

# SIX



## RESOURCE PACK

**Welcome to the resource pack accompanying SIX the Musical.**

These activities are all designed to give form to young people's reactions to the show, either in practical, discussion-based or written activity. They are suitable for History, English or Drama students responding to the show.



# MEET THE QUEENS

These fact files are designed to summarise information about the six Queens and support existing knowledge.

# CATHERINE OF ARAGON

*“My name’s Catherine of Aragon  
Was married 24 years, I’m a paragon  
Of royalty, my loyalty is to the Vatican  
So if you try to dump me, you won’t try that again...”*

**BIRTH AND DEATH** 15 December 1485 – 7 January 1536

**PLACE OF BIRTH** Palace of Alcalá de Henares, near Madrid, Spain

**PARENTS** Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon, joint monarchs of Spain

**EDUCATION** Embroidery, dancing, history, poetry, religion, law, Latin, French (not English!)

**MARRIAGE 1** to Arthur (Henry’s older brother) 14 November 1501 (aged 15)

**MARRIAGE 2** to Henry 11 June 1509 (aged 23)

**CHILDREN** Mary, born 18 February 1516 (later Queen Mary I); 3 stillborn children; 2 died as babies; further miscarriages

**INTERESTS** Religion, sewing, dancing, a bit more religion

**CAUSE OF DEATH** Probably a type of cancer

**REMEMBERED FOR** Her refusal to accept that her marriage was invalid; her faith; her dramatic speech to Henry at the court to judge the annulment of their marriage

**DID YOU KNOW?** Catherine was Regent (whilst Henry fought in France in 1513) during the Battle of Flodden; when James IV of Scotland was killed in the battle, she wanted to send his body to Henry as a present...



# ANNE BOLEYN

*“I’m that Boleyn girl, and I’m up next  
See, I broke England from the Church, yeah, I’m that sexy  
Why did I lose my head?  
Well, my sleeves may be green, but my lipstick’s red...”*

**BIRTH AND DEATH** Probably 1501 – 19 May 1536

**PLACE OF BIRTH** Blickling Hall, Norfolk, England

**PARENTS** Elizabeth, daughter of Duke of Norfolk and Sir Thomas Boleyn, newly knighted courtier

**EDUCATION** In the Netherlands and also France; reformation thinking and debate, French

**MARRIAGE** 25 January 1533 (aged 31)

**CHILDREN** Elizabeth, born 7 September 1533 (later Queen Elizabeth I) At least two miscarriages

**INTERESTS** Fashion, dancing, flirtation, collecting evangelical works

**OTHER QUEENS** Lady in waiting to Catherine of Aragon

**CAUSE OF DEATH** Executed on Tower Green, London

**REMEMBERED FOR** Headlessness; bringing about the break with the Pope; having a sixth fingernail

**DID YOU KNOW?** Anne was fluent in French and would have acted as a translator during the visit of Emperor Charles V to court in 1522...



# JANE SEYMOUR

*“Jane Seymour, the only one he truly loved  
When my son was newly born  
I died, but I’m not what I seem  
Or am I? Stick around, and you’ll suddenly see more...”*

**BIRTH AND DEATH** 1507 or 1508 – 24 October 1537

**PLACE OF BIRTH** Wulf Hall, Wiltshire, England

**PARENTS** Margery Wentworth and Sir John Seymour, minor gentry

**EDUCATION** Very conventional; running a household, needlework

**MARRIAGE** 30 May 1536 (aged 28/9)

**CHILDREN** Edward, born 12 October 1537 (later King Edward VI)

**INTERESTS** Religious faith, being obedient

**OTHER QUEENS** Lady in waiting to Anne Boleyn

**CAUSE OF DEATH** Haemorrhage after birth of Prince Edward

**REMEMBERED FOR** Being the ‘only one he ever loved’; having two troublesome brothers who fought over the regency of the young Prince after King Henry’s death

**DID YOU KNOW?** Whilst Anne was still alive, Henry sent Jane a gift of money, which she refused, apparently saying there ‘was no treasure in this world that she valued so much as her honour’...



## ANNA OF CLEVES

*“Ich bin Anna of Cleves, Ja  
When he saw my portrait, he was like “Ja!”  
But I didn’t look as good as I did in my pic”*

**BIRTH AND DEATH** 1515 – 16 July 1557

**PLACE OF BIRTH** Schloss Berg, near Solingen, Germany

**PARENTS** Maria, Duchess of Julich-Berg and John III, Duke of Cleves

**EDUCATION** Minimal, raised to become a minor Duchess; only spoke German

**MARRIAGE** 6 January 1540 (aged 24)

**CHILDREN** None

**INTERESTS** Staying alive

**OTHER QUEENS** Visited Katherine Howard once she became queen and bowed down to her

**CAUSE OF DEATH** Probably cancer

**REMEMBERED FOR** Staying alive

**DID YOU KNOW?** When Henry first met Anna of Cleves he disguised himself, possibly imagining some sort of romantic reaction. When he kissed her, she is said to have turned away coldly at this hideous stranger molesting her; according to a witness, Lord Russell, he ‘never saw His Highness so marvellously astonished’...



# KATHERINE HOWARD

*“Prick up your ears, I’m the Katherine who lost her head  
For my promiscuity outside of wed –  
Lock up your husbands, lock up your sons  
K-Howard is here, and the fun’s begun...”*

**BIRTH AND DEATH** Probably 1523 – 13 February 1542

**PLACE OF BIRTH** Norfolk House, Lambeth, London

**PARENTS** Joyce Culpeper and Edmund Howard, son of Duke of Norfolk

**EDUCATION** Brought up in Sussex as part of a large group of aristocratic young girls

**MARRIAGE** 28 July 1540 (aged 17)

**CHILDREN** None

**INTERESTS** Dancing, music, animals

**OTHER QUEENS** Lady-in-waiting to Anna of Cleves; cousin to Anne Boleyn

**CAUSE OF DEATH** Executed on Tower Green, London

**REMEMBERED FOR** Being completely used (and abused) by those with more power

**DID YOU KNOW?** From her arrest on 8 November 1541 to her execution three months later, Katherine stayed under house arrest at Syon House. In late January 1542, an Act was passed in parliament that made it treason for a woman to become the king’s wife without ‘plain declaration before of her unchaste life’, meaning Henry could have her killed...



# CATHERINE PARR

*“Five down, I’m the final wife  
I saw him to the end of his life  
I’m the survivor - Catherine Parr  
And I bet you wanna know how I got this far...”*

**BIRTH AND DEATH** Probably 1512 – 5 September 1548

**PLACE OF BIRTH** Blackfriars, London

**PARENTS** Maud Green and Sir Thomas Parr, both distantly related to the royal family

**EDUCATION** Traditional ‘female’ accomplishments; French, Italian, Latin

**MARRIAGE 1** to Sir Edward Burgh, a courtier 1529-1533

**MARRIAGE 2** to John Neville, Lord Latimer 1534-1543

**MARRIAGE 3** to Henry 12 July 1543

**MARRIAGE 4** to Thomas Seymour May 1547 in secret

**CHILDREN** A daughter (to Thomas Seymour) who died as a baby

**INTERESTS** Writing books; encouraging education; Reformations

**OTHER QUEENS** Her mother was lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Aragon; friendly with her daughter Princess Mary

**CAUSE OF DEATH** Childbirth

**REMEMBERED FOR** Surviving

**DID YOU KNOW?** Catherine was the first woman in England to publish books under her own name and in English





# DISCUSSION PROMPTS

These ideas for discussion are designed to facilitate analysing the show as a history student.

*“You can do your best  
But I’ll stand the test  
You’ll find that I’m unshakeable...”*

## POWER PLAY

What different types of power are shown by the six Queens? What power did they have in their lifetimes over people’s actual opinions, or their lives? What power can they be given as historical figures?



*“Welcome to the haus  
TO THE HAUS OF HOLBEIN...”*



## POWER OF PRESENTATION

Portraits obviously had huge importance in the sixteenth century – how could people manipulate them? Look at the most famous portraits of the six Queens – what do you think they are trying to say? What is their value as historical sources? How much can they tell us about how people were seen, their actual personality, or how they wanted to be seen? Henry VIII, his Queens and his close circle were the celebrities of their day. What are the obvious parallels today with image, identity, celebrity and power?

*“Hold up! Let me tell you how it went down...”*

## HOW DO WE KNOW IT?

A number of historical facts are referenced in the show; how is it that historians are more certain about some pieces of information than others? What sources have been used over time to come to an agreement about what actually happened hundreds of years ago?



*“Welcome to the show,  
To the histo-remix...”*

## **HER-STORY OR HISTORY?**

What are the most famous historic events of the period you are studying? Can you summarise each in a sentence? How different is your sentence if considered from a female point of view? For a woman of the time, can different events be seen as important?



## PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

These drama-based activities could work as an introduction to looking at the Tudor period, particularly when looking at power and status.



*“Hans Holbein goes around the world  
Painting all of the beautiful girls...”*

## CREATE A PORTRAIT

This exercise could be done in pairs, with each taking a turn at forming a ‘portrait’, or in a group of six with each group member assigned the role of one of the six Queens. The picture ‘frame’ can be a chair or a designated place to stand.

Set up a ‘picture frame’ and create a portrait of each Queen as she might wish to appear – are they holding something, what pose do they have, what expression do they have on their face?

Now create different portraits, this time of how the others view them – how is this different when the other five Queens ‘paint’ Jane Seymour, for example?



*“Wait, hang on a sec - who was that other one?”*

## CATHERINE VS. ANNE

This can be done in pairs if appropriate, or alternatively the class can be split into small groups; two members of the group can play Catherine and Anne whilst the other group members ‘script’ the scene for them, indicating what they could say, how they should stand etc.

Most of the Queens would have met those who went before them, so it is possible to imagine interesting conversations that would have taken place.

For example, Anne Boleyn was one of Catherine of Aragon’s ladies in waiting, which would have meant seeing her every day, keeping company with her whilst sewing, dancing or playing and listening to music. Act out the following scenes:

- **Catherine and Anne first meet.**
- **Catherine suspects that Anne flirts with the king and encounters her at court.**
- **Catherine has clearly seen Anne flirt with Henry**
- **Catherine is being sent away from court and encounters Anne on the way out.**

Students could create both the 16th century version and the modern day version. What are the main differences? How are they able to interact in the 16th Century court? What type of language do they use? Are there rules about acknowledging status?



*“Your comment went viral  
I didn’t really mean it but rumours spiral...”*

## THE INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS

Tell the sequence of events depicted in the show through the six Queens’ Insta pages!



*“Tonight we’re gonna do ourselves justice  
Cos we’re taking you to court...”*

## **THE TRIAL OF HENRY VIII**

This is a longer task that would need to be split into a number of sections with roles cast from the class such as the lawyers questioning the six Queens, any possible witnesses etc.

How would we label Henry VIII’s behaviour to his wives nowadays? Applying modern standards of behaviour, imagine that Henry is to be put on trial for his crimes, and the six Queens are all called to give testimony at his trial.



*“It was a different time back then...”*

## THEN AND NOW

This exercise would work in small groups as a summary or a lead into discussion.

What has changed for women?

Choose what you consider to be the worst moments of the six Queens’ lives. For each create two frozen images of that moment, both showing the people involved and their attitude to the Queen at that moment. One image should be of the moment as it was in the sixteenth century, the second should transfer that moment to the present day. How is it different, and more scarily, how is it the same?

