIII's early defence of Catholicism earned him the title 'Defender of the Faith' from Pope Leo X.

However, as Henry was desperate for a divorce, and furious with the Pope, he began to see some benefits in Protestant ideas. He also realised that if the head of the English Church was not the Pope, it could be him.

In January 1533, Henry married Anne Boleyn in secret. The marriage was declared valid by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, two months later. Then, in November 1534, Parliament passed the **Act of Supremacy**, one of the most important laws in English history. It confirmed England's **break with Rome**, and created a new Church of England. From now on England no longer belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, and Henry VIII was the **Supreme Head of the Church of England**.



The Great Gatehouse at Hampton Court Palace

#### Fact

Anne Boleyn had such a strong hold over the king's affection that many myths grew up around her. Some said she had six fingers and that she was a witch.

### Check your understanding

1. Why was Henry VIII so dissatisfied with his marriage to Catherine of Aragon by 1525?
2. What prevented Henry VIII from being able to divorce Catherine of Aragon, and marry Anne Boleyn?
3. On what grounds did Henry VIII claim that his first marriage was not lawful?
4. Why did leaving the Roman Catholic Church provide a solution to Henry VIII's 'Great Matter'?
5. What did the 1534 Act of Supremacy confirm?