



Did Henry VIII die a Catholic?



Yes, but in this painting you can see that he is pointing out his son, Edward – who was a protestant – to be his successor. The Pope is being crushed underfoot again. Next to Edward is the Protestant Duke of Somerset.

Somerset, and later the Protestant Earl of Warwick, ruled as Lord Protectors on Edward's behalf, as he was only nine years old at his succession. Not surprisingly, then, Protestant reforms were soon in place.

In 1547, within a few months of Henry's death, the Six Articles of Catholic beliefs and worship were cancelled.

Chantry chapels were closed. Protestants did not believe in purgatory, so masses for the souls of the dead were not needed.

Laws declared that Catholic images such as sculptures and carvings should be destroyed or defaced. Shrines were demolished, and statues and wall paintings were white-washed or mutilated.



▲ Henry VIII on his deathbed

In 1549 Archbishop Cranmer's first prayer book translated Latin services into English. Protests over changes led to rebellions, which were suppressed by the army.

In 1552 Cranmer's second prayer book went further. He left out the Mass and replaced it with communion. In this service, the bread and wine represented Christ in spirit rather than actually becoming the body and blood of Christ, as Catholics traditionally believed.

Stone altars were replaced by wooden communion tables, and priests were ordered to wear simple white linen garments called surplices.

In 1553 all the teachings of the reformed Church were written down in 42 Articles.

When Edward died in 1553, aged 16, England was firmly Protestant. However, Edward's successor, his step-sister Mary, was firmly Catholic.

Name _____ Form _____

How do we know that Henry wanted Edward as his successor when he died?

Why do you think Edward had lord protectors to rule on his behalf?

Why did Henry VIII not have masses said for his soul after his death?

What did Archbishop Cranmer write in 1549?

Fill in the gaps

Changes in religion during the reign of Edward VI

Mass in Church was replaced by _____, and bread and _____ represented _____ in spirit rather than actually becoming the _____ and _____ of Christ, as _____ traditionally believed. Stained glass windows were also replaced. Stone altars were replaced by _____ tables, and _____ were ordered to wear simple white _____ garments called _____. In _____ all the teachings of the _____ were written down in _____ Articles.