

Henry VIII - A Powerful King



From about 1500 the kings and queens of England employed artists to paint their portraits.

Henry VIII became king of England in 1509 when he was 18 years old. He had his picture painted many times.

Hans Holbein painted this portrait of Henry VIII in about 1537, when the king was about 46 years old

Henry VIII wanted to look strong and powerful. This picture shows how he wanted the world to see him. Henry VIII was a powerful king who was completely in charge of England. Nobody was stronger than Henry VIII, not even Parliament.

TASKS

Turn to a new page in your exercise books and write today's date and the title: **Henry VIII - A Powerful King.**

Copy out the above paragraph in *italics*.

Then answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. What type of look does Henry VIII have on his face and what does it tell us about him?
2. What makes Henry VIII look big and strong and why would he want to look so strong?
3. Why does Henry VIII look rich?
4. What is Henry VIII holding in the picture that makes him look powerful?

So why was Henry more powerful than Parliament?

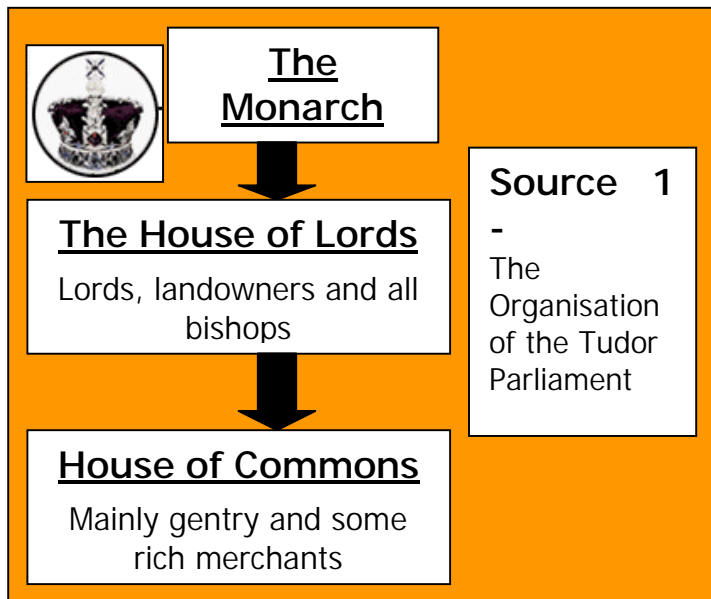
Tudor Parliament



Henry VIII was the real ruler of England. He was the head of the government. He chose his ministers and close advisers. If Henry did not like their advice he could ignore them, fire them or even CHOP OFF THEIR HEADS. Henry VIII used Parliament for two main things: to create new laws or to charge new taxes.

How was a Tudor Parliament organised?

The Tudor Parliament was made up of two different houses. Look at Source 1 below to see how parliament was organised.



There were and still are two houses of Parliament: Commons and Lords. All nobles and bishops sat in the House of Lords. The House of Commons contained some members of the gentry and rich merchants. Each county and major town could vote for two people to represent them in the House of Commons.

Parliament did not sit all year round. Most members of Parliament did not live in London - they travelled in when Henry VIII called them. Henry VIII only called Parliament when he wanted money or laws to be changed. Henry's Parliament only met four times between 1509 and 1529.

TASKS

1. Write why you think that Henry VIII was the head of the English government.
2. Copy Source One into your books.
3. Who could be members of the House of Lords and Commons?
4. Parliament had the power to do two things, what were they?

You must remember that HENRY VIII was the most powerful man in England and that nobody, not even Parliament, had more power than he did.