

## The Effects of the Reformation – **Dissolution of the Monasteries (King Henry VIII)** & **The Pilgrimage of Grace**

### Key facts

- The dissolution of monasteries happened after King Henry VIII's break with the Church of Rome.
- Henry VIII believed he could take the wealth by capturing the Catholic Church's assets.
- During the dissolution of monasteries, many precious books were destroyed, and the number of poor people (who had previously been helped by the church) was punished.

### Introduction:

The Reformation in Tudor England was a time of major changes. One of the major outcomes of the Reformation was the **destruction of the monasteries** which began in 1536.

The Reformation in England came about when Henry VIII wished to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, who had failed to give him a male heir. When the Pope refused to grant the divorce, Henry set up the Church of England (Anglican Church). **The Act of Supremacy in 1534** confirmed the break from Rome (Pope), declaring Henry VIII to be the Supreme Head of the Church of England.

The monasteries in England were a reminder of the power of the Catholic Church. It was also true that the monasteries were the **wealthiest institutions** in the country, and Henry's lifestyle, along with his wars, had led to a lack of money. Monasteries owned over a quarter of all the cultivated land in England. By destroying the monastic system Henry could acquire all its wealth and property whilst removing its Papist (Pope's) influence.

Henry's **chief minister Thomas Cromwell** then introduced sent some of the courtiers to find out just how much property was owned by the Church. He sent out royal commissioners to all the monasteries in England, Wales and Ireland. Then, Monastic land and buildings were confiscated and sold off to families who supported Henry's break from Rome.

People were unhappy about the dissolution of monasteries. The Catholic priests opposed the action of the king. There were riots and processions against the king in the country.

### **The Pilgrimage of Grace:**

The Pilgrimage of Grace is the title given to **a widespread revolt against the rule of Henry VIII**. It was a direct result of the dissolution of the monasteries, a policy which confused and angered most Englishmen. The Pilgrimage of Grace started in **late 1536 and finished in early 1537**. Between late 1536 and 1537 a number of revolts against the king took place in Northern England. These were collectively known as the 'Pilgrimage of Grace'. Several hundred rebels, including the leader Aske, were executed.

## The dissolution of the monasteries.

And the Pilgrimage of Grace.



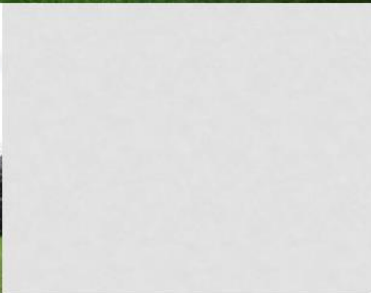
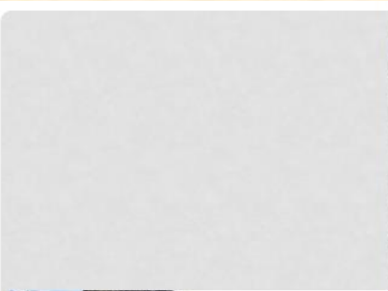
Why did Henry VIII dissolve the monasteries?

Two Causes

Money

Religion

Who are they and what part did these people play in the story?





# The dissolution of the monasteries.

- Why were the monasteries so important?
- Why were they so rich?
- Why did Thomas Cromwell want to close them down?
- Why did Henry VIII want to close them?
- What were the effects?

## WHAT DID THEY DO?

- Prayed for the souls of the dead
- Devoted much of their lives to God
  - Prayers, services, masses, contemplation
  - As many as 8 services a day
    - Day and throughout the night
- Many cared for the poor, the sick and distributed charity
  - Open orders spent any income on the poor
  - But closed orders were often VERY rich
- Some would offer education –
  - For girls (nunneries) as well as boys
    - Mainly in preparation for running household
- Farming and labouring
  - Many were important landowners too: wealthy
  - And employers – workers to help farm the land
- Caring for travellers
- Local gentry sometimes used them to entertain important guests

- The more closed an order was, the less contact it had with life outside the monastery.
- Some orders were completely closed.
- Some orders were silent.

What will be the social and economic impact of their dissolution?

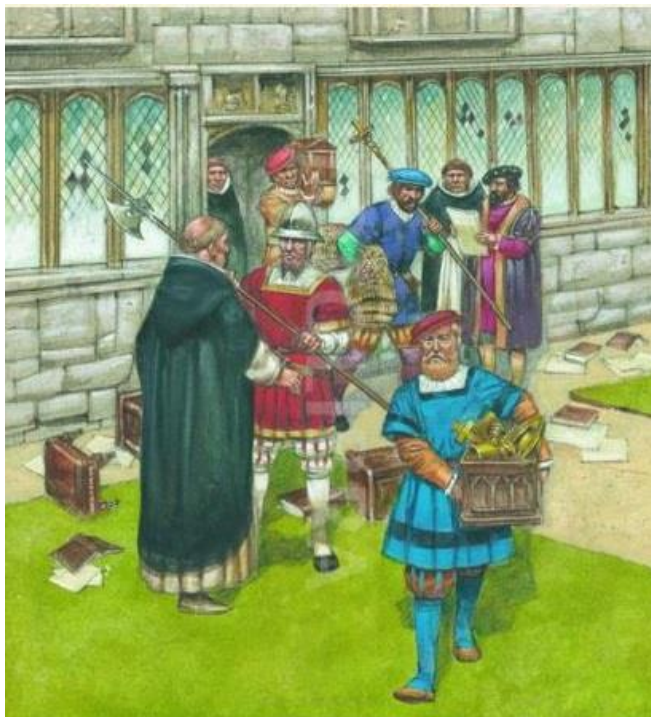
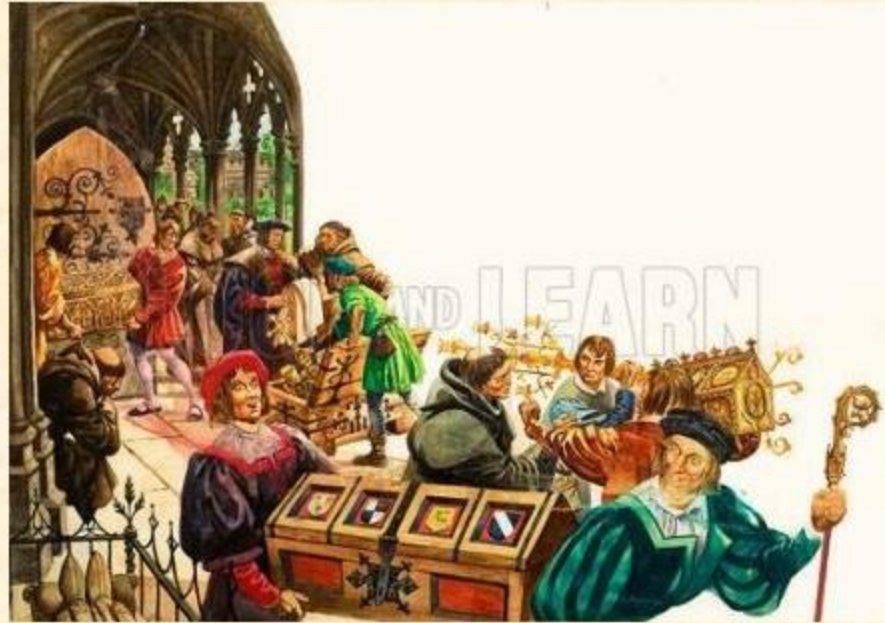


The Monasteries were very rich





# Closing the monasteries. 1536



# Pilgrimage of Grace. 1536.



# Rebels marching towards London





## Results.



## Executing the rebels





# Flowchart.

