



ANNE BOLEYN

WATCH-ALONG GUIDE

BEFORE WATCHING

Key themes

✚ Religious changes

In the Tudor period, most people in Europe followed the Roman Catholic Church. But new religious ideas started spreading (Protestantism).

✚ Women influencing each other

Anne's story shows how powerful women influenced each other. Several of her friends across Europe helped shape her beliefs and ideas.

✚ Women's power

In the Tudor period, society was controlled by men. However, some queens had power when they acted as regent or influenced the king.

Who was she?

Anne Boleyn was educated in the Netherlands and France and was interested in new religious ideas known as Protestantism. She was intelligent, outspoken, and had powerful female friends across Europe.

She was Henry VIII's second wife, and they were married for three years before Anne was executed. They had one child, Elizabeth, the future Elizabeth I.

SIX the Musical

A modern musical that retells the stories of the wives of Henry VIII's. In this video, an actor from the show explores the real history behind her character with a historian.



Source used in the video

A letter written by Anne Boleyn to her father.

Vocab

✚ Lady-in-waiting

One of the queen's companions who is there to do as the queen wishes

✚ Protestant

A type of Christianity that believes people do not need officials (like the Pope or Bishops) to communicate with God

✚ Monasteries

Buildings where religious communities of men called monks live and worship



WHILE WATCHING

01:02 Why is Anne often only remembered as “beheaded”?
What’s missing?

Talking points: oversimplification; male-focused narratives; ignores character and influence

03:03 How useful is Anne’s letter for finding out what she really thought?

Talking points: personal source; may show feelings; written to impress; limited reliability

03:40 How did other women help shape Anne’s confidence and ambition?

Talking points: friendship; spread of Protestant ideas; women in power

04:35 In what ways might Anne have influenced Henry VIII?

Talking points: sharing religious ideas; possible role in Reformation

05:16 How did Anne try to influence religious change in England?

Talking points: translated Bible to English; wanted monasteries to become schools/hospitals

06.58 How do you think Anne Boleyn should be remembered today, and why?

AFTER WATCHING

How do we know?

Use the Source Bank to explore the letter written by Anne Boleyn or the H&A carving at Hampton Court Palace.

Key events

c.1501 – Born into a powerful noble family at Hever Castle, Kent

c.1513 – Served at royal courts in the Netherlands and France

1522 – Returns to England and becomes lady-in-waiting to Katherine of Aragon

c.1526 – Refuses to become Henry VIII’s mistress

1533 – Marries Henry VIII and gives birth to Elizabeth

1536 – Accused of treason and executed at the Tower of London

