

allegation

A claim, not supported by proof, that someone has done something wrong or illegal.

annulment

A legal procedure in which something such as a law, agreement or marriage is officially announced as no longer legally binding.

arrest

To seize someone and take them into custody, to ask them about a crime that they might have committed.

banquet

A formal feast held for many people with extravagant food and entertainment.

beheading

The act of chopping off someone’s head as a form of execution.

Catholicism

The activities and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church, a branch of Christianity headed by the Pope. This was England’s official religion before Henry VIII created the Church of England.

Christianity

A religion based on the Bible, and in the belief in God and the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Church of England

The branch of Christianity created by Henry VIII where he was the head of the church and independent from the Pope. Today, this is the official church in England and the Queen is its head.

conspiracy

A secret plan by a group of people to do something harmful or illegal.

coronation

The act or ritual of crowning a king or queen. Coronations in England take place at Westminster Abbey in London.

court

The place where the monarch was officially living as well as the people who also lived there or regularly visited the monarch, who were often referred to as courtiers.

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divorce

A legal or official process to end a marriage.

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dynasty

A line of rulers of a country from the same family. The Tudor dynasty consisted of five rulers: Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I.

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embroidery

The art or pastime of stitching patterns or pictures onto cloth.

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English Reformation

The breaking away of the Church of England from the authority of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church during the 16th century.

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evidence

One or more reasons, taken from the available body of information or facts, for believing that something is or isn't true. Evidence is presented at a court of law to help a judge and jury to decide upon a sentence for a crime.

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execution

The killing of a person as a legal penalty for a crime.

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exile

The state of being sent or kept away from one's own country or home.

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heir

A person legally entitled to the money, property or title of another person upon their death.

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Henry's 'Great Matter'

A term sometimes used to refer to Henry VIII's desperation to have a son, who would become king after he died and continue the Tudor royal line.

judgement

The process of forming a decision or opinion about something or someone after careful thought and consideration.

miniature

A very small and detailed painting, usually of a person.

monarch

The ruler of a state or empire, particularly a king, queen or emperor.

motive

A reason for carrying out an action or series of actions.

offence

An illegal act.

Ordinances of Eltham

A set of rules, drawn up by Cardinal Wolsey, to manage the activity of King Henry VIII’s privy chamber. Wolsey worded these rules so he could gain more power.

patronage

The support, encouragement, or financial aid given to an organisation by someone wealthy or influential.

plea

The answer that is given in court by a person, stating innocence or guilt, when they have been accused of carrying out a crime.

plot

A secret plan made by a group to do something that is harmful, illegal, or wrong.

privy chamber

The private area of an English royal residence that contained the monarch’s personal rooms. During Henry VIII’s reign, the gentlemen who attended his privy chamber were the servants to the crown who he favoured best – often key figures of importance in government.

Protestantism

The beliefs and activities of the Christian Church that, in the 16th century, separated from the Roman Catholic Church. Henry VIII’s break away from the Roman Catholic Church meant that Protestant ideas began to leak into England.

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rebellion

Acts of violence or resistance that are organised by a group of people who disagree with their country’s government.

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reign

The period that a monarch rules. Henry VIII’s reign lasted for 38 years (1509–1547).

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riddle

A statement or question that requires cleverness or creativity to solve it.

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sentence

A punishment decided and announced in court for a person who has been found guilty of wrongdoing.

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succession

A process whereby someone automatically inherits a position, title or property from someone else.

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treason

The crime of betraying your country and going against the ruler or government.

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trial

The formal hearing and judgement of evidence, in a court of law, to decide if a person is innocent or guilty of a crime.

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trinket

A small, inexpensive ornament or piece of jewellery.

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Tudor

Relating to the Tudor line of rulers who held the throne from 1485 until 1603.