

Year 5 Non-Fiction Friday

Anne Boleyn

Did marrying her solve any of Henry's problems?

Anne Boleyn is an interesting character. People always felt strongly about her, they either loved her or they despised her with a passion! Here is quick look at her early years- how do you think she compared to Catherine of Aragon?

- Anne was one of three children, Mary was her eldest sister she was sweet and gentle but none to bright! Anne and her younger brother George were different. They were intelligent and wanted to do well. Their father recognised this and did his best to give them the best possible start in life.
- George went to Oxford University; he was able to speak Latin and French and was a poet and translator.
- Anne was educated in the house of Arch Duchess Margaret in France. Margaret was an impressive woman whose nickname was "Most dreaded lady" She was a fluent in many languages and wrote fine poetry in both Latin and French. She was also a very clever politician.
- Before returning to England Anne spent some time in the court of the French King Francis, a man who was very kind to all women apart from his own wife! Anne loved the French court and by this time she spoke French fluently, at this time she also polished her musical skills becoming a fine singer and dancer.
- Years after she had left the French she was still well remembered, a man called Lancelot de Carles wrote "...she was beautiful and had an elegant figure and eyes that were even more attractive." Anne's eyes were large and dark and she used them with skill using them as "...messengers to carry the secret witness of her heart." Lancelot was also to write "...such was their power, that many men were hers to command".
- In 1521 Anne returned to England.
- By early New Year of 1522 she was working as one of Queen Catherine's ladies in waiting- she was to make quite an impression!

(1). How many brothers and sisters did Anne Boleyn have? What were their names?

(2). Why were Anne and George different from Mary?

(3). What did George do?

(4). Where was Anne educated? What did she learn to do there?

(5). What did Anne do before returning to England?

(6). Who wrote about Anne after she had left France?

Challenge:

Compare Catherine and Anne. Do you think they are similar?

Explain.

SUPPORT:

If you need to...

1. Make a list of similarities
2. Make a list of differences
3. Write your evidence with clear reasons for support from the text.

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Catherine of Aragon Born: 16th December 1485

Parents:

Ferdinand and Isabella - the most remarkable royal couple of their time. Both of them were rulers of countries in their own right. Isabella was queen of Castile, the largest country of all the countries that made up Spain. In some ways she was more important than her husband. She was a very devoted Catholic and spent a lot of time praying to God. While most women would spend their pregnancy taking things easy, Isabella spent hers fighting battles. Ferdinand was a quiet clever man who was always thinking of plots to make him more powerful. He was king of Aragon which was a smaller country than Castile, but it had the important trading city of Barcelona.

Brothers and sisters

Catherine was the youngest of five children. She was a bit of a favourite. Ferdinand actually said that he loved her the most, whilst Isabella showed her love for Catherine in other ways, such as holding her up to see a bull fight and allowing everybody to see. This might not seem very special now, but back in Tudor times important people hardly talked to their children, let alone held them.

Education

Isabella was in charge of her children's education, but she left some pretty surprising gaps!

Catherine knew how to dance, but she had no other musical skills. Music was thought to be very important in Tudor times. Catherine of Aragon fact file: CJM 2

When most Tudor women were learning love poems, Catherine was reading stories about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

Catherine could speak two languages, Spanish, which nobody outside Spain could speak and Latin which was only spoken by Priests, nuns, monks and people involved in politics.

Summary

Catherine was loved by her parents, but she also had an important job to do. Her job was to make powerful men fall in love with her. Tudor men expected "girly girls" who could play music beautifully, sing like angels and dance like fairies. Tudor women were expected to know lots of poems about love and be able to remember these and recite them to possible husbands. Here Catherine had a slight problem. Tudor men wanted their wives to talk about love poetry, not battle stories about King Arthur!

Even if she did know any poems, nobody outside of Spain would be able to understand her anyway!

Catherine could dance, but she couldn't sing or play an instrument. In short, she was about as musical as an Electric drill.

- (1). Why do you think it says that Catherine's parents (Ferdinand and Isabella) were the most remarkable royal couple of their time?
- (2). Why do you think that Catherine's mother, Isabella, was seen to be more important than her husband?
- (3). What unusual thing did Isabella do whilst pregnant?
- (4). How many brothers and sisters did Catherine have?
- (5). In what way did Isabella show that she loved Catherine? Why was this special at the time?
- (6). Why does the information say that Isabella left a gap in Catherine's education?
- (7). Whilst most people were learning love poems, what was Catherine doing?
- (8). What two languages could Catherine speak? Do you think they were useful?