

**HENRY VIII – EVIL OR WONDERFUL?**

EVIDENCE	YOUR INTERPRETATION
As a young man, Henry was much more interested in sports, parties and carnivals than in paperwork and law-making.	
He married Catherine of Aragon, who gave birth to the future Queen Mary. She was the widow of his brother.	
When she failed to produce a baby boy after 20 years of marriage, he divorced her so that he could marry Anne Boleyn and father a Prince who could eventually become King.	
Because the Pope was a prisoner of Catherine's nephew (Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor) he refused to give Henry a divorce. Because of this, Henry made himself head of his own Church – the "Church of England" – and gave himself a divorce!	
When Anne Boleyn gave birth, it was a girl – the future Queen Elizabeth. Henry became convinced she was a witch, and had her executed!	
He then married Jane Seymour, who died after giving birth to the future King Edward VI. Henry was very upset by her death.	
As he started to get older, Henry got so fat that he could not even walk by himself, and his gums started to rot so his breath stank! All of this meant that he was very irritable and easily annoyed.	
His chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, then persuaded Henry to marry a Dutch Princess called Anne of Cleves. He didn't see her till she arrived, but as soon as he set eyes on her he said she was a "Flanders Mare" and felt sick!	
Although Cromwell was one of his best men, he had him executed for letting him down.	
He divorced Anne of Cleves without ever living with her, and gave her a large pension.	
He then married Catherine Howard, but had her executed when he heard rumours that she was having an affair.	
His final wife was Catherine Parr, who had to look after him like a nurse in his last years. He died in 1547 and his young son Edward VI became King.	

**Task 1:**

- If you are in the "Evil!" group, fill in the boxes on the right by explaining how the evidence can be used to show that Henry was a terrible and horrible King;
- If you are in the "Hero!" group, fill in the boxes on the right by explaining how the evidence can be used to show that Henry was a wonderful and brilliant King.

**Task 2:**

Henry VIII has just died. You are writing a newspaper report about it on A3. You need to include

- A headline
- Two pictures: (1) Henry (either looking wonderful or evil!) and (2) The Tudor family tree, showing Henry's wives and children.
- A report going through Henry's life and making him sound as evil or as wonderful as possible, using all of the evidence which you can.
- Break the story up with subheadings using suitably "Wonderful" or "evil" words.