

The Tudors: Henry VIII – Script

The children are divided into groups:

- *Courtiers (male and female)*
- *Henry VIII and his six wives (these actors are portraits)*
- *The crew of the Mary Rose (also presented as a group portrait)*
- *A group of recorder players*
- *Fact readers*

THE QUEENS' PROGRESSION *(see p20 for recorder part)* CD Track 1/6

NARRATOR It is the year 1560 and Elizabeth I has been on the throne for two years. Preparations are being made for her visit to the palace on one of her many progresses.

COURTIER 1 The palace is almost ready for the arrival of our new queen. We must now check and dust the portrait gallery.

COURTIER 2 *(Pointing to the portrait of Henry VIII)* They say that Queen Elizabeth has the red hair of her father. Just look at King Henry here – what a terrifying man he was! So cruel! I hope her red hair is not a sign of ill temper!

COURTIER 3 Then dust her father's portrait properly or you might find out! She is sure to want to study it closely!

COURTIER 4 I hear that he was slender and handsome when he was a young man.

COURTIER 5 And very talented too – he even wrote music.

COURTIER 6 And he was a great sportsman. How he loved his tennis!

COURTIER 7 Yes, but look what happened when he became king – everyone was terrified to put a foot wrong and he certainly made sure he got his own way!

COURTIER 8 The handsome prince turned into a ruthless king!

Song 1 PRINCE HENRY *(see p21 for lyrics)* CD Track 2/7

COURTIER 8 How his poor wives suffered!

COURTIER 9 And what a shock when he broke away from the Church of Rome and made himself head of his new church!

COURTIER 10 Life certainly changed during Henry's rule *(he/she dusts the portrait of Henry VIII with a feather duster)*.

Henry comes to life and speaks. They look scared, amazed and shocked.

HENRY VIII (1509-1547)

But wait a minute – there was a good reason for what I did! I urgently needed an heir to my throne. I needed a wife who could give me a family of fine strong sons. But my wives were useless!