The Protestant Reformation
What is the Protestant Reformation?

Protestant Reformation - a religious movement in the 1500’s that split the Christian church in western Europe and led to the establishment of a number of new churches.

People were unhappy with the churches…

- Financial Corruption
- Abuse of Power
- Immorality
What sparked the Reformation?

Pope Leo X needs money to build St. Peter’s Basilica…so he sold indulgences!

- Indulgences- pardons issued by the pope that people could buy to reduce a soul’s time in purgatory = (People could buy forgiveness)
- Martin Luther’s Ninety Five Theses
Language Barriers

Most uneducated people didn’t understand Latin, but knew the local common language or “vernacular”.

- Almost all Bibles were written in LATIN before the Reformation.

It was the job of the church clergy to translate the Bible to lay people.
Martin Luther

Luther (1483-1546) was a German monk and professor of theology (religion) at the University of Wittenberg.

One of the many leaders of the Protestant Reformation.
Luther’s 95 Theses

In 1517, the 95 Theses were nailed to a church door. They were written in Latin.

- Luther’s intention: not to break from the church, but reform it
- Criticized:
  1. Indulgences
  2. Power of Pope
  3. Wealth of Church

God’s Grace won by faith
- Catholic View: Good Works
Excommunication

In 1520 Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther.

- Excommunication - expelled him from the church.
- Holy Roman Emperor Charles V passed measures to suppress Luther’s writings.
- Lutheran princes in Germany issued a protestatio or protest.
  - Hence the term Protestant!
The English Reformation

King Henry VIII (king from 1509 – 1547)
– The king who had six wives…
  • He wanted a son

King Henry’s older brother Arthur dies…
Arthur was married to Catherine of Aragon (from Spain) before she married Henry. Catherine couldn’t produce a son, so he wanted an annulment. She did give birth to a daughter named Mary, who later became the queen of England and restored the Catholic Church!
The Reformation Parliament

Was a gathering that led to the decision that England was no longer under the authority of the pope.

Henry VIII was excommunicated

**Act of Supremacy**

- Subjects were required to take an oath declaring Henry VIII to be “Supreme Head of the Church of England”
Children of Henry VIII

Edward VI (king from 1547 – 1553)
- First monarch raised protestant
- Protestant rule, tried to remove Mary from the line because of religious differences

Queen Mary I or “Bloody Mary” (queen from 1553-1558)
- Raised Catholic like her mother Catherine of Aragon; she reestablished the Catholic Church in England. She killed many protestants.

Queen Elizabeth I (queen from 1558-1603)
- Raised Protestant and ruled England for 44 years. She never married or had children.