

Knowledge Organiser - 6 – Why was religion a problem in Early Modern England? (Early modern period 1500-1800)

1532 Break from Rome	1547-1553 Edward VI (becomes king at the age of 9)	1558-1603 Elizabeth I's reign	1603-1625 James VI of Scotland rules England and Scotland
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1521 Henry VIII writes a book defending the Catholic faith	1536 Dissolution of the monasteries	1553-1558 Mary I's (known as 'Bloody Mary') reign	1605 Gunpowder Plot	1642-1651 English Civil War
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Key people, ideas and developments

1	Catholics	The Catholic church had access to a lot of money and Catholics believed that their churches should be richly decorated with stained glass. The Pope is the head of the Catholic church and his bishops could forgive the sins of the people. Catholic priests wear special robes for services to show their high status.
2	Protestants	Protestants got their name from protesting against the Catholic church. Protestants wanted simple churches to make them closer to god. Priests were not needed and Jesus Christ was the head of the Protestant church. Protestants wanted the bible to be in English so more people could understand it.
3	Break from Rome	This was when Henry VIII decided that the Church in England should not be run by the Pope (who was based in Rome) – he broke away from the main bit of the Catholic church. It happened in 1532.
4	Dissolution of the Monasteries	The conflict between Henry VIII and the Roman Catholic Church resulted in the state taking the Church properties. Over 800 monasteries were dissolved , demolished for building materials and sold off.
5	Edward VI	Edward was the son of Henry VIII and was a strict protestant, he wanted all the people in England to follow the Protestant church. Catholic mass was made illegal and decorations in churches were banned.
6	Bloody Mary	Mary I was Henry VIII's daughter and was a Catholic. She wanted England to return to Catholicism. In 5 years on the throne, Mary burned 284 Protestants for their beliefs. In contrast, Elizabeth (her sister) burned 5 Catholics in 44 years. Henry VIII (her father) burned 81 in 38 years.

7	Elizabeth I's Religious Settlement	Elizabeth I was the daughter of Henry VIII. The Religious Settlement was an attempt by Elizabeth I to unite the country after the changes in religion under Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I. It was designed to settle the divide between Catholics and Protestants and address the differences in services and beliefs. Some people said she was not very strict. She made some changes such as allowing priests to marry and removing some church decorations.
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Key terms

8	Catholic	Type of Christianity led by the Pope with a Latin bible
9	Protestant	Type of Christianity without a pope, using an English bible
10	monastery	A religious building mainly occupied by monks
11	dissolution	To officially end something
12	priest	A respected member of the Church who is allowed to perform certain sacred and holy practices
13	mass	A Catholic practice re-enacting the last supper
14	Pope	The head of the Church; usually based in Rome
15	execute	To carry out a sentence of death on someone
16	reign	To hold office/rule as a monarch
17	devout	Deep religious feeling or commitment

