

Did you know?

- Henry VIII was the first English king to appoint a court painter. He hated the style of English painters, so he invited a German artist, Hans Holbein the Younger, to do the job!
- Anne Boleyn was the first English queen to be publicly executed. Henry sent for a French swordsman to do the deed. He was paid £23 and took off her head in one swift blow.
- Executions were often bungled. Some executioners took several swings of the axe to finish the job. Ouch!
- On 19th May each year, mysterious red roses were placed on Anne Boleyn's marble tomb in the chapel of the Tower of London. Only recently was their sender revealed!
- Anne's ghost is said to haunt several key buildings, including the Tower of London and her childhood home, Hever Castle in Kent. Spooky!
- Henry VIII lost a lot of money to Anne Boleyn playing cards, as she was an excellent player.
- Anne Boleyn was the wealthiest of all Henry's wives, and the most charitable. She gave more money to the poor in three years than Catherine of Aragon did in her 20-year reign.
- Henry married his third wife, Jane Seymour, just 11 days after Anne Boleyn was beheaded.
- Around 72,000 people were executed during Henry's 38-year reign. That's a terrifying average of 1895 each year.
- Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell ordered the dissolution of over 800 monasteries.
- In Tudor times, only boys were sent to school. If they were naughty, they were beaten with a rod or whipped. Rich families would pay a 'whipping boy' to take the punishment when it was their son's turn. How unfair!
- There were no fridges or freezers in Tudor times, so meat was preserved by rubbing salt into it.
- To cure baldness, some Tudor doctors recommended using shampoo made from crushed beetles, and rubbing the fat from a dead fox into your head!