

**Objective 1: To know the differences between Catholic and Protestant beliefs.**

Before 1500 all Christians in Europe were Catholic. At the beginning of the 1500s a conflict broke out within the Church. Protestants 'protested' that the Catholic Church has become rotten. They claimed that the clergy had been distracted from their job by seeking personal wealth and power, and that the true path to heaven was through living a simple life and following the Bible.

**Task 1:**

- Cut out the pictures from your picture sheet.
- Use the information above to decide which Church and which priest are Catholic, and which are Protestant.
- Divide a page into two columns – 'Catholic' and 'Protestant' – and stick the pictures into the correct columns. Label the differences which you can see. What do the physical differences in appearance tell us about the differences in beliefs?

**Task 2:**

- Cut out the cards below.
- Arrange them onto your columns and stick them down.



Churches should look spectacular! There should be ornaments and candle sticks.	The church should be very rich.	Priests should wear simple, plain robes – they are ordinary people too.	The way you practice religion (rituals) is very important. If you get it wrong, you go to hell.
Priests should not marry.	The Pope is in charge of the Church.	Only God can forgive sin.	Bible and church services should be in Latin.
The Bible and church services should be in English so everyone can understand.	It is unchristian for the Church to be rich – Jesus said 'blessed are the poor'.	Churches should be plain and simple.	People should be able to have their sins forgiven by priests (especially if they pay them money!)
Priests should wear special clothes to show how important they are.	As long as you believe in God and live by the Bible, you can go to heaven.	Priests should be allowed to marry.	Jesus is the head of the Church.

## The Protestant Reformation

Martin Luther, a German monk, was one of the first people to protest about the Catholic Church. People that agreed with him became known as Protestants. He was so angry that he wrote a long list of 95 things that were wrong with the Catholic Church and nailed it to the door of a church in Wittenberg. Here are some of the things he wrote:

### Martin Luther's 95 Theses

2. Only God can give salvation - not a priest.
10. The priest must not threaten those dying with the purgatory.
21. An indulgence will not save a man.
43. A Christian who gives to the poor or lends to those in need is doing better in God's eyes than one who buys 'forgiveness'.
46. A Christian should buy what is necessary for life not waste money on an indulgence.
56. The treasure of the church is not sufficiently known about among the followers of Christ.
58. Relics are not the relics of Christ, although they may seem to be. They are, in fact, evil in concept.

### Modern translation

- 2.
- 10.
- 21.
- 43.
- 46.
- 56.
- 58.

**Task 3:** Can you work out what he meant by each of the statements above. Try to write a modern version for each. You may need a dictionary!

**Objective 2:** To explain why Henry changed the Church in England.



**Henry's three big problems**

1. Henry was running out of money as he was fighting lots of wars in Europe.
2. Henry's wife, Catherine of Aragon, had only given him a daughter and couldn't have any more children. He needed a son to secure the Tudor succession.
3. Since medieval times the Church had been a very powerful institution and had rivalled the power of the King.

**Task 3:** You are an adviser to Henry VIII. How would you advise Henry to solve his problems? Write a short letter to him.

*Dear Henry,*

*I recommend ...*

Henry decided that he would create a new Church and put himself in charge! Importantly though, he did not consider himself a Protestant, he was still a Catholic; he just wanted to be the top Catholic in England! Write 1-2 sentences to explain how this helped him to solve each of his problems:

**Money:**

**Child:**

**Power:**

**Objective 3:** To analyse how radical Henry's changes were.

**Task 4:** Jot down a few ideas on each of the following questions:

- a. What does the word radical mean?
- b. Can you give an example of a radical change in your life?
- c. Can you give an example of a radical change in History?

**Task 5:**

Highlight three words that you think mean the same or similar as 'radical' in one colour.

Highlight three words that you think mean the opposite to 'radical' in another colour.

Highlight three words that you think are somewhere in between in a third colour.

Extreme	Tame	Rapid	Gentle	Dramatic	Slow
Swift	Shocking	Stable	Major	Drastic	Severe
Steady	Fast	Gradual	Revolution	Minor	Extreme
Moderate	Measured	Modest	Forwards	Progress	Regress

**Task 6:** card sort

Cut out and organise your cards as follows:

- First, place them into chronological (date) order.
- Then, shade them to show those which show England was remaining Catholic, and those which suggest England was becoming Protestant.
- What do the cards reveal about how radical Henry's changes to the Church in England were?

## How radical was Henry's break with Rome?

**1491** Henry was born and brought up a Catholic. The Venetian Ambassador, Gustiniani, said that he was 'very religious.'

**1521** The Pope gave Henry the title 'Defender of the Faith' due to his opposition to Protestants in other parts of Europe.

**1533** Henry made himself Head of the Church of England. The 'Break with Rome' began.

**1509** Henry became King of England.

**1547** By the end of Henry's reign, Lincolnshire and many parts of the North of England remained deeply committed to Catholicism.

**1534** A visitor from Italy commented that Church services in England had changed very little.

**1534** All payments to Rome were stopped. Instead the money went to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

**1536** Henry began closing all the monasteries. He took all their land, gold and silver.

**1537** There were uprisings in the North against the changes to the Church. Henry threatened the rebels harshly and many were executed.

**1543** Henry passed a law which banned the printing of the Bible in English.

**1533** All monks and priests had to do what Henry said, not the Pope.

**1539** Henry executed many Catholics for their beliefs.

**1553** When Edward died, his half sister Mary became Queen. She was able to restore the Catholic faith and this was 'widely welcomed in most parts of England'.

**1541** Henry VIII visited York Minster. The dean smashed an old Catholic statue in front of Henry to demonstrate his loyalty to the King.

**1547** The inside of churches remained unchanged.

**1547** By the end of Henry's reign, some parts of the country, such as Kent, were showing signs of becoming more deeply Protestant.

**1538** The Tyndale Bible was published in English. It was approved by Henry VIII as the "Great Bible" to be read by all his people.

**1547** Henry VIII died. His son, Edward, who had been raised as a Protestant, continued to make changes and reforms to the Church.

**1539** Henry continued to burn some Lutherans (Protestants) at the stake.

### Teaching notes

These activities might form the basis of a sequence of lessons on the reformation, Henry's break with Rome and its impact on England. They could also, if preferred, be used independently of one another. The learning objectives of the three parts are:

- To know the differences between Catholic and Protestant beliefs.
- To explain why Henry changed the Church in England.
- To assess how radical Henry's changes were.

### Main activity 1

Read through the background information on p.1. Students cut out the pictures from the picture sheet (a separate PDF) and divide them into 'Catholic' and 'Protestant'. They then cut out the card sort from P.1 and group these similarly. More able students might be encouraged to consider what the physical differences in the Church buildings reveal about the theological differences which were emerging.

### Main activity 2

Using p.2 students translate a selection of Martin Luther's 95 observations about the Catholic Church into modern English.

### Main activity 3

Using p.3 students consider Henry VIII's three main problems and consider how he might solve them, and why making himself the head of the Church seemed like a good solution to all three.

### Main activity 4

Using p.4-5 students consider the meaning of the word 'radical' in History and complete a selection of card sorting activities which reveal the patchy nature of changes to the Church during Henry's reign. They conclude by making a judgement on whether Henry's changes can rightly be called 'radical'.