



Crazy* kings

1 King Henry VIII had six wives. Do you know their names? Read the text to find out.

Henry VIII (1491-1547, King from 1509)



Henry and his six wives

When Henry VIII became king he was 18. He was a good dancer and sang well. Everyone loved him. But he needed a son. His first wife - Catherine of Aragon - was Spanish. Catherine and Henry had a daughter, Mary. Henry wasn't happy. He wanted a divorce*. The Pope in Rome said 'no'. So Henry started the Church of England. Then he and Catherine divorced.

Henry then married Anne Boleyn. She had a daughter, Elizabeth. But Anne was in love with another man, and Henry heard about it. He had her taken to the Tower of London. There they beheaded her, or 'beheaded'.

Next Henry married Jane Seymour. She had a son, Edward, but then she died.

After that Henry married a German princess, Anne of Cleves. She was ugly. 'She looks like a horse', Henry said. They soon divorced. Then Henry married Catherine Howard. She was 20 and beautiful, and Henry was 49. Catherine lost her head when Henry heard about her boyfriend. Henry's last wife was Katherine Parr. She was nice to Henry - and she survived* him! Henry's son Edward was the next king.

2 What happened to Henry's wives? Write these words next to the pictures. They make a rhyme that English children learn at school.

survived died beheaded
beheaded divorced divorced

- 1 Catherine of Aragon
- 2 Anne Boleyn
- 3 Jane Seymour
- 4 Anne of Cleves
- 5 Catherine Howard
- 6 Katherine Parr



- 3** George III was a crazy king. What do you think he did? Read the text and find out.
- a He talked to trees.
 - b He lost America.
 - c He gave Buckingham Palace* to his wife.
 - d He hated his son.

George III (1738-1820, King from 1760)

George III had 15 children. He loved his wife, Charlotte. (He gave Buckingham Palace to her!) He studied the stars and he loved reading. He liked country life too. He knew all about animals, fruit and vegetables. The British liked him and called him 'The Farmer King'. But Britain lost America under George III!

In later life George III went crazy. He talked to trees and shouted 'peacock*' all the time. He couldn't rule* the country. His oldest son - George, Prince of Wales - ruled it for him. George III hated the Prince. When George III died, the Prince became King George IV.



- 4** These sentences compare Henry VIII and George III. Read both texts again and tick the correct one. (H for Henry or G for George).

- 1 He was younger when he became king.
- 2 He was older when he died.
- 3 He had more children.
- 4 He was king for longer.
- 5 He had lots of wives.
- 6 He had a terrible sense of humour.
- 7 He started the English language.
- 8 He liked reading.
- 9 He knew about fruit and vegetables.
- 10 He liked dancing and singing.
- 11 His son Edward was king after him.
- 12 He studied the stars.

Word search grid:

	t		
	r		
	a		
	n		
	u		
	o		
	d		
	v		
	e		
	o		
	r		
	r		

Write the letters in the stars to find the name of each king's family.

- 1 Henry VIII's family name was I_____
- 2 George III's family name was H_____

Personal Project

- Were there any crazy rulers in your country? What did they do?
- Choose one of them and find out more about him or her.

* What is it in your language? Find out!