

# Playing the King

## Teacher Notes

**Length:** 90 minutes

**Meeting point:**

Your presenter will meet you at the **Dragon at the Clore Learning Centre**. Please arrive at least 5 minutes before your session is due to begin.

**About the session:**

This drama session encourages pupils to find out more about Henry VIII – both as a monarch and a man. Through drama and role-play activities, pupils gain a better understanding of how key life-changing events helped to shape Henry into the familiar image of the monarch that we hold today – that of a fat, balding and ruthless monarch.

Learning objectives:

- Use drama and role-play to understand how Henry VIII changed as a monarch through the course of his reign;
- To develop methods of enquiry through drama and role-play.

Key learning points:

- That Henry changed both as a monarch and a person throughout his reign and there were a number of key reasons for this;
- That Henry had not been raised to become a king;
- That some of Henry's decisions and policies had a wide reaching impact on the country as a whole.

**New National Curriculum links at KS2:**

**History:**

- Develop the appropriate use of historical terms;
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, how evidence is used to make historical claims;
- A theme in British history that extends chronological knowledge beyond 1066 (the changing role of the monarch).

**English - spoken language:**

- Artistic practice of drama;
- Articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions;
- Use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas.

**Preparation for your session:**

In order to help your pupils enjoy this session, we would request that, where possible, they are aware of the following subjects and concepts prior to their visit:

- The changing role of the monarch over time, particularly focusing on the reign of Henry VIII within this context;
- Key people and events from the reign of Henry VIII;



# Historic Royal Palaces Hampton Court Palace

- Aspects of social history through time, particularly focusing on 16th century as a backdrop for the reign of Henry VIII;
- Understanding how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources, with different types of historical evidence surviving from the Tudor period;
- Role play and drama.

## During your session:

Please note that the 1:10 staff to pupil ratio which we ask for throughout your visit to Hampton Court Palace still applies during your teaching session. We ask that sufficient adults remain with the group as they will be encouraged to join in with the session activities. Our workshops are designed for a health and safety maximum of x35 pupils per session. For your information this session will take in one of our classroom spaces in the Clore Learning Centre.

