

Crazy * kings

1 King Henry VIII had six wives. Do you know their names? Read the text to find out.

Henry VIII (1491-1547, King from 1509)



Henry and his six wives

When Henry VIII became king he was 18. He danced and sang well. Everyone loved him. But he needed a son. His first wife - Catherine of Aragon - was Spanish. Catherine and Henry had a daughter, Mary. Henry wasn't happy. He wanted a divorce*. The Church* in Rome said 'no'. So Henry started the Church of England. Then he and Catherine divorced.

Henry then married Anne Boleyn. She had a daughter, Elizabeth. But Anne was in love with her brother, and Henry heard about it. He sent her to the Tower of London. There they cut off her head, or 'beheaded'

her. Next Henry married Jane Seymour. She had a son, Edward, but then she died.

After that Henry married a German princess, Anne of Cleves. She was ugly. 'She looks like a horse,' Henry said. They soon divorced. Then Henry married Catherine Howard. She was 20 and beautiful, and Henry was 49. Catherine lost her head when Henry heard about her boyfriend. Henry's last wife was Katherine Parr. She was nice to Henry - and she survived* him! Henry's son Edward was the next king.

2 What happened to Henry's wives? Write these words next to the names. They make a rhyme that English children learn at school.

survived died beheaded
beheaded divorced divorced

- 1 Catherine of Aragon
- 2 Anne Boleyn
- 3 Jane Seymour
- 4 Anne of Cleves
- 5 Catherine Howard
- 6 Katherine Parr

3 George III was a crazy king. What do you think he did? Read the text and find out.

- a He talked to trees.
- b He lost America.
- c He gave Buckingham Palace* to his wife.
- d He hated his son.

George III (1738-1820, King from 1760)

George III had 15 children. He loved his wife, Charlotte. (He gave Buckingham Palace to her!) He studied the stars and he loved reading. He liked country life too. He knew all about animals, fruit and vegetables. The British liked him and called him 'The Farmer King'. But Britain lost America under George III!

In later life George III went crazy. He talked to trees and shouted 'peacock*' all the time. He couldn't rule* the country. His oldest son - George, Prince of Wales - ruled it for him. George III hated the Prince. When George III died, the Prince became King George IV.



4 These sentences compare Henry VIII and George III. Read both texts again and tick the correct column (H for Henry or G for George).

- 1 He was younger when he became king.
- 2 He was older when he died.
- 3 He had more children.
- 4 He was king for longer.
- 5 He had lots of wives.
- 6 He had a terrible son.
- 7 He started the Church of England.
- 8 He liked reading.
- 9 He knew about fruit and vegetables.
- 10 He liked dancing and singing.
- 11 His son Edward was king after him.
- 12 He studied the stars.

	H		G
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	t	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	h	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	a	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	n	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	u	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	o	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	d	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	v	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	e	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	o	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	r	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	<input type="checkbox"/>	r	<input type="checkbox"/>

5 Write the letters in the stars to find the name of each king's family.

- 1 Henry VIII's family name was I _ _ _ _ _
- 2 George III's family name was H _ _ _ _ _

Personal Project

- Were there any crazy rulers in your country? What did they do?
- Choose one of them and find out more about him or her.

Cool queens

1 Look at these two famous queens. Which queen ...

- 1 ... lived in the 1500s?
- 2 ... lived in the 1800s?
- 3 ... said 'We are not amused*!'?
- 4 ... said 'I am married to England!'?

What do you think? Read the texts to check your ideas.

Elizabeth I (born 1533, Queen from 1558 to 1603)



Elizabeth's sister, Mary, was the Queen of England from 1553 to 1558. Elizabeth liked the Church of England, but Mary hated it. So she locked Elizabeth in the Tower of London. When Mary died, Elizabeth became queen. She spoke five languages, was tall and thin, and had fair skin and red hair. The Spanish King and a French Prince wanted to marry her when she was young. But she said 'no' to them. She said, 'I am married to England.' She painted her face white, wore a red wig, and became 'The Virgin* Queen'.

Painters had to paint Elizabeth as a beautiful young woman even when she was old. But she was a popular queen. Elizabethan England was famous for writers like Shakespeare, and for sailors like Francis Drake, and Walter Raleigh. English people in America gave the name 'Virginia' to their new home. The name came from Elizabeth, the Virgin queen.

Victoria (born 1818, Queen from 1837 to 1901)



Queen Victoria was queen of the United Kingdom for 64 years - the longest time on the throne of any British King or Queen. She married her German cousin, Prince Albert. He worked hard to help her. (He also brought the idea of Christmas trees to Britain from Germany!) Victoria loved Albert, and they had nine children. When Albert died in 1861, Victoria wore black clothes for the rest of her life.

Victoria was very popular with the British. In 1887 there were big street parties for her. Signs everywhere said, '50 Years Our Queen'. In 1897 there were more parties for her after 60 years as queen. Victoria was a small woman - only 5 feet (1.5 metres) tall. And when she was old she got very fat. But she was a great queen. In the Victorian age Britain had a large Empire* - with lands in Africa, India, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

2 Match the underlined words in the texts with their meanings.

- 1 to put colour on
..... to paint
- 2 the son (or daughter) of your father's (or mother's) brother (or sister)
.....
- 3 false hair
.....
- 4 a king or queen sits on this special chair
.....
- 5 England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland together as one country
.....

3 Read the texts again. Mark these sentences E (Elizabeth) or V (Victoria).

- | | E | V |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 She was queen for 45 years. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> R | <input type="radio"/> T |
| 2 The Spanish king wanted to marry her. | <input type="radio"/> O | <input type="radio"/> H |
| 3 She wore black for many years. | <input type="radio"/> O | <input type="radio"/> B |
| 4 She had red hair and a white face. | <input type="radio"/> E | <input type="radio"/> M |
| 5 She married her cousin. | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> R |
| 6 She had nine children. | <input type="radio"/> S | <input type="radio"/> T |
| 7 She wore a wig when she was older. | <input type="radio"/> D | <input type="radio"/> B |
| 8 She spoke five languages. | <input type="radio"/> U | <input type="radio"/> R |
| 9 Her husband brought Christmas trees to England. | <input type="radio"/> I | <input type="radio"/> D |
| 10 She was a short and fat old woman. | <input type="radio"/> G | <input type="radio"/> L |
| 11 A French prince wanted to marry her. | <input type="radio"/> E | <input type="radio"/> H |
| 12 She had a large Empire. | <input type="radio"/> T | <input type="radio"/> Y |

4 The love of Queen Elizabeth I's life was a married man. Look at the boxes you ticked in activity 3. Write the letters to find his name.

R _ _ _ _ _

5 Write the superlative of the adjectives in the Christmas trees.

Tree 1: the fairest

Tree 2: popular

Tree 3: large

Tree 4: thin

Tree 5: great

Tree 6: white

Tree 7: fat

Tree 8: famous

Tree 9: red

Tree 10: big

Personal Project

- Were there any cool queens in your country? What did they do?
- Choose one queen and find out more about her.