

Catherine Parr

Catherine Parr was Henry VIII's sixth and final wife and Queen of England from 1543 – 1547.

Early Life

Catherine Parr was born in August 1512. The Parrs were a powerful house in the North of England. Catherine's father Thomas was a close friend of King Henry VIII and so was given many responsibilities which made him wealthy.

Catherine was very intelligent and had a life-long love of learning; she was fluent in many languages, including French, Latin and Italian.

Early Marriages

In 1529, at the age of 17, Catherine married Sir Edward Borough, who was in poor health. Edward died in the spring of 1533, leaving Catherine a young widow.

In the summer of 1534, Catherine married John Neville, known as Lord Latimer. John was twice Catherine's age and she was his third wife. Lord Latimer was a supporter of the Catholic faith and had opposed the king's divorce from Catherine of Aragon. In October 1536, Catholic rebels threatened Latimer and his family with violence if he didn't help them restore the Catholic faith in England. During this time, Catherine and her step-children were prisoners in their home.

Latimer persuaded the rebels to release his family. This spread rumours he supported the rebels and the Latimers became unwelcome at court.

In 1542, the Latimers felt they were able to return to Henry's court. Catherine was able to keep up with the latest fashions and able to make new friends among the nobles. Shortly after, Lord Latimer became unwell and he died the following year on 2nd March 1543.



Before her husband's death, Catherine found herself a place as lady-in-waiting to Lady Mary, Henry's daughter. It was here that she attracted the attention of the king. Catherine had been hoping to marry her sweetheart, Thomas Seymour, but felt she had to accept when the king proposed to her. Catherine and Henry were married on 12th July 1543 at Hampton Court Palace.

Life as Queen

As Queen of England, Catherine seemed to calm the temper of the king. As part of her role, Catherine took it as her duty to bring Henry and his children back together. She formed a strong friendship with Elizabeth and was able to persuade Henry to restore both daughters to their place in line to the throne.

In 1544, Catherine was appointed regent while Henry went to war in France. She impressed many with how she dealt with important matters although her Protestant views angered others. Some Catholic members of the court tried to turn Henry against his queen and drew up a warrant for her arrest. Before this happened however, Catherine begged Henry for mercy, likely saving her life.

Life after Henry

Henry died on 28th January 1547. After his death, he had left orders that Catherine would have a large sum of money available to her and that be shown the same respect she had as queen. She married Thomas Seymour in secret in the following May.

Soon after, Catherine had a daughter, Mary. Sadly, Catherine fell ill with a fever shortly after giving birth and died on 5th September 1548 aged 36.



Questions

1. What was the name of Catherine's father?

2. Which of these languages could Catherine speak? Tick **two**.

- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Latin
- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Italian

3. Why were the Latimers not welcome at court between 1536 and 1542?

4. Who did Catherine serve at court as lady-in-waiting?

5. What effect did Catherine seem to have on Henry's temper?

6. Why do you think Catherine wanted to bring Henry and his children back together?

7. . Look at the paragraph entitled **Life as Queen**.

What do you think the role of 'regent' was? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. Use the numbers 1 to 4 to put these men in the order that they married Catherine.

- ☐ Henry VIII
- ☐ Sir Edward Borough
- ☐ Thomas Seymour
- ☐ John Neville, Lord Latimer

Answers

1. What was the name of Catherine's father?

Thomas

2. Which of these languages could Catherine speak? Tick **two**.

☐ Spanish

☒ **Latin**

☐ Greek

☒ **Italian**

3. Why were the Latimers not welcome at court between 1536 and 1542?

The Latimers were not welcome at court between this time because, after persuading Catholic rebels to release his family from being prisoners, many people believed that Lord Latimer supported the rebellion.

4. Who did Catherine serve at court as lady-in-waiting?

Lady Mary, Henry's daughter.

5. What effect did Catherine seem to have on Henry's temper?

Catherine seemed to calm the king's temper.

6. Why do you think Catherine wanted to bring Henry and his children back together?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Catherine wanted to bring Henry and his children back together as she thought family was very important. Also, Henry was getting older so she may have thought there wasn't much time to reunite them.

7. . Look at the paragraph entitled **Life as Queen**.

What do you think the role of 'regent' was? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think the role of regent was to be in charge of the country while the king was away. I think this because it says Catherine impressed people with dealing with important matters while Henry was away in France, showing that she had to make important decisions which she wouldn't have had to as Queen.

8. Use the numbers 1 to 4 to put these men in the order that they married Catherine.

- Henry VIII
- Sir Edward Borough
- Thomas Seymour
- John Neville, Lord Latimer

Catherine Parr

Catherine Parr was Henry VIII's sixth and final wife and Queen of England from 1543 – 1547. Her influence on Henry paved the way for the continuation of the Tudor dynasty.



Early Life

Catherine Parr was born in August 1512. The Parrs were a powerful house in the North of England. Catherine's father Thomas was a close friend of King Henry VIII and so was given many responsibilities which earned him a good income. Catherine's mother, Maud, was a former lady-in-waiting to Henry's first wife.

Catherine was very intelligent and had a life-long love of learning; she was fluent in many languages, including French, Latin and Italian.

Early Marriages

In 1529, at the age of 17, Catherine married Sir Edward Borough, who was in poor health. Edward died in the spring of 1533, leaving Catherine a young widow.

In the summer of 1534, Catherine married John Neville, known as Lord Latimer. John was twice Catherine's age and she was his third wife. Lord Latimer was a supporter of the Catholic faith and had opposed the king's divorce from Catherine of Aragon. In October 1536, Catholic rebels threatened Latimer and his family with violence if he didn't help them restore the Catholic faith in England. During this time, Catherine and her step-children were held hostage at their home in Snape Castle, Yorkshire.

Latimer persuaded the rebels to release his family but this caused rumours to spread that he supported the Catholic rebellion, leading them to live privately for many years.

In 1542, the Latimers were able to return to Henry's court. Catherine was now able to keep up with the latest fashions and able to make new acquaintances among



the nobles. Shortly after, Lord Latimer became unwell and he died the following year on 2nd March 1543.

Before her husband's death, Catherine found herself a place as lady-in-waiting to Lady Mary, Henry's daughter. It was here that she attracted the attention of the king. Catherine had been hoping to marry her sweetheart, Thomas Seymour, brother of Henry's late wife Jane, but felt she had to accept when the king proposed to her. Catherine and Henry were married on 12th July 1543 at Hampton Court Palace.

Life as Queen

As Queen of England, Catherine was seen as a calming influence on the king. As part of her role as queen, Catherine took it as her duty to reunite Henry with his children. She formed a strong friendship with Elizabeth and was able to persuade Henry to restore both of his daughters to the line of succession.

In 1544, Catherine was appointed regent while Henry went to war in France. She impressed many with how she dealt with matters of state although her Protestant views angered some at court. Henry and Catherine worked together well, however they did clash over religious matters. Some, including Bishop Gardiner, who had strong Catholic views, tried to turn Henry against his queen and drew up a warrant for her arrest. Before this happened however, Catherine begged Henry for mercy, likely saving her life.

Life after Henry

Henry's health began to fail towards the end of 1546 and he died on 28th January 1547. After his death, Henry had left orders that Catherine would have a large allowance available to her and that she be shown the same respect she had as queen. She married Thomas Seymour in secret in the following May, which many people felt was too soon after the king's death.

Soon after, Catherine fell pregnant and had a daughter, Mary. Sadly, Catherine fell ill with a fever shortly after giving birth and died on 5th September 1548 aged 36.



Questions

1. Which of these is the closest in meaning to the word **dynasty**?

- ☐ beliefs
- ☐ family
- ☐ castle
- ☐ explosive

2. Fill in the missing words.

Catherine was very _____ and had a life-long love of _____.
 She was _____ in many languages, including French, _____
 and Italian.

3. Who did Catherine marry before Henry VIII?

- _____
- _____

4. Where were Henry and Catherine married?

5. Tick to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Catherine's mother was lady-in-waiting to Henry's second wife.		
Catherine first married at the age of 17.		
Catherine was close friends with Henry's daughter, Elizabeth.		
Catherine held Catholic beliefs.		

6. Why do you think Catherine wanted to bring Henry and his children back together?

7. What do you think the role of 'regent' was? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. Why do you think Thomas Seymour and Catherine married in secret?

9. At the start of the text, it says that Catherine 'paved the way for the continuation of the Tudor dynasty'. How was this the case?

Answers

1. Which of these is the closest in meaning to the word **dynasty**?

- ☐ beliefs
- ☒ **family**
- ☐ castle
- ☐ explosive

2. Fill in the missing words.

Catherine was very **intelligent** and had a life-long love of **learning**. She was **fluent** in many languages, including French, **Latin** and Italian.

3. Who did Catherine marry before Henry VIII?

- **Sir Edward Borough**
- **John Neville, Lord Latimer**

4. Where were Henry and Catherine married?

Hampton Court Palace

5. Tick to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Catherine's mother was lady-in-waiting to Henry's second wife.		✓
Catherine first married at the age of 17.	✓	
Catherine was close friends with Henry's daughter, Elizabeth.	✓	
Catherine held Catholic beliefs.		✓

6. Why do you think Catherine wanted to bring Henry and his children back together?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Catherine wanted to bring Henry and his children back together as she thought family was very important. Also, Henry was getting older so she may have thought there wasn't much time to reunite them.

7. What do you think the role of 'regent' was? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think the role of regent was to be in charge of the country while the king was away. I think this because it says Catherine impressed people with dealing with important matters while Henry was away in France, showing that she had to make important decisions which she wouldn't have had to as Queen.

8. Why do you think Thomas Seymour and Catherine married in secret?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Thomas Seymour and Catherine married in secret because people felt it was too soon after Henry's death. People may have been offended at how quickly Catherine married her next husband after becoming widowed rather than mourning the king's passing.

9. At the start of the text, it says that Catherine 'paved the way for the continuation of the Tudor dynasty'. How was this the case?

Accept answers referring to Catherine reuniting Henry with his children, especially Elizabeth and Mary, who were reinstated to the line of succession. After his son Edward died without any children, both daughters would go on to become Queen of England. If Catherine had not persuaded Henry to restore their places in line to the throne, the Tudor dynasty may have ended after Edward's death.

Catherine Parr

Catherine Parr was Henry VIII's sixth and final wife and Queen of England from 1543 – 1547. She was the final queen consort during the reign of the Tudor monarchs. Her influence on Henry paved the way for the continuation of the Tudor dynasty.



Early Life

Catherine Parr is believed to have been born in August 1512. Her father, Sir Thomas Parr, was a descendant of King Edward III and the Parr family was a powerful house in the North of England. Thomas was a close friend of King Henry VIII and so was given many roles and responsibilities which earned him a good income. Catherine's mother, Maud, was a former lady-in-waiting to Henry's first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

Catherine was very intelligent and had a life-long love of learning; she was fluent in numerous languages, including French, Latin and Italian. This love of learning would later lead to her becoming the first English queen to write and publish her own books.

Early Marriages

In 1529, at the age of 17, Catherine married Sir Edward Borough, a man in his twenties and in poor health. Edward died in the spring of 1533, leaving Catherine a young widow.

In the summer of 1534, Catherine married John Neville, known as Lord Latimer. John was twice Catherine's age and had been widowed twice previously. She became a step-mother to his children, John and Margaret, and helped tend to his estates. Lord Latimer was a supporter of the Catholic faith and had opposed the king's annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. In October 1536, Catholic rebels threatened Latimer and his family with violence if he didn't help them restore the Catholic faith in England. During this time, Catherine and her step-



children were held hostage at their home in Snape Castle, Yorkshire. Latimer persuaded the rebels to leave and release his family but this caused rumours to spread that Latimer supported the Catholic rebellion. In order to remove any suspicion, Latimer agreed to condemn the actions of the rebels, though his reputation remained tarnished.

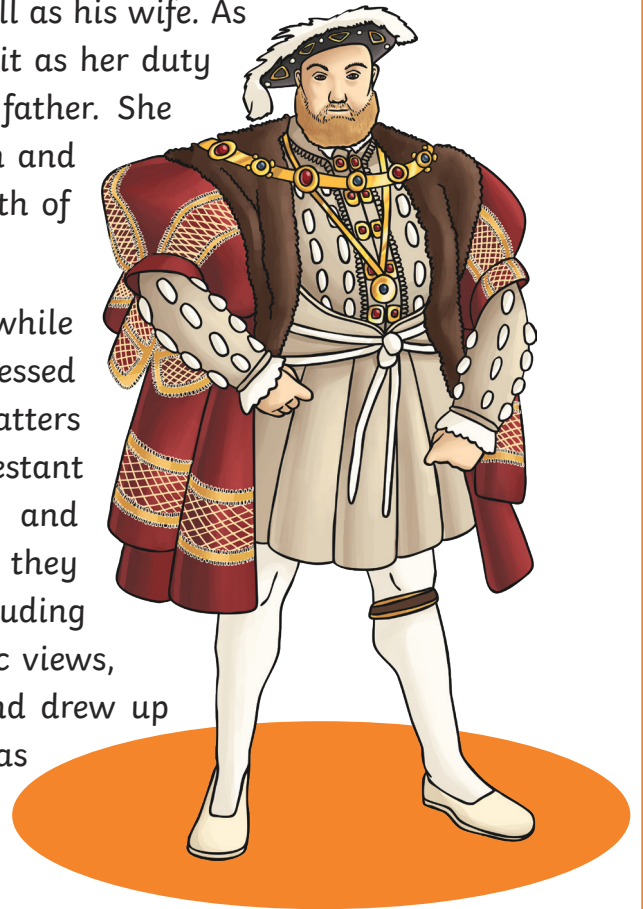
In 1542, the Latimers were able to return to Henry's court. Catherine was now able to keep up with the latest fashions and able to make new acquaintances among the nobles. Shortly after, Lord Latimer's health had begun to fail and he died the following year on 2nd March 1543.

Before her husband's death, Catherine found herself a place as part of Lady Mary's household. It was here that she attracted the attention of the king who was on the search for a new wife. Catherine had been hoping to marry her sweetheart, Thomas Seymour, brother of Henry's late wife Jane, but felt herself compelled to accept when the king proposed to her. Catherine and Henry were married on 12th July 1543 at Hampton Court Palace.

Life as Queen

As Queen of England, Catherine was seen as a calming influence on the aging king, sometimes acting as his nurse as well as his wife. As part of her role as queen, Catherine took it as her duty to reconcile Henry's children with their father. She formed a strong friendship with Elizabeth and was able to persuade Henry to restore both of his daughters to the line of succession.

In 1544, Catherine was appointed regent while Henry went to war in France. She impressed many with her manner of dealing with matters of state although her deeply religious Protestant views angered some at court. Henry and Catherine worked together well, however they did clash over religious matters. Some, including Bishop Gardiner, who had strong Catholic views, tried to turn Henry against his queen and drew up a warrant for her arrest. Catherine was warned about this and begged the king for mercy and his forgiveness, likely saving her life.



Life after Henry

Henry's health began to fail towards the end of 1546 and he died on 28th January 1547. After his death, Henry had left orders that Catherine would have a large allowance available to her and that she be shown the same respect she had as queen. She married Thomas Seymour in secret in the following May, which many people felt was too soon after the king's death.

Soon after, Catherine fell pregnant and had a daughter, Mary. Sadly, Catherine fell ill with a fever shortly after giving birth and died on 5th September 1548 aged 36.

Questions

1. Which monarch was Catherine's father related to? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Henry VIII
- ☐ Henry VII
- ☐ Edward I
- ☐ Edward III

2. What was Catherine the first English queen to do?

3. Do you think Catherine's marriage to John Neville, Lord Latimer was a happy marriage?
Why do you think this? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. Why did the Catholic rebels threaten the Latimers?

5. 'Latimer agreed to condemn the actions of the rebels, though his reputation was **tarnished**.'
Which of these is closest to the meaning of **tarnished**?

- ☐ saved
- ☐ ruined
- ☐ guaranteed
- ☐ controlled

6. Why do you think Catherine felt compelled to accept Henry's marriage proposal?

7. What do you think the role of 'regent' was? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. Why do you think Thomas Seymour and Catherine married in secret?

9. At the start of the text, it says that Catherine 'paved the way for the continuation of the Tudor dynasty'. How was this the case?

10. Given Henry's past marriages ended in two divorces, two executions and one dying from illness, how do you think Catherine felt about marrying him?

Answers

1. Which monarch was Catherine's father related to? Tick one.

- ☐ Henry VIII
- ☐ Henry VII
- ☐ Edward I
- ☒ **Edward III**

2. What was Catherine the first English queen to do?

Catherine was the first English queen to write and publish her own books.

3. Do you think Catherine's marriage to John Neville, Lord Latimer was a happy marriage? Why do you think this? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Catherine's marriage to Lord Latimer was not a happy marriage as they had to deal with a rebellion in which Catherine and her step-children were held hostage and after that were not welcome at court for years after rumours spread of them supporting the rebels.

4. Why did the Catholic rebels threaten the Latimers?

The rebels threatened the Latimers so they would support them in restoring the Catholic faith in England.

5. 'Latimer agreed to condemn the actions of the rebels, though his reputation was **tarnished**.' Which of these is closest to the meaning of **tarnished**?

- ☐ saved
- ☒ **ruined**
- ☐ guaranteed
- ☐ controlled

6. Why do you think Catherine felt compelled to accept Henry's marriage proposal?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Catherine felt compelled to accept Henry's proposal as he was known to have a temper, often executing those who had angered

him. Saying no to him and marrying Thomas Seymour as she wanted may have angered Henry and put her and Thomas' lives in danger.

7. What do you think the role of 'regent' was? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think the role of regent was to be in charge of the country while the king was away. I think this because it says Catherine impressed people with dealing with important matters while Henry was away in France, showing that she had to make important decisions which she wouldn't have had to as Queen.

8. Why do you think Thomas Seymour and Catherine married in secret?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Thomas Seymour and Catherine married in secret because people felt it was too soon after Henry's death. People may have been offended at how quickly Catherine married her next husband after becoming widowed rather than mourning the king's passing.

9. At the start of the text, it says that Catherine 'paved the way for the continuation of the Tudor dynasty'. How was this the case?

Accept answers referring to Catherine reuniting Henry with his children, especially Elizabeth and Mary, who were reinstated to the line of succession. After his son Edward died without any children, both daughters would go on to become Queen of England. If Catherine had not persuaded Henry to restore their places in line to the throne, the Tudor dynasty may have ended after Edward's death.

10. Given Henry's past marriages ended in two divorces, two executions and one dying from illness, how do you think Catherine felt about marrying him?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think Catherine would have been nervous marrying Henry as he was known to have a bad temper and had executed two of his wives previously, worrying that she may anger him in some way and suffer the same fate. She was also going to be Queen of England which may also have made her anxious.