

**Key Vocabulary:**

- **Book of Common Prayer**
- succession
- treason
- Edward VI
- Lady Jane Grey
- Protestant
- Catholic

Edward was born in 1537 at Hampton Court Palace, the only legitimate son of Henry VIII. Henry VIII's desperation for a son had led him to divorce

one wife and behead another, but Edward's mother, Henry's third wife Jane Seymour, died a few days after his birth.

Edward was intensively schooled by his tutors and was extremely intelligent, although his health was never strong.

After the death of his father, King Henry VIII in 1547, Edward became king at the age of 9.

He was raised a **Protestant** and because of this, had strong **Protestant** beliefs and he wanted to move English churches even further away from **Catholicism**.

Some strict Protestants thought that religion should be as simple as possible, and so **Edward VI** decided to remove all pictures, ornaments and altars from churches across England.

Edward VI did many things to help the spread of Protestantism. He built new schools, made the appearance of churches plainer, and his Archbishop Thomas Cranmer wrote the *Book of Common Prayer*. This was a book designed to tell local ministers how church services should be carried out.

It soon became clear that Edward was suffering from tuberculosis (TB) and would not live long.

People around **Edward VI** were determined that his religious reforms should not be undone, so they persuaded **Edward VI** to approve a new order of **succession**.

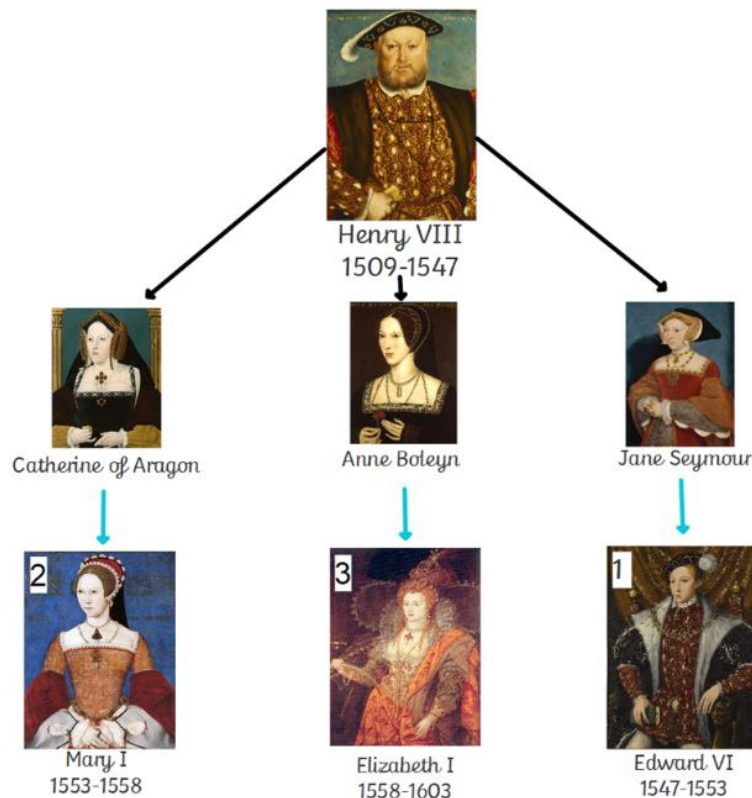
This declared Mary Tudor passed the throne to **Lady Jane Grey**, who was a more distant descendant of Henry VIII.



Mary Tudor Lady Jane Grey

Edward died on 6 July 1553. He was King of England for 6 years. **Lady Jane Grey succeeded** the throne.

However, Jane was only queen for a few days until, with overwhelming popular support, Mary took the throne. Mary imprisoned Jane, her husband and her father in the Tower of London.



Tuberculosis, or TB for short, is an infectious disease caused by bacteria. It used to be called consumption.

The disease usually attacks the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body. The bacteria can travel through the air and spread from one person to the next. This happens when infected people cough, sneeze, or spit.

Between five and ten people show symptoms, for every hundred people infected. In these people, the disease is called active. Tuberculosis kills more than half of the people who are infected if they do not get treatment.

Jane and her husband were tried for high **treason** in November 1553. Jane pleaded guilty and was sentenced to death. She and her husband were beheaded. Her father followed them two days later.

**How long was Edward VI's reign?**

**What did Edward VI do to help the spread of Protestantism?**

**What problems did England face after the death of Edward VI?**

**TASK: Edward VI was about your age when he became King.**

**If you were king what would you have done?**