

School resource

History of Hampton Court Palace

Chronology

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| 1494 | Giles Daubeney, later Lord Chamberlain, leases and modernises the medieval manor of Hampton Court. |
| 1515 | A year after leasing Hampton Court, Thomas Wolsey begins rebuilding on a grand scale, converting Hampton Court into a lavish palace. |
| 1523 | Henry VIII's former tutor John Skelton writes that, 'The King's court should hath the excellence. But Hampton Court hath the pre-eminence'. |
| 1529 | Henry VIII's royal workmen taken over building works at Hampton Court Palace. |
| 1530 | Henry VIII and his councillors send the first letter threatening a break with the Papacy to Rome from the palace. |
| 1537 | Queen Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife, gives birth to Prince Edward. He is baptized with great ceremony in the Chapel Royal, but she dies soon after due to complications from childbirth. |
| 1540 | Henry VIII's divorce from Anne of Cleves is signed at the palace. It is also where Henry VIII marries his fifth wife, Catherine Howard, and she is proclaimed queen. |
| 1541 | Catherine Howard's earlier sexual liaisons are revealed to Henry VIII at Hampton Court. She is interrogated and kept under house arrest in the palace. |
| 1543 | Henry VIII marries his sixth and final wife, Kateryn Parr, in the Chapel Royal. |
| 1603 | Shakespeare and his company the 'King's Men' perform plays in the Great Hall for King James I. |
| 1604 | James I calls the Hampton Court Conference which commissions the King James Bible. |
| 1689 | Sir Christopher Wren demolishes large parts of the Tudor palace and begins building a new place for King William III and Queen Mary II. |
| 1760 | George III becomes king. He abandons Hampton Court as a royal residence and it begins to be divided up into grace-and-favour apartments. |
| 1838 | Queen Victoria opens the gardens and state apartments to the public free of charge. |
| 1944 | General, later President, Eisenhower plans the Normandy landings in Bushy Park. |
| 1984 | Prince Charles, speaking at Hampton Court, calls for 'a new harmony between imagination and taste and in the relationship between the architects and the people of the country'. |

