

Why did Henry VIII marry six times?

Learning Objective:

To learn what Henry VIII was like through portraits and written sources.

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What can you
learn about Henry
VIII from this
portrait?

Talk about your ideas
with a partner.



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How many adjectives can you think of to describe him?



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We can find out a lot about what Henry was like from descriptions people wrote about him at the time. These are called **primary sources**.

Isn't Henry handsome!



What a clever king!

Read the descriptions on the next page and try to pick out the important words to find out about Henry's character and personality.

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When you know what a hero he now shows himself, how wisely he behaves, what a lover he is of justice and goodness, what affection he bears to the learned I will venture to swear that you will need no wings to make you fly to behold this new and auspicious star. If you could see how all the world here is rejoicing in the possession of so great a Prince, how his life is all their desire, you could not contain your tears for joy. The heavens laugh, the earth exults, all things are full of milk, of honey, of nectar! Avarice is expelled the country. Liberality scatters wealth with bounteous hand. Our King does not desire gold or gems or precious metals, but virtue, glory, immortality.

Lord Mountjoy to Erasmus, 1509

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His Majesty is the handsomest potentate I ever set eyes on; above the usual height, with an extremely fine calf to his leg, his complexion very fair and bright, auburn hair combed straight and short, in the French fashion, and a round face so very beautiful that it would become a pretty woman, his throat being rather long and thick.... He will enter his twenty-fifth year the month after next. He speaks French, English and Latin, and a little Italian, plays well on the lute and harpsichord, sings from book at sight, draws the bow with greater strength than any man in England and jousts marvellously.... a most accomplished Prince.

The Venetian diplomat Pasqualigo, 1515

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Can you complete this word wall to describe what Henry was like?



clever

handsome

grand

powerful

rich

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