

# To what extent did religious beliefs dramatically change for everyone during the Early Modern Period?

Key dates:	
1517	Martin Luther's '95 Theses' were posted on the door of a church in Germany.
1525	William Tyndale's Bible was secretly printed in England, although it was banned in England.
1534	Henry VIII became Head of the Church of England, replacing the Pope as the Head of the Church in England.
1547	Edward VI came to the throne, and Protestantism became the dominant religion in England.
1553	Mary I became queen, and during her reign 300 Protestants were executed.
1559	Queen Elizabeth I's Religious Settlement struck a balance between Protestantism and Catholicism.

Key terms:	
<b>Reformation</b>	The 16 <sup>th</sup> century movement that saw the Catholic Church being replaced as the dominant Church in England by the Protestant Church.
<b>Monastery</b>	The place where monks lived, and devoted their lives to God.
<b>Abbot</b>	The man who served as head of an abbey or monastery of monks.
<b>Treason</b>	The crime of betraying your country, usually by trying to kill the king.
<b>Heresy</b>	Expressing beliefs which went against the dominant Church.
<b>Superstition</b>	A belief that is considered irrational or not based in fact.
<b>Communion</b>	The Christian religious service where wine and bread are taken.
<b>Excommunicate</b>	To exclude from the Catholic Church. The Pope has the power to do this.
<b>Renaissance</b>	The movement from around the 14 <sup>th</sup> to the 16 <sup>th</sup> centuries which saw new ideas emerging about art, culture and religion.

Evidence that religious life changed dramatically:	Evidence that religious life did not change very much:
Martin Luther's '95 Theses' criticised the behaviour of those within the Catholic Church, and his ideas encouraged people to question traditional teachings.	Although ordinary people went along with the official changes in belief, many held on to their own belief systems, and continued to worship their own way in private.
Henry VIII made himself Head of the Church of England, shifting the religion of England in order to get a divorce.	Many people were executed for their religious beliefs, showing that as they continued to worship in the old way.
Ordinary church services changed dramatically as the different monarchs imposed their religious views. The appearance of the insides churches changed, too.	Religion continued to play a central role in people's lives throughout the early modern period, and Christianity remained the dominant religion of England.

'The Protestant Reformation sent violent shock waves through even the most seemingly stable communities and institutions. As old certainties were questioned, old loyalties tested and old practices undermined, the Reformation seemed to dissolve the glue that held together the social world.'

**Ethan H. Shagan, *Popular Politics and the English Reformation* (2003).**

'Of all the miracles and wonders of our time, I take the change of our sovereign lord's [king's] opinion on matters concerning religion to be the greatest.'

**Ambassador Richard Morison, writing in 1539.**

