

Chronology

(Terms in ***bold italics*** are explained further in the Glossary, terms underlined have their own articles)

1509: Henry VIII becomes King. He marries Catherine of Aragon

1516: Mary I is born



Henry VII (©Victoria Art Gallery, Bath, via www.vads.ac.uk)

1517: Martin Luther launches Reformation by challenging the ***Catholic*** Church's authority over indulgences

1521: Henry VIII publishes an attack on Martin Luther, for which he is rewarded by the pope with the title 'Defender of the Faith'

1527: Henry VIII asks for a divorce from the pope in order to marry ***Anne Boleyn***

1529: Opening of the Reformation Parliament

1530: Arrest and death of ***Cardinal Thomas Wolsey***, the King's chief minister.

1531: The church recognises Henry VIII as the 'Protector and Supreme Head of the English church and clergy, so far as the law of God allows'. The Church is fined for loyalty to the Pope rather than the King.

1532: The ***Submission of the Clergy*** – the church surrenders its independent legislative (law making) power



Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury

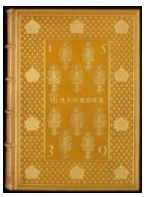
1533: Secret marriage of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII
Thomas Cranmer appointed ***Archbishop of Canterbury***
The *Act in Restraint of Appeals* is passed (see Reformation Parliament)
Cranmer declares Henry's marriage to Anne is legal
Elizabeth I is born

1534: The *Act of Succession*, the *Act of Supremacy* and the *Treason Act* are passed (see Reformation Parliament)

1535: Thomas Cromwell is appointed 'vicegerent in spirituals', second only to Henry VIII in church matters
The execution of Sir Thomas More

1536: Execution of ***Anne Boleyn***
The ***dissolution of the monasteries*** begins
The ***Pilgrimage of Grace*** challenges the religious changes
Henry VIII marries Jane Seymour

1537: The first official ***English Bible*** is published
Edward VI is born



Front cover of a 1539 English Bible (National Library, New Zealand)

1540: Thomas Cromwell is executed
The last monasteries are dissolved

1547: Death of Henry VIII and accession of Edward VI (Edward rules with the help of a ***Lord Protector***)
Henry's ***heresy*** laws are repealed

1548: Edward's government orders images to be removed from churches

1549: Act allowing clergy to marry
First Edwardian ***Book of Common Prayer*** issued
The ***Prayer Book Rebellion*** erupts in Devon and Cornwall

1553: Death of Edward VI and accession of Mary I, following the brief 'reign' of ***Lady Jane Grey***
Repeal of Edward VI's religious legislation in the 1553 Parliament

1554: ***Wyatt's rebellion*** in Kent
Royal orders remove all married clergy from their posts
Mary I marries ***Philip of Spain***
The English church is formally reunited with Rome



Mary I and Philip of Spain (© Palace of Westminster)

1555: Church taxes are restored to Rome
Burning of the first ***Protestant martyrs***, including two of the Oxford ***martyrs***

1556: Burning of former ***Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer*** in Oxford

1558: Death of Mary I, accession of Elizabeth I

1559: *Act of Supremacy* and *Act of Uniformity* passed (see 1559 Parliament)
Publication of the Elizabethan ***Prayer Book***

1570: Elizabeth I is ***excommunicated*** by the Pope

1571: All English priests are required by law to follow the teachings of the Church of England (see 1571 Parliament)

1574: The first ***Catholic*** missionary priests arrive in England

1581: New penal laws passed against ***Catholics***

1587: The execution of ***Mary, Queen of Scots***

1588: The defeat of the ***Spanish Armada***



Elizabeth I and Parliament

1603: The death of Elizabeth I and accession of James I

Created by Paula Kitching/History of Parliament

THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT
British Political, Social & Local History



Constituencies (Shorter Version)

(Terms in ***bold italics*** are explained further in the Glossary, terms underlined have their own articles)

Introduction



Engraved title-page to William Camden's 'Britannia' (1607) © The Trustees of the British Museum

Today, Members of Parliament are elected by voters divided into 650 constituencies. Each constituency is made up of roughly the same number of voters.

In Tudor times each county elected two members (except for Wales, whose counties only elected one) and some boroughs (often towns) also elected MPs.

MPs were not elected in secret as they are today, and you could not vote unless you owned property. Many owed their seats to powerful landowners or patrons who wanted MPs to represent their own interests in Parliament.

Some towns, such as Newcastle, were able to pay their MPs salaries, which meant these MPs were more independent and elected by the leading men in the town. It was a very different system than it is now!

Below are descriptions of different constituencies across England and Wales. They show how differently the Reformation happened across the country. For example, ***Protestantism*** gained more followers in the South, East, and in the towns. Many areas in the North and West had large numbers of ***Catholics*** well into Elizabeth's reign.

We have tried to show the effect the Reformation had on ordinary people, although this is not always easy as the evidence is limited. In some areas the Reformation brought about major changes to local politics.

There were rebellions: some pro-Catholic (such as the ***Pilgrimage of Grace*** in Lincolnshire and Knaresborough, Yorkshire), some more Protestant (such as ***Wyatt's rebellion*** in Kent).

What is clear is that in most of England and Wales the Reformation caused a lot of upheaval. The greatest change was the ***dissolution of the monasteries***. Whilst many Protestant reformers argued that England's monasteries and religious houses (such as the convents, friaries and priories) were corrupt, they did provide schools, poor relief and hospitals for ordinary people. Sometimes the proceeds of their sale went into founding schools or hospitals, but more often they did not. Aside from the changes in religious beliefs that affected how people thought about God, the alteration in the structure of the church also had a major impact on local communities.

Lincolnshire

During the Tudor period Lincolnshire was a very poor county. The land was largely marshy and had not been properly protected from flooding. The Lincolnshire towns were suffering from a decline in the wool trade.



Ruin of Greyfriars tower, King's Lynn, Norfolk © Oxyman

In the 1530s, the changes to the church and the ***dissolution of the monasteries*** further threatened the economic situation of the people of Lincolnshire.

In 1536, the largest and most threatening rebellion of the Tudor period began in Lincolnshire: the ***Pilgrimage of Grace***. In October rumours circulated around the county that the King not only wanted to close the monasteries but also wanted to confiscate parish churches' funds and put a tax on births, marriages and deaths.

On 2 October, a mob attacked a church official who had been sent to inspect some priests in the town of Louth. The rising spread and some of the most important local people joined the rebellion or did not stop it.

The Lincolnshire rebels also captured the son of Yorkshire lawyer, ***Robert Aske***, and converted him to their cause. Aske later became the leader of the ***Pilgrimage of Grace*** in Yorkshire.

The rising in Lincolnshire soon collapsed, but it spread across the North, to places like Knaresborough, Yorkshire. In Lincolnshire Charles Brandon, the Duke of Suffolk, quickly put the rising down, and many of the elite asked for the King's pardon. With no leaders, the common people's rebellion was over. 34 rebels were hanged. Baron Hussey who had joined the rebellion was executed and lost his lands.

This changed local politics in the area, as the Duke of Suffolk became the largest landowner and had more influence over the elections of MPs. For the ordinary people, little changed, the ***dissolution of the monasteries*** continued.

Under Elizabeth's reign, her chief minister, William Cecil, held or controlled the parliamentary seat.

Did you know?

In 1532 Henry VIII visited Lincolnshire. He called it 'one of the most brute and beastly [counties] of the whole realm'.

Knaresborough, Yorkshire

Knaresborough was a small town with a good market, close to York. It came under the political influence of the major families of both Lancashire and Yorkshire. It did not have an MP until the 1553 Parliament.

Before the Reformation many came to Knaresborough for ***pilgrimage*** to the 'dropping well'. This was a spring said to flow from the grave of St Robert the Hermit. There was a friary (religious house) attached to the spring, and in 1536 its members (friars) became involved in the rebellion known as the ***Pilgrimage of Grace***.

The rebellion began in Lincolnshire, but soon spread to Yorkshire. The leader, ***Robert Aske***, was the younger son of a minor ***gentry*** family. When stating the aims of his rising he emphasised the religious issues. Saving the ***Catholic*** Church became the rallying cry of the rebellion. Throughout October several very important figures joined him, such as some members of the important noble family, the Percys. Aske captured Pontefract Castle. In Knaresborough, Robert Ashton, a local friar, spread news of the rebellion across Yorkshire and encouraged many to join.



Drawing of the Pilgrimage of Grace

The King's forces were initially outnumbered by the rebels, and Henry VIII was forced to offer a truce. The rebels had three major demands:

- a general pardon for all who rebelled,
- a Parliament held in the North to address their grievances,
- protection for the monasteries.

Historians are divided about whether religion or politics was more important to the rebels, but the motivation for many ordinary people seems to have been the threat to the church.

Henry VIII first agreed to the demands and then changed his mind. Over 200 rebels were killed including ***Robert Aske***, and many of those who had titles or land lost these as well. Henry never held a Parliament in the north, and the ***dissolution of the monasteries*** continued.

In Knaresborough, the priory was dissolved in 1538, and the friar Robert Ashton fled to Scotland to escape.

Historians believe that many in Yorkshire continued to hold ***Catholic*** beliefs. In the reign of the Catholic Queen Mary I, Knaresborough was given a parliamentary seat. As a small town it could not afford to pay the wages of the MP, so it was likely this was done to ensure a pro-Government and pro-Catholic MP was selected.

Did you know?
Places of ***pilgrimage*** like the spring in Knaresborough were very popular. Travellers came from far and wide to pray to ***saints***, who could cure their illnesses or help them in their lives. The church and the local communities made a lot of money from this.

Bodmin, Cornwall

In the Tudor period Bodmin was a small market town. Until September 1538 there was a priory (a religious house), and there were often disputes between the leading townspeople and the Prior, who controlled a great deal of land. In 1523 the townsmen complained that the Priory was becoming too involved in elections of MPs. However, many of the MPs were local men of the town in this period.

Edward's First Parliament and his government introduced a number of major reforms to the church, such as the removal of images, services to be held in English, and a new ***Book of Common Prayer***. In June 1549 riots broke out across Bodmin, calling for the return of the old ***Catholic*** services. A force from Bodmin marched into Devon, and soon over 7000 men were in arms. They held siege to the town of Exeter.

The rebels wanted the religious changes reversed. Edward VI's government had underestimated the strength of the rebellion and it took some time for their forces to arrive in the West. In a battle in August, the rebels were defeated. 4000 died at a battle in Stampford Courtenay, Devon. Six priests were also executed as an example.



Memorial to the Prayer Book Uprising, Stampford Courtenay
© Aeropigitca

In Bodmin, all returned to normal. The religious changes stayed in place until Edward VI's death, as many of the local ***gentry*** had not supported the rising. Both of Bodmin's MPs were rewarded for their part in putting down the rising. Historians have debated how far the '***Prayer Book Rebellion***', as it is nicknamed, demonstrates resistance to Edward's religious changes. Clearly many were unpopular with ordinary people, but there may have been other reasons that led to this large rebellion.

Did you know?
The Prayer book rebels complained that the new services were 'but like a Christmas game' – they simply were not the real thing.

Coventry

During the 15th Century, Coventry was the fourth largest city in England. However, by the Tudor period the wool trade, which had been so important to its success, was in decline.

The ***dissolution of the monasteries*** had a large effect on Coventry, as there were several different monasteries in the city and much of their property went to the crown. Although many of the leading

townsmen held ***Catholic*** beliefs, the Mayor Christopher Warren used money donated to the city to purchase some lands and build the famous cross that stood for 200 years.



The Entrance of Queen Mary I with Princess Elizabeth into London, 1553 by John Byam Liston Shaw © Palace of Westminster

There were two attempts to involve Coventry in rebellions against the ***Catholic*** Queen, Mary I. Edward VI's ***Lord Protector***, the Duke of Northumberland tried to have ***Lady Jane Grey*** proclaimed Queen in Coventry. However, the people of the city supported Mary. The rest of the country agreed with Coventry – ***Lady Jane Grey*** was 'Queen' for just 9 days, after the people, both ***Protestant*** and Catholic, overwhelmingly supported Mary. The Duke of Northumberland and Lady Jane Grey's husband the Earl of Warwick were both executed.

In 1554 ***Lady Jane Grey***'s father, Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk decided to join ***Wyatt's rebellion*** against Mary's marriage to ***Philip of Spain***. This rebellion was most successful in Kent. The Duke of Suffolk tried to make Coventry the headquarters for his rising. However, the city's mayor ordered the great gates shut to the rebels. The Duke of Suffolk was caught and executed in February. After this, Mary decided that ***Lady Jane Grey*** was too large a threat to her to live. Despite the fact she knew little about either rebellion, she too was executed.

The Reformation ended a long custom in the city. The 'Corpus Christi' pageants had been held in Coventry since the 14th century, and comprised a procession and a series of medieval 'mystery plays', which were based on texts in the Bible. They took place on Trinity Sunday, 8 weeks after Easter Sunday. Although many towns held similar plays, Coventry's pageant was known for its quality and was extremely popular. Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon and Princess Mary had all seen them. However, they were seen as a ***Catholic*** custom. They were suppressed for good in Elizabeth's reign.

Did you know?
Coventry's mayor Christopher Warren was also notorious for using the ***heresy*** laws to pursue his private vendettas, but this did not stop his service to the city.

Kent

Kent was a prosperous county. It had good farmland, strong industries (such as cloth, paper and shipbuilding) and was strategically important because of its ports. These ports also gave the county a link to the mainland of Europe.

The Reformation in Kent was not always popular. A lot of land in the county was owned by the church, and much of it was sold off during the ***dissolution of the monasteries***. For years, ***pilgrims*** had prayed at the famous (and very rich) tomb of Saint Thomas Beckett in Canterbury. It was dismantled.



Thomas Becket Window, Chartres Cathedral, France © Art History Images

In 1533 Elizabeth Barton, the 'Holy Maid of Kent' had a series of visions of terrible things that would happen if Henry VIII continued with his religious changes. It is now believed she suffered from epilepsy, but at the time people believed that her fits were signs of visions from God. Under the control of monks unhappy with the religious changes, she prophesised that Henry VIII would die if he married ***Anne Boleyn***. She and her sponsors were arrested and hanged in 1534 for fraud.

The ***Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury***, ***Thomas Cranmer***, had an important effect on the city of Canterbury. He helped make sure that the religious changes of Edward's reign were carried out across the county, and was initially very unpopular in Canterbury for doing so.

However, ***Protestantism*** began to take root in the county. Many of the county's MPs were close to Edward VI's government, and several were related to ***Lady Jane Grey***. In 1554, ***Sir Thomas Wyatt*** led a rebellion in the county against Mary I. Wyatt said he was rebelling against the Queen's proposed marriage to ***Philip of Spain***:

> *Forasmuch as it is now spread abroad ... of the Queen's determinate pleasure to marry with a stranger ....no other earthly cause could move us to this enterprise ... wherin we seek no harm to the Queen.*

The rebels marched to London. However, the capital stayed loyal to Mary and Wyatt was executed for treason. In Kent, *150 people were hanged and 303 received pardons.*

By the time of Mary's reign ***Protestantism*** certainly had a strong presence in Kent. A number of Protestant refugees arrived in Canterbury from the continent, and by 1548 even had their own church in the town.

Did you know?
During Mary's reign 70 people in Kent were burnt at the stake for **heresy**, one of the largest numbers across the country.

Oxford

Oxford was home to one of the only two universities in the country. The University was dominated by the church, and so the town was to play an important part in the Reformation. Local politics was influenced by the bad relations between 'town' and 'gown' (the townspeople and the university) at this time, as university members had many privileges. MPs for Oxford were mostly leading townspeople.

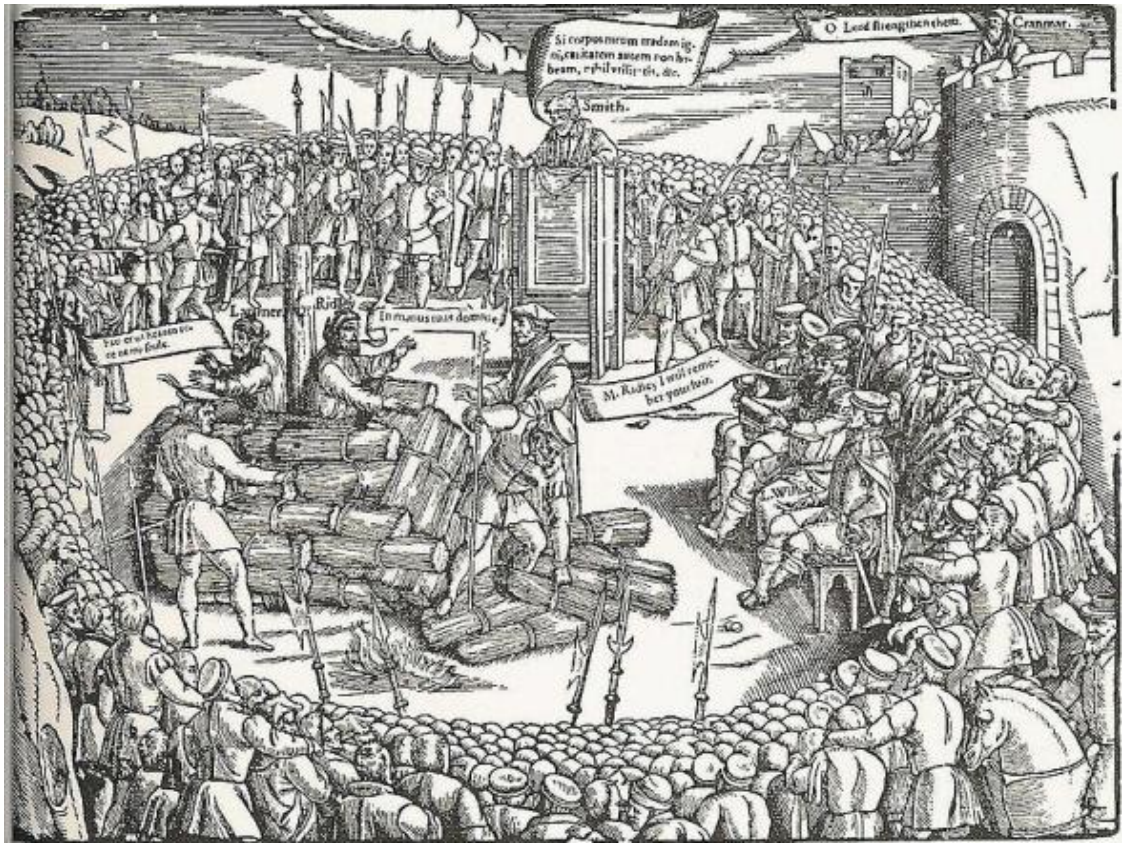
The religious nature of the University meant that the controversies of the Reformation were often played out in Oxford. There were fewer early ***Protestants*** *in Oxford than in Cambridge, and in 1530 Henry VIII had to force the Univers*ity to accept his divorce. However, a Protestant community had grown by the reign of Edward VI.

The most famous Reformation event in the town was the notorious burning of the 'Oxford ***martyrs***'. In 1555 and 1556, three of the major Protestant bishops under Henry VIII and Edward VI – Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley and the former ***Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer*** – were found guilty of ***heresy*** (the MP John Story presided over Cranmer's trial).

Latimer and Ridley were burnt together. Latimer was later reported (in some pro-Protestant texts) to have said to Ridley:

> *Play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out*

Thomas Cranmer was forced to watch. After this, he gave up his Protestant beliefs. However, when he realised that he would be executed no matter what he said, he publicly declared his commitment to Protestantism.



The martyrdom of Latimer and Ridley, from Foxe's Book of Martyrs

These three Bishops have become the most famous of the Protestants who were ***martyred*** under Mary. Later Protestant writings, published during Elizabeth's reign, celebrated them as great heroes.

Many historians argue that by creating these ***martyrs*** the persecutions did the Catholic Church more harm than good.

Did you know?
When Thomas Cranmer was burnt at the stake it is said that the thrust his right hand into the fire first, to punish it for writing a denial of his Protestant faith

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Newcastle was a leading provincial town and port, often used as a base for war against Scotland. It had a population of 10,000 in 1545. There were several periods of war and unrest between England and Scotland during the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI.

Newcastle was an independent parliamentary seat, and those elected to represent parliament under the Tudors were chosen by the townsmen. They were often merchants or had mining interests. These men were largely ***Catholic*** but there were no rebellions in the town against the Reformation. These merchants were very powerful, and in 1553 they attempted to bring the ***Protestant*** town of Gateshead under the control of Newcastle. This was despite the fact that Newcastle was largely Catholic.

Newcastle, like most of the North-East, remained stubbornly ***Catholic*** well into Elizabeth's reign. The town's priests were under the leadership of the Bishop of Durham, and a ***Protestant*** did not hold

this post until 1561. There were several local risings associated with Catholicism or in support of ***Mary, Queen of Scots*** in the North-East, and in 1593 a Catholic priest was executed in the city.

Did you know?
During Edward VI's reign, there were plans to create a Bishop of Newcastle. The first Bishop was to be Nicholas Ridley (who would later become a ***Protestant martyr*** at Oxford). These plans were dropped when Edward died.

Denbighshire

Before Henry VIII's reign, Wales was not represented in Parliament and instead governed by the 'marcher lords' – a group of powerful English land owners. Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell wanted to secure the King's power over Wales, and through something called the 'acts of union' Wales was brought under direct parliamentary rule. Wales then had seats in Parliament.

Denbighshire was one of four new shires created in 1536 to send a representative to Parliament. It covered parts of present day Gwynedd and Powys, its main towns Denbigh and Wrexham.

The county was largely controlled by the Salusbury family, who originally came from England. But their power was reduced under Elizabeth I. Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, was made Baron of Denbigh. Dudley was a ***Protestant***, and his plans for Denbigh included a large Protestant church. He also supported the publication of the ***Welsh Bible***. The first version of the New Testament in Welsh was published by the Denbighshire scholar William Salesbury (a full ***Welsh Bible*** followed in 1588).



Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester by Jacobus Houbraken © Palace of Westminster

Under Elizabeth I, local politics became dominated by a pro-government and (mostly) ***Protestant*** faction comprised of Dudley and some of the Salusbury family. Many of the important local families, however, were ***Catholics***, and they resented this group. They formed their own faction and even managed to get some of their candidates elected to Parliament.

Many of the leading families in the county held on to their ***Catholic*** beliefs even after Elizabeth's reign.

Did you know?
In 1584 the first ***Catholic martyr*** in Wales, the teacher Richard Gwyn, was ***hung, drawn and quartered*** in Wrexham for treason. He was accused of planning a rebellion and converting others to Catholicism.

Lancashire

Lancashire was a thinly-populated county in the Tudor period. It was often considered to be 'remote' from London. The largest industry was agriculture, but there was also some coal mining in the county.

There were a few large monasteries that were sold to local landowners during the ***dissolution***. Most of the MPs lived in the county, and the majority remained ***Catholic***.

Under Elizabeth's reign many ***Catholics*** decided to outwardly conform to the ***Protestant*** Church at first. They attended church services but still held their own private beliefs. As time went on this became more difficult – especially after Elizabeth was ***excommunicated*** by the Pope and Catholics came under greater suspicion. The Catholic MPs of Lancashire faced a stark choice. If they did not at least outwardly conform to the Church of England they faced losing their position, being fined and later even imprisonment.



Map of Lancashire signed by William Smith, 1598
© The British Library (Illuminated manuscripts Harley 6159 ff. 3v-4)

The Lancashire MPs dealt with this in different ways. Sir Thomas Gerard, for example, was implicated in a plot surrounding ***Mary, Queen of Scots*** and imprisoned in the Tower of London. By November 1594 he made a 'show of conforming', however, and received a pardon.

Another Lancashire MP, Sir John Southworth, was also imprisoned for involvement in a rebellion. It was also reported that he, his family and servants celebrated ***Catholic*** religious services in his house. Again, he later appeared to conform and contributed money to the fund raised to fight the ***Spanish Armada***. After this, however, he was arrested for holding Catholic writings and images.

Many women were reported for their ***Catholic*** beliefs. They were often responsible for bringing up their children as Catholics whilst their husbands outwardly conformed to protect their wealth and position.

Richard Bold's wife was a known ***Catholic***, and in 1582 a servant reported that they were hiding a Catholic priest in their house. Sir Gilbert Gerard was said to be 'a ***protestant*** at London and a ***papist*** in Lancashire', and both his wife and daughters were listed as Catholics.

Did you know?
During the 1570s missionary ***Catholic*** priests arrived in England. The government were extremely concerned by these men because of their involvement in plots against Elizabeth. Wealthy Catholics would often hide priests in their house to worship privately. There was a network of 'safe houses' for these priests, which often included a 'priest hole' – a secret chamber for the priest to hide.



Glossary

(Terms in *italics* are explained elsewhere in the Glossary, terms underlined have their own articles)

Act of Succession (1534) – An Act passed by the Reformation Parliament that made Henry VIII and *Anne Boleyn*'s daughter Elizabeth next in line to the throne, instead of Henry's older daughter (with *Catherine of Aragon*), Mary. Anyone who disagreed, such as Thomas More, could be accused of treason. Later, this act was repealed and Henry VIII named his successors (in order) as Edward, Mary and Elizabeth.

Act of Supremacy – The first *Act of Supremacy* in 1534 allowed Henry VIII to take control of the church by stating that the monarch had always been the '***Supreme Head***' of the Church of England. This was later repealed by Mary I. In 1559, Elizabeth's First Parliament passed another *Act of Supremacy* which made Elizabeth the '***Supreme Governor***' rather than the '***Supreme Head***' of the English church. The Pope, once again, had no say over the Church of England.

Act of Uniformity – The first *Act of Uniformity* was passed by Edward's First Parliament in 1549, which meant that all churches had to use the ***Protestant Book of Common Prayer*** and hold services in English, not Latin. This was repealed by Mary I. Later, Elizabeth I passed a second *Act of Uniformity*, which again stated that all churches had to follow services contained in a new ***Book of Common Prayer***, based largely on Edward VI's version.

Anne of Cleves (1515-1557) – A German Princess and Henry VIII's fourth wife. The marriage was arranged in 1540 by Thomas Cromwell in the hope of securing an alliance with the *Protestant* German states. Henry divorced Anne after just six months, because he did not find her as attractive as her portrait suggested she was. The affair led to Cromwell's execution for treason. Anne continued to live in England in some comfort, but she was increasingly isolated.


Canterbury Cathedral

Archbishop of Canterbury – the most important Bishop in the Church of England.

Aske, Robert (1500-1537) – a younger son in a Yorkshire *gentry* family and lawyer. In 1536 he was captured by rebels. Converted to their cause, he led the *Pilgrimage of Grace* and was responsible for the largely religious nature of its demands. After Henry VIII agreed to a truce he was invited to spend Christmas with the King, but he was executed the next year for his part in the rebellion.


Mary, Queen of Scots
(© The Royal Collection)

Babington Plot – a *Catholic* plot in 1586 to assassinate Elizabeth I and put *Mary, Queen of Scots* on the English throne. Mary was executed for her involvement.

Created by Paula Kitching/History of Parliament

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Boleyn, Anne (1501-1536) – Henry VIII's 2nd wife, mother of Elizabeth I. Henry declared himself *Supreme Head* of the English church in order to marry her in 1533. However, she failed to produce the male heir Henry wanted and was executed for treason in 1536. She was replaced as Queen by Jane Seymour, the mother of Edward VI.

Book of Common Prayer – The book containing the structure and words for religious services in the Church of England. Versions were issued in 1549, 1552 and 1559. The services were in English and it became law for all churches to use them. The Church of England still has a version today.

Catholics (sometimes referred to in the sixteenth and seventeeth century as Papists) – Christians who believed that the Pope was the true head of the church and only he could decide on religious matters. The Bible and services were in Latin and the church used images and stores to help people understand religion. For more, see Protestants and Catholics.

Catherine of Aragon – Henry VIII's first wife. A Spanish Princess, she was first married to Henry's brother, Arthur, before he died in 1502. Catherine was the mother of Mary I but none of her other children survived childhood. Henry's wish to divorce her to marry *Anne Boleyn* led to him becoming the *Supreme Head* of the English church.

Clergy – Leaders of the church, such as priests, vicars or bishops. The clergy are allowed to perform certain church services and ceremonies, depending on their status.

Cranmer, Thomas (Archbishop of Canterbury) (1449-1586) – *Protestant* churchman who was promoted to the leading position in the English church during Henry VIII's reign. It was Cranmer who declared Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn legitimate. He wrote the Edwardian *Prayer books*. He was burnt at the stake for *heresy* during Mary's reign.

Dissolution of the monasteries – term for the period between 1536 and 1540 when 800 of the *Catholic* religious houses (monasteries, convents, priories, friaries etc) were closed down. Henry VIII and his chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, claimed this was because they were corrupt and loyal to the Catholic church. However, many believed that the King was more interested in their vast wealth. The monks and nuns living in them were removed (some received pensions) and the lands were given away or sold off. This was a very controversial process as the monasteries were often centres of learning and provided the only schools, hospitals and poor relief for ordinary people. Many of the MPs and *gentry* were either given or bought these lands, which made them nervous about a return to the Catholic church (and the possibility of having to give the lands back).



The ruins of Hailes Abbey, Goucestershire (© Matt Northam)

Elizabethan religious settlement – the collective term for the religious measures passed by the 1559 parliament. Elizabeth desired a compromise on religion, and tried to accommodate both *Catholic* and *Protestant* beliefs. She was made *Supreme Governor* of the church of England, rather than the *Supreme Head*. The church was moderately *Protestant* and re-introduced the *Book of Common Prayer*.

English Bible – Bibles in English were forbidden before the reign of Henry VIII. *Protestants* believed that Bibles should be printed in the language of ordinary people to give everyone the chance to read them. A version by William Tyndale was repressed by Henry VIII, however later in his reign an official version was issued to every parish church. *Catholics* and religious conservatives opposed the Bible in English. They were concerned that if everyone could read the Bible they would question the teachings of the church.

Excommunication – the exclusion of an offender from participation in the life of the Church and religious services. When used against Elizabeth, it encouraged her *Catholic* subjects to rebel against her.

Gentry – a term for the class of important local families and government officials. Members of the gentry were often rich and owned lands, but they were not as powerful as the aristocracy. Many were MPs.

Grey, Lady Jane (1536/37-1554) – The granddaughter of Henry VIII's younger sister, Mary, a devout *Protestant* and scholarly young woman. After Edward VI died in 1553 she became Queen for nine days (10-19 July). Edward and his *Lord Protector*, the Duke of Northumberland, wanted to prevent the *Catholic* Mary from inheriting the throne. She was married to Northumberland's son, Guilford Dudley. She did not have popular support and Mary became Queen. It is believed that Jane had little knowledge of these plans beforehand and did not want to be Queen. Jane was imprisoned by Mary but not executed until after *Wyatt's rebellion* in 1554, when she became too much of a threat.

Hanged, drawn and quartered – a gruesome punishment for men convicted of high treason. The traitor was hanged until they were nearly dead, then cut down and disembowelled whilst still alive. Finally, their limbs and head were cut off. It was first used in the 13th century and the punishment for many Tudor traitors.

Heresy, heretic, heretical –holding beliefs that are at odds with the established church. The punishment for heresy in the Tudor period was being burnt at the stake.

Lollards – the Lollards were a religious reform movement dating back to the 14th century. One of their key beliefs was that the Bible should be available in English. Before the Reformation they were considered *heretical*.

Lord Chancellor – the most important official in English government. The Lord Chancellor's most important duty was the Keeper of the Great Seal, the seal used to approve all state documents.

Lord Protector – the ruler of the country in the name of an underage monarch. Edward VI had two Lord Protectors during his reign.

Martyr – a person killed because of their beliefs. There were many religious martyrs, both *Catholic* and *Protestant*, during the Reformation.



From 'Foxe's book of Martyrs'

Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-1587) – the great grand-daughter of Henry VII (making her cousin to Elizabeth I). She inherited the Scottish throne at six days old, but spent her childhood in France before returning to Scotland in 1561. She had an unhappy time in Scotland, and was suspected of murdering her husband. Mary fled to England after she was forced to abdicate the throne in favour of her son, James (the future James I of England). As the next in line to the English throne and a *Catholic*, Mary was a threat to Elizabeth, and there were many plots to place her on the English throne. She spent over eighteen years under house arrest in England before she was executed for plotting to kill Elizabeth in 1587.

Oath of Supremacy – Any person taking public or church office in England and Wales had to swear allegiance to the monarch as the *Supreme Head* or *Supreme Governor* of the Church of England. This was extremely difficult for committed *Catholics* to do, but failure to do so was treason.

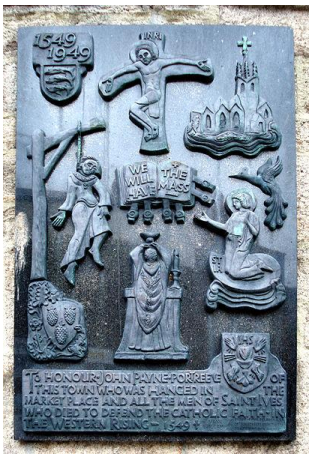
Parr, Catherine (1512-1548) – Henry VIII's sixth wife. A moderate *Protestant*, she was charged with raising Elizabeth after Henry's death. She re-married but died in childbirth in 1547.

Philip II of Spain (1527-1598) – the *Catholic* King of Spain between 1554 and 1559 and joint King of England when he was married to Mary I. Under his rule, Spain reached the height of its influence and power, with a large Empire across the world. Philip sent the *Spanish Armada* to invade England in 1588.

Pilgrimage – A journey people took for religious reasons. In the medieval period this was often to visit places associated with particular *saints*, or which held important *relics*.

Pilgrimage of Grace – the largest and most significant rebellion against Tudor rule. In response to Henry VIII's religious changes and rumours of more changes to the church, in 1536 a rising in Lincolnshire spread throughout the North (see also Knaresborough, Yorkshire). It primarily aimed to stop the *dissolution of the monasteries*, although there were other religious, political and economic causes. After initially accepting the rebels' demands, Henry later executed over 200 of them.

Prayer Book Rebellion or 'Western rebellion' – A 1549 rising in Devon and Cornwall against Edward VI's changes to the church and the new *Prayer book*. Over 4000 rebels were killed at Stampford Courtenay as the government restored order (see Bodmin, Cornwall)



Memorial to the Prayer Book Rebellion, Stampford Courtenay © Aeropigitca

Privy Council – the Council that advised the King or Queen and was responsible for administrative government tasks.

Protestants – Christians who did not agree that the Pope was head of the church. There were many different Protestant groups, but in general most believed that the *Catholic* church had become corrupt and that people should be able to read and hear Bible stories in their own language. (For more, see Protestants and Catholics.)

Puritans – a term used to mock very devout *Protestants* who emerged during Elizabeth I's reign. They were unhappy with Elizabeth's *religious*

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settlement and wanted further Protestant reforms of the church. They were known to have strict morals and often condemned their neighbours for sins such as blasphemy, drunkenness and for taking part in non-religious activities on Sundays.

Relic – items linked to a saint, or to Jesus, including sometimes parts of a saint's body. In the medieval period relics were often believed to have magical properties or be able to cure illness. People often took *pilgrimages* to visit them.

Saints – a person recognized for having an exceptional degree of holiness. In the *Catholic* Church, saints have special feast days and in medieval times were often prayed to for help.

Spanish Armada – the invading fleet sent by *Philip II of Spain* in 1588 to overthrow Elizabeth after she executed *Mary, Queen of Scots*. The fleet was composed of 151 ships, 8,000 sailors and 18,000 soldiers, and was due to meet Philip's army in France before invading England. The Armada was prevented from doing this due to the English navy and the weather. It was then forced to travel around the British Isles to return back to Spain. It did so at a time of awful gales, so only half the ships returned to Spain with less than 10,000 men on board.

Submission of the Clergy – A document issued by the English churchmen in 1532. It gave up its power to make laws without the permission of the King.

Supreme Head of the Church of England – the title taken by Henry VIII and Edward VI. It stated that the monarch, not the Pope, was the ruler of the Church of England.

Supreme Governor of the Church of England – the title taken by Elizabeth I as ruler of the Church of England. Elizabeth chose to be 'Supreme Governor' rather than '*Supreme Head*' as a compromise after criticism that only Jesus could be the head of the church. The current Queen is still the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Welsh Bible – *Protestants* believed that people should have the chance to read the Bible in their own language. In Tudor Wales, most people spoke Welsh rather than English, and so the change from a Latin to an English Bible meant little to ordinary people! In 1567 the Denbighshire scholar William Salesbury published a translation of the New Testament into Welsh. It was not until 1588 when a complete translation of the Bible, by Bishop William Morgan, was available.

Wolsey, ***Cardinal Thomas (1473-1530)*** – Wolsey was Henry VIII's chief minister from 1514 until the 1520s. He controlled most of Henry's government as well as being the most important member of the *Catholic* church in England. His failure to gain Henry VIII a divorce from *Catherine of Aragon* led to his political downfall.

Wyatt's rebellion/Sir Thomas Wyatt (1521-1554) – the son of the poet and ambassador (who was also called Thomas Wyatt), Wyatt was responsible for leading a rebellion against Mary I in Kent in 1554. He stated the rebellion was against Mary I's proposed marriage to *Philip of Spain*, but historians believe there were also economic, political and religious motives. Over 20,000 men joined him in Kent, but after marching to London most rebels dispersed and Wyatt admitted defeat. He was executed for high treason.



Learning Activities – three options and additional activites

Option 1

Enquiry Question:

Was the Reformation popular with the English people throughout the Tudor Period?

Purpose

- review the information to illicit responses
- To record responses
- To look at events over time
- To evaluate the evidence

Stage one

Read the following information:

- Introduction (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation)
- Parliaments (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation/parliaments)

Keep the glossary to hand

Using the information in the Parliaments section, fill in *Activity sheet – Parliamentary events* (if working in groups you may want to divide the information up for different groups to consider).

Stage two

Read the following information

- Constituencies (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation/constituencies)
- MPs (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation/mps)

Organise the information from this sections to fill in *Activity Sheet – MP's role* and *Activity Sheet – Key Events* (there are two levels for this activity choose which is most suitable for your ability).

Stage three

Using the existing chronology create your own chronology based on the key information that you have learned that charts the evidence of when religious change and the Reformation was popular or unpopular.

Activity sheet - Religious Change, may provide a guide of how to organise your information

Finish up

If working as a class you can now discuss your outcomes and whether you feel able to answer the enquiry question.

If working alone write a short paragraph in answer to the enquiry question '*Was the Reformation popular with the English people throughout the Tudor Period?*'

Focus the paragraph on three – five pieces of evidence.

Created by Paula Kitching

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Option two

Enquiry question

How did Parliament play a significant role in the Reformation?

- What were the key roles that MPs' played during the Reformation period?

Purpose:

- To review the information
- To examine the role of MP's and key individuals
- To examine the relationship between Parliament and the monarchs
-

Stage one

Read the following information:

- Introduction (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation)
- Parliaments (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation/parliaments)

Keep the glossary to hand

Using the information complete *Activity Sheet – Monarch's decisions*.

Stage two

Read the information:

- Constituencies (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation/constituencies)

Using the information complete *Activity Sheet – Constituencies* (if working in groups you may want to divide this information up to be used in pairs working together, then reporting back to a wider group).

Stage three

Read the information:

- MPs (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation/mps)

Complete *Activity Sheet – MPs' Role*

Finish up

Complete *Activity Sheet – Key Events* (choose the appropriate level between 1 and 2).

As a class discuss the enquiry question and, if you think you can, answer it.

'How did Parliament play a significant role in the Reformation?

- *What were the key roles that MPs' played during the Reformation period?'*

If working alone return to the enquiry question and assess if you can answer it using the information that you have gathered and recorded. Write a paragraph summing up an answer to the question.

Option 3 (medium ability)

Enquiry Question

Explain how the Reformation changed England

- Who gained in importance from the Reformation – the Monarch or Parliament?

Purpose:

- To review the information
- To understand the term and significance of the Reformation
- To examine the relationship between Parliament and the monarchs

Stage one

Read the information:

- The Reformation (shorter version: www.historyofparliamentonline.org//schools/ks3/reformation/short-overview)

Use *Activity Sheet – Key Events 1* to record what you have learnt

Stage two

Read the information:

- MPs

Complete Activity Sheet – MPs' Role

Stage three

Read the information:

- The Chronology (www.historyofparliamentonline.org/schools/ks3/reformation/chronology)

Using the Glossary, create your own timeline of significant events.

Finish up

From all the information you have gathered complete *Activity Sheet – Monarch's Decisions*.

As a group, are you able to answer the question: 'Who gained in importance from the Reformation – the Monarch or Parliament?'

If working alone can you answer the question by summing up your findings in one paragraph?

Extended activities (all abilities)

- Use the information that you have learnt to write a short newspaper piece on the importance of one of the Kings or Queens to the period of religious change and the Reformation.

- Use the information to write a piece for a newspaper on the impact of the Reformation on an area near you.

- In most areas a religious building was lost due to the dissolution of the Monasteries – find out about any such place in your local area. Who got the land from the dissolution and what remains of the building now?

- Complete *Activity Sheet – Did You Know?* by matching the facts to the Parliament, MP or Constituency they refer to.

- Creative writing: using *Activity Sheet – Did You Know?* write an alternative history of the Reformation



The Reformation (Short Overview)

(Terms in ***bold italics*** are explained further in the Glossary, terms underlined have their own articles)

Introduction – Catholics and Protestants

At the start of the sixteenth century England was an entirely Christian country. There were no other religious groups and everyone followed the version of Christianity that is called ***Catholicism***. The Catholic Church was led by the Pope who was based in Rome. All of the religious services were carried out in Latin.



13th century mural of St. Catherine of Alexandria, Hailes Church, Gloucestershire (© Art History Images)

Most people in England attended church regularly and believed in Christianity. The Church was a central point in the community where people came together for births, marriages and funerals. In many areas the church provided support to the poor, access to basic medicine and guidance with problems. Many people could not read or write and what they were told in Church they believed.

However, for some people the ***Catholic*** Church was considered 'old fashioned' and out of date with what people wanted. Some thought that the Church did things that were corrupt, that misled people and took advantage of their belief in God.

The people who did not want the ***Catholic*** Church anymore still believed in Christianity but they wanted a version that more people could understand. They wanted services to be in English with an ***English bible***. The people who wanted the changes to the Catholic Church were called ***Protestants***.

Even though ***Catholics*** and ***Protestants*** were all Christians and believed in God, the Bible and that Jesus Christ was the son of God their disagreements made then enemies. The two different types of Christian were prepared to kill each other over their disagreements.

Henry VIII



Henry VIII (after Holbein) © Victoria Art Gallery, Bath (via www.vads.ac.uk)

Henry VIII became King in 1509. He married ***Catherine of Aragon*** the same year. He was a committed ***Catholic*** and wrote an attack on a leading ***Protestant***, Martin Luther. For attacking Protestantism he was given the title 'Defender of the Faith' by the Pope.

However, after 18 years of marriage Henry did not have a legitimate son or male heir to be king after he died. He did not want to have a daughter to follow him. He believed that his wife, Catherine, was now too old for any more children and he wanted to marry someone else.

In 1527 he asked the Pope for a divorce. At that time divorce was very rare and the ***Catholic*** Church did not allow them except in the most unusual cases. To get a divorce the Pope had to believe that there was a religious reason for it.

The Pope did not want to give Henry VIII a divorce from Catherine, despite lots of pressure from England. Henry VIII was desperate to marry someone else.

Some of Henry's advisors were secretly ***Protestants*** and they convinced him to ignore the Pope and that he had good reasons to divorce Catherine. They convinced him that if he broke with the ***Catholic*** Church he would be more powerful and could make his own decisions about marriage and about how the Church was run in England.



Thomas Cromwell, one of Henry's closest Protestant advisors
(© Palace of Westminster)

In 1529 the Reformation Parliament opened. It was not called that at the time but its purpose was to help Henry VIII to get the divorce that he wanted.

Henry used the Parliament to attack the ***Catholic*** Church in England, claiming it was loyal to the Pope and not to the King of England. The Church was fined.

Many of the MPs in Parliament were loyal to the ***Catholic*** Church but they also did not want to upset the king or lose any of their power. Other key members of the Parliament were already ***Protestants*** and wanted the king to break England away from the Pope's control and to change the church to their beliefs.

The Pope did not want to give Henry his divorce and in the end Henry appointed his own church leaders in England that would permit him to divorce and to marry someone else. The new church leaders in England were ***Protestants*** and with them and the support of Parliament Henry introduced a series of laws that changed the Church in England.

Henry VIII's new wife ***Anne Boleyn*** was also a ***Protestant*** and she helped to influence some of the changes that were made.



Henry VIII shown with his foot on the Pope, from 'Foxe's Book of Martyrs' (16th Century)
(© the Trustees of the British Museum)

Henry and Parliament passed the ***Act of Supremacy***. That appointed the King as the leader of the Church of England. He permitted the creation and printing of a bible in English. The Pope was to no longer have any power or influence over religion in England. Church leaders who opposed the changes were removed and some were killed, others fled to countries away from England.

Henry realised that an advantage of changing England from ***Catholic*** to ***Protestant*** was that he was able to order the closure of lots of the religious buildings. The religious buildings, such as monasteries and convents, were loyal to the Pope, but most importantly they often owned lots of land and had important collections of religious objects. In the main the land and objects became the property of the crown – the king – once they had been closed down.

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For the ***Protestants*** the religious objects were evidence of superstition rather than real belief and should be destroyed. But for Henry and some of his supporters the objects were valuable that could be used to raise money.

Some of the MPs in Parliament agreed to the changes made because they were able to buy or be given the land taken from the church. Others approved of the changes because they believed in them or because they were afraid of the King and his supporters.

For many normal people the changes made to religion were a disaster. They did not care about what language the bible was in as they could not read well anyway. What they now missed was the charitable elements of the church such as relief for the poor, the medicine and schools and the monasteries etc. often employed local people. Religious services did not change very much.



The ruins of Whalley Abbey, Lancashire (© David Dixon)

Henry VIII's new marriage was a short one as ***Anne Boleyn*** was accused and found guilty of treason. She was executed. Henry went on to marry four more times before he died.

It is believed that in terms of religious belief he was not committed to ***Protestant*** beliefs but he was committed to having his own way and he enjoyed the power that changing England to Protestantism had given him.

Edward VI

In 1547 Henry VIII died and his son Edward VI became king. Edward had been brought up to be a committed ***Protestant***. He was only nine years old when he became King and had a ***Lord Protector*** (first the Duke of Somerset, then the Duke of Northumberland) to help him. By then there were many Protestants in Parliament.



Edward VI (© Palace of Westminster)

Edward introduced more ***Protestant*** reforms. In 1549, Parliament ruled that priests could get married (in the ***Catholic*** Church they are not been allowed to). An ***Act of Uniformity*** was passed, which meant that all churches had to use the Protestant ***Book of Common Prayer*** and hold services in English, not Latin.

Edward was still young when he died in 1552 and had not married. His successor was declared to be his cousin ***Lady Jane Grey***. It is not known if Edward wanted her to be Queen or if it was his ***Lord Protector*** whose daughter-in-law she was. Edward was strongly anti-***Catholic*** and may not have wanted his older sister Mary (a Catholic) to be Queen in case she overturned all of his reforms.

However, the English people did not want ***Lady Jane Grey*** and demanded that Mary, who was the daughter of Henry VIII and ***Catherine of Aragon***, be made Queen. It is not known if the people wanted her because she was a ***Catholic*** of if they felt as Henry VIII's daughter she should be Queen.

The Duke of Northumberland, his son and ***Lady Jane Grey*** were all executed under the orders of Queen Mary I.



Mary I and her sister Elizabeth arriving in London to claim the throne, 1553
(© Palace of Westminster)

Queen Mary I (Tudor)

Queen Mary was a ***Catholic*** and she wished to return England to the Catholic Church. Mary's first Parliament passed the first *Act of Repeal* that undid all of her brother's religious laws, such as allowing priests to marry or for church services in English. Yet Mary had to be careful because she needed the support of people that had benefitted from the religious changes. Some committed ***Protestants*** fled abroad.



Philip of Spain
(© Palace of Westminster)

Parliament was just as concerned about her plans to marry as it was about the changes she wanted to make. She wanted to marry King ***Philip of Spain***, who was unpopular in England. In November 1553 a deputation of MPs petitioned her to marry an Englishman. She married King Philip of Spain anyway.

In 1554 the Pope agreed that the ***Catholic*** Church would not demand the land returned that it had lost during the religious changes. This meant that many MPs did not object to England once more becoming Catholic. Parliament repealed the ***Act of Supremacy*** and the Pope became leader of the Church in England again.

The original ***heresy*** laws were brought back and Mary used these to persecute ***Protestants***. In total 229 men and 51 women were burnt at the stake, most in the South East and East Anglia. Because of this Mary has been remembered as 'Bloody Mary'.

Parliament did oppose some of Mary's changes – MPs did not want Church taxes to go to Rome. Instead of making this part of the new church Mary had to collect the money and then send it on to the Pope herself.

Mary did not have any children and when she died she named her sister Elizabeth as her heir.

Queen Elizabeth I

Elizabeth became Queen in 1558. She was the daughter of Henry VIII and ***Anne Boleyn***. She had been raised as a ***Protestant*** but she wanted the country's religious problems to calm down.

Elizabeth called a Parliament soon after becoming Queen. It only lasted a short time but it passed a ***religious settlement***, one that is still the basis for the Church of England today.

Elizabeth and Parliament reformed the church to create a compromise. The ***Act of Supremacy***, made Elizabeth the '***Supreme Governor***' rather than the '***Supreme Head***' of the English church. The Pope, once again, had no say over the Church of England.

The ***Act of Uniformity*** re-introduced the ***Book of Common Prayer***, based largely on Edward VI's version.



The front page of the 1559 Book of Common Prayer

The Church of England very unusual - it was not ***Catholic*** but was also unlike other ***Protestant*** churches across Europe. Services were in English, not Latin, and priests were allowed to marry. However, some more traditional aspects remained, such as church music. The compromise was challenged many times. Catholics still felt that Elizabeth's changes went too far, but some Protestants felt she did not go far enough.

Some ***Protestants*** became ***Puritans*** – they wanted anything to do with ***Catholicism*** stopped including church music.



Elizabeth I in Parliament

Elizabeth stood up to the ***Protestants*** and the ***Catholics*** in her Parliament and refused to allow England to be led in either direction.

This second Parliament passed the *Act for Assurance of the Queen's Power*, which meant that anyone working for the government had to swear to the ***Oath of Supremacy***. This meant that if anyone worked for the government they had to recognise Elizabeth, and not the Pope, as the head of the church, which many ***Catholics*** would not do. From 1563 Catholics could not sit in Parliament and from 1570 they risked losing their jobs in local government as well.

Many ***Protestants*** continued to push for further changes but Elizabeth refused to be forced into religious changes that she thought would upset too much of the county.

In 1570 Pope Pius V ***excommunicated*** Elizabeth. That meant that England would remain broken from the ***Catholic*** Church. It also meant that Catholics were supposed to oppose Elizabeth in any way they could.

The Elizabethan court and Parliament became convinced that there were ***Catholic*** plots everywhere. 1585 Elizabeth's officials uncovered the ***Babington Plot*** and named Queen Mary of Scotland (***Mary Queen of Scots***), a Catholic as plotting to kill the Queen and take over. Mary was already under arrest in England. The Sixth Parliament (1586 – 1587) was created to examine the plot and certain MPs pushed Elizabeth to have Mary executed for treason.

Created by Paula Kitching/History of Parliament

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After she was executed the Spanish sent an ***Armada*** to invade England, it was famously defeated.



The Armada medal, given after the English victory

Elizabeth never married and therefore had no children. She named ***Mary Queen of Scots***' son as her successor – King James I (VI of Scotland).

To this day the monarch (King or Queen) of England must be a member of the Church of England and cannot be ***Catholic***.

Elizabeth tried to end the religious problems created by her father, but conflict and prejudice amongst ***Protestants*** and ***Catholics*** remained across England and Wales for centuries.

Rebellion

Pilgrimage of Grace – the largest and most significant rebellion against Tudor rule. In response to Henry VIII's religious changes and rumours of more changes to the church, in 1536 a rising in Lincolnshire spread throughout the North (see also Knaresborough, Yorkshire). It primarily aimed to stop the ***dissolution of the monasteries***, although there were other religious, political and economic causes. After initially accepting the rebels' demands, Henry later executed over 200 of them.



A depiction of the Pilgrimage of Grace

Prayer Book Rebellion or 'Western rebellion' – A 1549 rising in Devon and Cornwall against Edward VI's changes to the church and the new ***Prayer book***. Over 4000 rebels were killed at Stampford Courtenay as the government restored order (see Bodmin, Cornwall)

Wyatt's rebellion – the son of the poet and ambassador (who was also called Thomas Wyatt), Wyatt was responsible for leading a rebellion against Mary I in Kent in 1554. He stated the rebellion was against Mary I's proposed marriage to ***Philip of Spain***, but historians believe there were also economic, political and religious motives. Over 20,000 men joined him in Kent, but after marching to London most rebels dispersed and Wyatt admitted defeat. He was executed for high treason.



MPs (Shorter Version)

(Terms in ***bold italics*** are explained further in the Glossary, terms underlined have their own articles)

Introduction

Tudor MPs were largely members of the '***gentry***'. They were from families of some wealth and property, and held important places in their communities, but they were less important than the aristocrats who sat in the House of Lords. The MPs were all men. Women could not vote or stand for election. Being an MP gave you power and authority.

Many MPs brought lands that once belonged to the church after the ***dissolution of the monasteries***. This influenced their decision about whether the country should become ***Catholic*** again.

Below are the descriptions of 11 MPs from all over England and Wales.

Thomas More (1477/8-1535) Chelsea, London



Thomas More, after Holbein
© English Heritage (via www.vads.ac.uk)

More was born in London, the son of a lawyer. He grew up in the household of the ***Archbishop of Canterbury***, and later studied theology and law at the University of Oxford. He was a committed ***Catholic***.

More played an important role in the 1523 Parliament and helped gain funding for Henry's latest war in France.

In 1529 More became ***Lord Chancellor***, replacing ***Cardinal Thomas Wolsey***. More and Henry had a close friendship. This protected More, for a while, when he disagreed with Henry's plans to become ***Supreme Head*** of the Church of England. In 1532, More could not support Henry's religious changes and he decided to resign. Out of government, he devoted his time to publishing anti-***Protestant*** texts.

More refused to swear the oath in the ***Act of Succession***. For refusing to accept Henry as ***Supreme Head*** of the church he was charged with treason and tried in May 1535. Found guilty and executed on 6 July. Henry reduced his sentence from being ***hanged, drawn and quartered*** to a (gentler!) beheading.

More is a controversial figure. To some he is a ***martyr*** who died for his ***Catholic*** beliefs. However, his record of persecuting ***Protestants*** for ***heresy***, which led to several being burnt at the stake, has harmed his reputation. The Catholic Church made him a saint.

Did you know?
Thomas More considered becoming a monk in his early life. He lived at London Charterhouse with the monks for four years but never took vows – he chose to get married and have a family instead.

Thomas Cromwell (1485-1540) London



Thomas Cromwell by Jacobus Houbraken
© Palace of Westminster

Thomas Cromwell was one of Henry VIII's most trusted officials, one of the most important figures in the Reformation, and very controversial to historians.

Born in Putney, London, he was the son of a blacksmith and alehouse owner. Little is known about Cromwell's early life. At a young age he left England and had an exciting career in mainland Europe. He joined the French army as a soldier, worked for a banker in Italy, and as a merchant in the Netherlands. He returned to England sometime around 1515 and married.

He soon set up a successful business and law practice, and began working for ***Cardinal Thomas Wolsey***, who was then Henry VIII's chief minister. It was because of Wolsey that Cromwell first entered Parliament.

He was appointed to the ***Privy Council*** in November 1530 and soon became its expert on parliamentary matters. His importance on Henry's council grew, and before long he was the King's most important minister.

Cromwell was involved in developing much of the religious legislation passed in the Reformation Parliament, and that he was responsible for making sure it became law. This legislation made Henry the ***Supreme Head*** of the church. It meant that Henry could divorce ***Catherine of Aragon*** and marry ***Anne Boleyn*** – it also made Cromwell's career. Cromwell was made Vicegerent in Spirituals, second only to Henry in church matters, and organised the ***dissolution of the monasteries***. Between 1536 and 1540 over 800 religious houses in England were dissolved and the lands sold off. The proceeds went to the King.

Cromwell is a controversial figure. Many believe him to be scheming and ruthless. He is also seen as the man who destroyed the wealth, literature and art of the English medieval church, through the ***dissolution of the monasteries***. However, others believe he was one of Parliament's greatest figures, who brought in religious reforms and increased the power of the state.

Most agree that he had a genuine commitment to ***Protestantism.*** For example, Cromwell was largely responsible in convincing Henry VIII to allow the publication of the ***English Bible***. A copy was placed in every parish church.

Cromwell arranged the marriage between Henry and ***Anne of Cleves***, a German ***Protestant*** princess. Henry was unhappy with the match and Cromwell's enemies turned the King against him. He was charged with ***heresy***, treason and corruption, and executed on 28 July 1540. The Protestants lost one of their major supporters, and Henry's religious measures were afterwards more conservative.

Did you know?
Cromwell was said to know the entire New Testament by heart, having learnt it on a journey to Rome in 1517-18.

Richard Tracy (1501-69) Gloucestershire

Richard Tracy came from a prominent Gloucestershire family. He was elected the MP for Wooton Basset in 1529, possibly with the support of local ***Protestants***.

Tracy's father William was an early convert to ***Protestantism***. His son's life was changed dramatically after his father died in 1530. In his will William had made a strongly Protestant declaration. Under Henry VIII's church his views were ***heretical***, and in 1531 William Tracy's body was dug up and, illegally, burnt at the stake. This made William Tracy a Protestant hero.

Richard Tracy was horrified this had happened, and began a legal battle on behalf of his father. The man who burnt the body illegally was eventually fined £300, and in the process, Richard Tracy came to the attention of Thomas Cromwell and became one of the leading ***Protestants*** in Gloucestershire.

He was given land that had once belonged to Tewkesbury Abbey, which he made his family home. He was also involved in the ***dissolution of the monasteries*** in the South West.



Hailes Abbey, Gloucestershire © Matt Northam

Tracy did well out of the ***dissolution*** and gained many former church lands, but he was certainly a committed ***Protestant***. When Edward VI was King he published Protestant texts. Under Mary I, he was twice in trouble with the ***Privy Council*** and lost his local government offices. Restored to his positions under Elizabeth, he was still unhappy with the new ***religious settlement***. He wrote to her chief minister, William Cecil, to complain that it was not Protestant enough.

Tracy died in 1569.

Did you know?

Protestants chose biblical names to demonstrate their religion. Tracy's three sons were Paul, Nathaniel and Samuel, and his daughters were named after Old Testament heroines – Hester, Susan and Judith.

John Story (1504-71) Salisbury/Oxford

John Story was probably born in Salisbury. He received a good education and was sent to Oxford University where he became a brilliant scholar in civil law. He first entered Parliament under the patronage (support) of religious conservatives, and he opposed Edward VI's reformation. In his will he said that he regretted taking the ***Oath of Supremacy***, and he was sent to prison in 1549 for a speech in Parliament that criticised the ***Book of Common Prayer***. He left England for Louvain (now in Belgium).



Thomas Cranmer's arrest, from Foxe's Book of Martyrs

Story returned to England when Mary became Queen. He became a major figure in Mary's persecution of ***Protestants*** in Oxford and was one of the judges in ***Archbishop Thomas Cranmer*'s** trial for ***heresy***.

When Elizabeth came to the throne, Story faced many difficulties. He attended the 1559 Parliament and voted against Elizabeth's reforms. He was imprisoned twice in the 1560s, the second time for refusing to take the ***Oath of Supremacy***. He fled to the Netherlands, where he was said to help ***Catholics*** and gave his allegiance to the Catholic ***Philip of Spain***.

In 1571 he was kidnapped and brought back to England to face trial. He shocked Elizabethan England by claiming that he did not recognise Elizabeth's authority. He believed people should have the right to choose their monarch according to their beliefs. Whilst today we accept that people can change their nationality, then Tudor public opinion thought this was horrifying treason. It is unclear how involved he was in helping ***Catholic*** rebels abroad plot against Elizabeth, yet he was both suspected of doing so and a prominent example to deter others. He was found guilty of treason and executed in 1571.

Did you know?
John Story faced the gruesome traitor's death: he was ***hung, drawn and quartered***. Despite being in his sixties, it was said that during the 'drawing' (when he was disembowelled) he had enough strength to attack his executioner!

Sir Robert Tyrwhitt (1504-72) Huntingdonshire

Robert Tyrwhitt was brought up at the royal court, and was one of the first to receive a grant of monastic lands after the ***dissolution of the monasteries***. Between 1536 and 1547 he obtained over twenty grants of former church lands.


Memorial to Sir Robert Tyrwhitt & wife, All Saints' Church, Bigby, Lincolnshire (Photograph © Julian P Guffogg)

The selling off of monastic lands was very unpopular. Although ***Protestants*** believed the monasteries and religious houses were corrupt, they also provided hospitals, poor relief and schools. It was because people were unhappy with Tyrwhitt getting an area of former religious land in Stainfield, Lincolnshire, that helped to provoke a rebellion in 1536. That rebellion later became the ***Pilgrimage of Grace*.** Tyrwhitt and his family fought against the rebels.

Tyrwhitt sat in Parliament first for his home county of Lincolnshire, in 1545, but later moved to Huntingdonshire, again buying more former church lands. Tyrwhitt and his wife were ***Protestants***, Lady Tyrwhitt was known as a particularly devout woman. Despite this, Tyrwhitt supported Mary against ***Wyatt's rebellion*** in Kent, 1553 and sat in the 1554 Parliament.

After sitting in Elizabeth I's First Parliament, he lived quietly in Huntingdonshire, holding local office and was 'earnest in religion'. He died on 10 May 1572.

Did you know?
Tyrwhitt's wife was the cousin of Henry VIII's sixth wife, ***Catherine Parr***. Tyrwhitt and his wife were sent as overseers to Princess Elizabeth (who would later be Queen) after Catherine's death and had to question Elizabeth about her relationship with her stepfather, Thomas Seymour. Elizabeth never forgave them for this!

William Cecil (1520-1598) Lincolnshire


William Cecil by Jacobus Houbraken
© Palace of Westminster

Cecil served in Parliaments under Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I. He became Elizabeth I's most trusted minister, and played a major role in her government and her ***religious settlement***.

Cecil was the son of one of Henry VIII's minor courtiers. Cecil was well-educated at grammar school and Cambridge University, and this education helped make Cecil an excellent scholar, administrator, and ***Protestant*** reformer.

Cecil was a member of Edward VI's ***Privy Council***, but when Mary came to the throne he retired from public life. He did not want to implement ***Catholic*** policies. He mostly stayed out of trouble during Mary's reign, but did, on occasion, speak against her. During this time he entered the service of Mary's sister, Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth became Queen she immediately made Cecil an important government official, the Secretary of State. He played a vital role in her 1st Parliament, shepherding through the major religious laws. Cecil agreed with Elizabeth that England should be ***Protestant***, but in such a way that would not upset a country that was divided by religion.


The Commons Petitioning Elizabeth to Marry by Solomon Joseph Solomon
© Palace of Westminster

Cecil was Elizabeth's most trusted advisor. In 1570 he was even allowed to stamp documents with her signature without speaking to her first. Yet they did not always agree. Cecil was not afraid to use Parliament to put pressure on Elizabeth. For example he supported, and sometimes even wrote, the petitions Parliament made to Elizabeth asking her to marry. He also supported some of the ***Puritan*** attempts to further change Elizabeth's ***religious settlement***.

Cecil's attitude towards ***Catholics*** hardened in later years, and he began to see them all as a threat to Elizabeth and ***Protestant*** England. This included Elizabeth's cousin, ***Mary, Queen of Scots***, and he was instrumental in Mary's execution after the 1586 Parliament. For this, he was banished from Elizabeth's sight for four months.

In 1571 Cecil became Lord Burghley, and moved into the House of Lords. He still used his influence in Parliament to push through Elizabeth's business. He died at home on 4 August 1598, one of the most important statesmen of the whole Tudor period.

Did you know?
As Secretary of State, Cecil dealt with almost all of Elizabeth's formal correspondence. He managed to do this with the help of just six assistants!

Alexander Barlow (1525-84) Wigan, Lancashire

Alexander Barlow came to prominence when his sister married Edward Stanley, 3rd Earl of Derby. This connection helped him gain his Parliamentary seat in Wigan.

Barlow was ***Catholic***. He remained so after Mary's death, when he wrote to a Catholic bishop offering his obedience. He had a number of prominent Catholic friends in Lancashire.

Barlow managed to avoid persecution for his beliefs largely thanks to his important brother-in-law, but when Edward Stanley died Barlow came under more scrutiny. He was imprisoned in 1583, and he died soon after, either in prison or on parole.

His family remained ***Catholic***. His son, also called Alexander, outwardly conformed to the ***Protestant*** faith but died a 'true and perfect' Catholic. One of his daughters became a nun abroad.

Did you know?
For many years Barlow was in a business partnership with his neighbour, Edmund Trafford. Trafford was a committed ***Protestant*** and was called 'a most bitter enemy of the ***Catholics***', but he remained on good terms with Barlow.

Sir Henry Stafford (1527-66) Shropshire

Henry Stafford was the son of Henry Stafford, first Baron Stafford. He was part of a large and important family, based in Staffordshire and Shropshire.

The Staffords were a family of divided loyalties and opposing religious beliefs. Henry's grandfather had been executed for treason. His father, Baron Stafford, held some ***Protestant*** views early in Edward's reign, but then changed his mind and became a strong supporter of Mary.

Henry Stafford's siblings were divided. His sister Dorothy married a committed ***Protestant*** and fled with him to Europe when Mary became Queen. His brother Thomas did the same, but returned to England in 1557 attempting to launch a Protestant rebellion. Another brother Edward, seems to have been a ***Catholic***, sitting in Parliament under Mary, but he was also an MP under Elizabeth.



Tower of London
(via Heather Mitchell, pics4learning.com)

It is hard to decipher Henry's own religious convictions. He did not outwardly oppose Mary's rule, so he may have been ***Catholic***. Yet he became the Keeper of the Records in the Tower of London under the ***Protestant*** Elizabeth, and later succeeded to his father's title. He died in 1566 without children.

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Did you know?
Stafford's sister, Dorothy, was a favourite of Elizabeth I. She often slept in the same bed as the Queen.

Sir John Perrott (1528/9-92) Pembrokeshire


Sir John Perrot (mezzotint attributed to Valentine Green)

Sir John Perrot was said to be the illegitimate son of Henry VIII, although many historians no longer believe this. He was born into a Welsh family with lands in Pembrokeshire. His father (if it was not Henry!) died young and he was raised by his ***Catholic*** stepfather. However, his stepfather sent him to a ***Protestant*** school in St David's.

Perrott's commitment to his ***Protestant*** faith was strong. He sat in Edward VI's Parliaments. After Edward's death, he got into trouble with the government. He refused to hunt out Protestants in Pembrokeshire, and instead hid them in his house. He was known to oppose Mary's legislation in Parliament and was arrested for alleged involvement in plots against Mary. Aware that Mary's patience could soon run out, he joined the navy and fought in France.

After Mary died he was favoured by Elizabeth. He was given many grants of land in Pembrokeshire and he became an important local administrator. He began to rebuild Carew Castle and make it his home. Unfortunately, his violent, quarrelsome nature and his ambitious plans meant that he upset people, in Pembrokeshire and in London.

Perrott was twice made Lord Deputy (the Queen's representative) of Ireland. His time there was difficult. In 1579 he was unable to stop Spanish soldiers from landing in Ireland and starting a rebellion against English rule. By the time he left the country for good in 1588 he had restored peace. On his return to Wales, during the year of the ***Spanish Armada***, he was responsible for the defence of the South Wales coast.

He was charged with treason, and was found guilty in 1592. He died in the Tower before he could either be executed or possibly pardoned. His son was allowed to inherit the family home.

Did you know?
Sir John Perrott had a bad reputation for violence – he was first introduced to Henry VIII because of a brawl with two guards at court!

Sir Henry Percy, 8th Earl Northumberland (1532-85) Northumberland


Emblem of Percy moon receiving light from the Tudor sun
© The British Library (Illuminated manuscripts Royal 18 D II f. 200)

The Percy family were a noble family that had controlled large areas of the North of England for many years. However, when Henry Percy was just five years old his father, Thomas Percy, was executed for his part in the ***Pilgrimage of Grace***.

Because of this Henry Percy and his elder brother lost their inheritance until 1549, when some lands were returned to them. Henry's brother became Earl of Northumberland in 1557.

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Henry Percy's religious beliefs were unclear. Some thought he was ***Protestant***, others were not convinced. In 1569-70 his brother was part of a ***Catholic*** rebellion against Elizabeth, but Henry stayed loyal. Many believe he only stood for Parliament in 1571 to make sure he inherited his brother's title. He did, in 1572, and afterwards sat in the House of Lords.

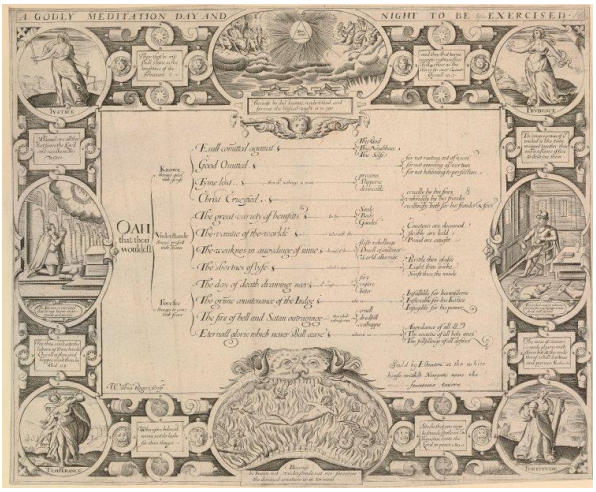
However, Percy soon became involved in ***Catholic*** plots himself, mostly surrounding ***Mary, Queen of Scots***. He was tried in secret in 1572, fined, and placed under house arrest.

He returned to court later in 1572 but was soon in trouble again after he helped another ***Catholic*** plotter escape from England. He was arrested and placed in the Tower of London. By this time several of Elizabeth I's councillors believed he was a Catholic. He was found shot in the Tower in 1585, with his pistol by his side.

Did you know?
Not everyone believed Henry Percy committed suicide. A rumour circulated that his jailor killed him. However, the investigation declared that he had committed suicide, which meant that his family could inherit his property.

William Strickland (d. 1598) Scarborough, Yorkshire

Little is known of Strickland's early life. He held local government posts in York and sat in four of Elizabeth's Parliaments as MP for Scarborough, his local borough. He was a committed ***Puritan***, described as 'a grave and ancient man of great zeal'.



The Puritan publication 'A Godly meditation day and night to be exercised', c.1600
© The Trustees of the British Museum 1932, 0709.4

The ***Puritans*** were a religious group united by their intense belief in the ***Protestant*** religion. They campaigned for a more Protestant church and to improve the morals of those who did not share their religious views. For example, they often spoke out against drunkenness or people playing sport on a Sunday.

Strickland was one of the ***Puritans*** in Parliament who campaigned to further reform the ***religious settlement***.

During the 1571 Parliament he introduced his own bill to reform the ***Book of Common Prayer***. This upset Elizabeth and her ***Privy Council***, and he was removed from Parliament. This caused MPs to debate their freedom of speech, and Strickland was allowed to return. Elizabeth did not agree with Strickland's proposals. She was very reluctant to change her ***religious settlement***, and tried to prevent MPs from discussing it.

The next time Strickland came to Parliament he still worked for further religious reforms, but was much more cautious and spoke very little. He last sat in 1584. He spent the rest of his life in Yorkshire, where he died in 1598.

Did you know?
Strickland was known as 'Strickland the stinger' because of his opposition in Parliament.



Activity Sheet – Constituencies

Constituency	What it was like there	Key events in that area from religious change	Impact or evidence of religious change (if any)	Any information about the MP's involvement in reformation

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Constituency	What it was like there	Key events in that area from religious change	Impact or evidence of religious change (if any)	Any information about the MP's involvement in reformation



Activity Sheet – Did you know?

Matching task

Match the facts to the Parliament, MP or Constituency they refer to.

Fact	Parliament
By this period the monarch was under threat from ***Catholics*** at home and abroad. In 1570 Pope Pius V ***excommunicated*** the reigning monarch. This meant they were formally expelled from the church, and good ***Catholics*** had a duty to oppose them. After this the danger from ***Catholic*** plots increased.	Reformation
During the medieval period, ***heresy*** laws were used against the 'Lollards' a group of religious reformers who wanted, amongst other things, the Bible to be read in English.	Edward VI 1
In 1554, one monarch was imprisoned by another. They were accused of being involved in a ***Protestant*** rebellion. Yet, they never denied their ***Protestant*** faith, despite the danger, and once this monarch inherited the throne they made ***Protestant*** religious changes.	Mary I 1
308 executions for treason occurred in on Tudor monarch's reign, and on top of that ***Protestants*** were burnt at the stake for ***heresy***.	Mary I 3
One Tudor monarch, despite their father's conservative views, was educated by ***Protestant*** tutors. This made them a devout ***Protestant*** and during their rule they made many ***Protestant*** changes.	Mary I 4
The destruction of the ***Armada*** was greatly helped by the weather. The fleet tried to return to Spain by sailing around the British Isles. However, large gales blew the fleet off course. Over 5000 men died, and only half the ships arrived back in Spain. His was seen as God's approval for ***Protestant*** England. The victory medal said 'God blew, and they were scattered'.	Elizabeth I 1
Philip of Spain was the son of one Tudor monarch's cousin, Charles V, related to her through her mother.	Elizabeth I 2
One Tudor Queen was so desperate for a ***Catholic*** heir for England she had two phantom pregnancies. She twice had all the signs of pregnancy but both times no baby arrived. Despite this, she still named her ***Protestant*** half-sister as her heir.	Elizabeth I 3
In 1562, a monarch nearly died from smallpox. Aside from causing many concerns about who would inherit the throne if they died, the disease had other effects. This monarch wore more make-up to hide the scars, including painting her face with a mixture of lead and vinegar. This gave her the pale look we know so well!	Elizabeth I 6

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Fact	MP
This MP, as Secretary of State, dealt with almost all of Elizabeth I's formal correspondence. He managed to do this with the help of just six assistants!	Thomas More
This MP's sister, Dorothy, was a favourite of Elizabeth I. She often slept in the same bed as the Queen.	Thomas Cromwell
Not everyone believed that this MP committed suicide. A rumour circulated that his jailor killed him. However, the investigation declared that he had committed suicide, which meant that his family could inherit his property.	Richard Tracy
Protestants chose biblical names to demonstrate their religion. This MP's three sons were Paul, Nathaniel and Samuel, and his daughters were named after Old Testament heroines – Hester, Susan and Judith.	John Story
This MP was known as 'the stinger' because of his opposition in Parliament.	Sir Robert Tyrwhitt
This MP considered becoming a monk in his early life. He lived at London Charterhouse with the monks for four years but never took vows – he chose to get married and have a family instead.	William Cecil
This MP had a bad reputation for violence – he was first introduced to Henry VIII because of a brawl with two guards at court!	Alexander Barlow
This MP faced the gruesome traitor's death: he was ***hung, drawn and quartered***. Despite being in his sixties, it was said that during the 'drawing' (when he was disembowelled) he had enough strength to attack his executioner!	Sir Henry Stafford
This MP's wife was the cousin of Henry VIII's sixth wife, ***Catherine Parr***. The couple were sent as overseers to Princess Elizabeth (who would later be Queen) after Catherine's death and had to question Elizabeth about her relationship with her stepfather, Thomas Seymour. Elizabeth never forgave them for this!	Sir John Perrott
This MP was said to know the entire New Testament by heart, having learnt it on a journey to Rome in 1517-18.	Sir Henry Percy
For many years this (Catholic) MP was in a business partnership with his neighbour, Edmund Trafford. Trafford was a committed Protestant and was called 'a most bitter enemy of the Catholics', but he remained on good terms with this Catholic MP.	William Strickland

Fact	Constituency
The Prayer book rebels who emerged from this constituency complained that the new services were 'but like a Christmas game' – they simply were not the real thing.	Lincolnshire
During Mary's reign 70 people in this county were burnt at the stake for **heresy**, one of the largest numbers across the country.	Knaresborough
In 1584 the first ***Catholic*** martyr in Wales, the teacher Richard Gwyn, was ***hung, drawn and quartered*** in this constituency for treason. He was accused of planning a rebellion and converting others to ***Catholicism***.	Bodmin
Places of ***pilgrimage*** like the spring in this constituency were very popular. Travellers came from far and wide to pray to ***saints***, who could cure their illnesses or help them in their lives. The church and the local communities made a lot of money from this.	Coventry
During the 1570s missionary ***Catholic*** priests arrived in England. The government were extremely concerned by these men because of their involvement in plots against Elizabeth. Wealthy ***Catholics***, like the ones in this constituency, would often hide priests in their house to worship privately. There was a network of 'safe houses' for these priests, which often included a 'priest hole' – a secret chamber for the priest to hide.	Kent
During Edward VI's reign, there were plans to create a Bishop of this city. The first Bishop was to be Nicholas Ridley (who would later become a ***Protestant martyr*** at Oxford). These plans were dropped when Edward died.	Oxford
This city's mayor Christopher Warren was also notorious for using the ***heresy*** laws to pursue his private vendettas, but this did not stop his service to the city.	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
In 1532 Henry VIII visited this constituency. He called it 'one of the most brute and beastly [counties] of the whole realm'.	Denbighshire
When the ***Archbishop of Canterbury,*** Thomas Cranmer was burnt at the stake in this city, it is said that the thrust his right hand into the fire first, to punish it for writing a denial of his ***Protestant*** faith	Lancashire

Creative Writing Task

Using the above facts, write an 'alternative' story of the Reformation.



Activity Sheet – Key Events 1

Create your own record of the Reformation – using the information decide what are the key events and outcomes of the Reformation.

Key event *e.g. Henry seeks a divorce from the Pope*	**Result**	**Outcome on the Reformation**

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Activity Sheet – Key Events 2

Create your own record of the Reformation – using the information decide what the key events and outcomes of the Reformation are and then what impact it had overall.

Key event *e.g. Henry seeks a divorce from the Pope*	**Result**	**Outcome on the Reformation**	**Impact** *e.g. Low, medium or high*

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Activity Sheet – Monarchs' Decisions

Monarch	Key Decision	Outcome/impact
Henry VIII	1. 2. 3.	
Edward VI	1. 2. 3.	
Mary I	1. 2. 3.	

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Elizabeth I	1. 2. 3.	

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Activity Sheet – MPs' role

Name	Background	Key role/action	Impact

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Activity Sheet – Parliamentary Events

Parliament	Key event	Key legislation	Significant outcome or response

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Activity Sheet – Religious Change

Year	Evidence	Popular/unpopular
E.g. *1521*	*Henry VIII is rewarded by the Pope for speaking out against Protestantism*	*Unpopular*

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