



The National Archives

Teachers' notes

Henry VIII: Power, passion and parchment

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/henry

While this website is not written specifically as a dedicated educational resource for schools, we hope that teachers will nevertheless find it extremely useful for teaching Henry VIII. It is packed with exciting images and documents for pupils to examine in detail. Depending on the age of the pupils, the text may be difficult for less established readers so teachers may need to support their pupils with a dictionary or glossary.

The website is broken into the following sections:

Power	Body & Image Ceremonial & Pageantry
Passion	Wives Wealth War
Parchment	Parchment Seals Writing Inks & Illuminations

Teachers could develop their own questions and activities to go with the sources as well as follow some of the suggestions outlined below.

Suggested activities for key stages 2 and 3:

- Pupils look closely at the sources in the **Body & Image** section and **Seals** section and discuss how Henry VIII made himself look powerful.
- Pupils could make their own presentations on the role of Henry VIII in history. They could save images from the website to their desktop and use them with presentation software to prepare a report or talk.
- Teachers might want to construct their own "scavenger hunt" of the website, producing their own set of quiz questions for pupils to find the answers.
- Pupils could have a go at writing their own captions for any of the sources on the website and suggest why they might be useful to historians or pick their favourite document and say why!
- Pupils could compare the **Illuminations** with other artwork of the period.

Curriculum context:

National Curriculum for key stage 2

Study of some significant events and individuals, including Tudor monarchs, who shaped this period and of the everyday lives of men, women and children from different sections of society.

For another key stage 2 resource, see www.tudorbritain.org

This website has a whole section on Henry VIII's court using documents from The National Archives and objects from the Victoria and Albert Museum.

National Curriculum for key stage 3

The development of political power from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, including changes in the relationship between rulers and ruled over time, the changing relationship between the crown and parliament, and the development of democracy.

For another key stages 2 and 3 resource, see www.learningcurve.gov.uk/tudorhackney/default.asp

This website tells the story of Tudor Hackney with video drama and a virtual reality reconstruction. You can walk around the town, see inside the home of the Daniell family, pick up objects and learn about daily activities.

Key stage 5

This anniversary website for Henry VIII serves as a useful introduction for any student starting an AS history course in Tudor history.