Henry VIII, king of England, was famously married six times and played a critical role in the English Reformation, turning his country into a Protestant nation. Who Was King Henry VIII? Henry Tudor (June 28, 1491 to January 28, 1547) was the king of England from 1509 until his death in 1547. Henry VIII’s father wanted to affirm his family’s alliance with Spain, so he offered his young son to Catherine, who was the widow of Henry’s brother Arthur. The two families requested that Pope Julius II officially grant dispensation to Arthur and Catherine’s marriage. Inside the court, however, Queen Anne suffered greatly from her failure to produce a living male heir. After she miscarried twice, Henry became interested in one of Anne’s ladies-in-waiting, Jane Seymour. Henry the Eighth and his Wives VIII. Father and Daughter IX. Lendemain X. The King’s Fool XI. Followed by her new court, she had traversed with her companions the state apartments, and now reached the inner rooms. Here, according to the etiquette of the time, she must dismiss her court, and only the two bishops and her ladies of honor were permitted to accompany the queen into the drawing-room. But farther than this chamber even the bishops themselves might not follow her. The king himself had written down the order for the day, and he who swerved from this order in the most insignificant point would have been proclaimed guilty of high treason, and perhaps have been led out to death. Start by marking “Henry VIII and His Court” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Henry made the court dominant over the rest of the kingdom, and he himself thoroughly dominated the court, making it the center of English cultural as well as political life. Where earlier kings had to deal with the great landowners in their distant domains, Henry brought them to him, where they could plot and scheme and quarrel under his eye and have their energies directed to tasks of the king’s choosing. To be banished from court, denied access to the king, was the greatest blow a courtier could suffer, short of the Tower.