

The Tudor Reformation

The Tudor Reformation was a major religious change that transformed England during the sixteenth century. It began when King Henry VIII wanted to annul (cancel) his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, who had failed to produce a male heir. Pope Clement VII refused to grant this, so Henry took drastic action.

In 1534, Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy, declaring Henry the Supreme Head of the Church of England. England had officially broken from the Roman Catholic Church. Henry then dissolved the monasteries between 1536 and 1541, seizing their land and treasures. This made Henry very wealthy and rewarded nobles who supported him.

The Reformation did not end with Henry. His son, Edward VI, introduced more Protestant ideas, including church services in English rather than Latin. However, Henry's daughter Mary I reversed these changes when she became queen, restoring Catholicism and persecuting Protestants, earning her the nickname "Bloody Mary."

When Elizabeth I came to the throne in 1558, she established the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, which created a moderate Protestant Church of England. This brought a period of greater religious stability, though tensions between Catholics and Protestants continued for many years.



Questions

1. What does the word "annul" mean in this article?
2. Why did Henry VIII want to end his marriage to Catherine of Aragon?
3. Who refused to grant Henry an annulment?
4. What did the Act of Supremacy declare?
5. Between which years did Henry dissolve the monasteries?
6. How did Henry use the wealth from the monasteries?
7. What change to church services did Edward VI introduce?
8. What did Mary I do when she became queen?
9. What was the Elizabethan Religious Settlement?
10. Why do you think Elizabeth I chose to create a "moderate" Protestant church rather than a very strict one?

