

# Mini History Readings

Who? When? Where? What?

Which? How? Why did...?

Henry the eighth was king of England. He married his brother's widow, Katharine of Aragon when he was eighteen. She gave him one daughter, but no sons. Henry fell in love with Anne Boleyn, changed the religion of England and divorced Katharine. Anne also gave him one daughter. Henry got fed up and chopped her head off. He had four more wives after that. He had one son, who sadly died early. Anne's daughter Elizabeth became queen.

- 1) Who was Henry VIII?
- 2) Who did he marry?
- 3) Why did he divorce his first wife?
- 4) What did he change about England?
- 5) What happened to Anne Boleyn?
- 6) How many wives did Henry have in total?



Caesar left home early in the morning. His wife followed him and begged him to stay home. He refused. He walked towards the Senate. An old lady shouted at him. She warned him to be careful. He arrived at the Senate. At first, a group of his friends, fellow senators, greeted him warmly. Then, they drew their daggers and stabbed him. It was the ides of March.

- 1) When did Caesar leave home?
- 2) Who begged him not to go out?
- 3) Where did he walk to?
- 4) Who shouted at him and why?
- 5) At first, what did his friends do?
- 6) What did they do afterwards?
- 7) What date was it?



Caligula had a bad start in life: enemies poisoned his father, starved his mother to death and killed his two older brothers. He became emperor of Rome and made some good decisions. Unfortunately, eventually, power corrupted him. He killed many senators and angered a lot of people. He made his horse a consul. Finally, some of the praetorian guard assassinated him. The ordinary Romans rejoiced.

- 1) In what ways did he have a bad start?
- 2) Which city did he rule?
- 3) What did power do to him?
- 4) Did he treat the senators well?
- 5) Who did he make a consul?
- 6) How did the Romans react when he died?



In 1912, the Titanic set sail on her maiden (first) voyage (journey) from England to America. They said she was unsinkable! In the early hours of the morning of April 12<sup>th</sup>, she hit an iceberg. The iceberg tore through the length of the ship. She sank in under three hours. The captain cried. The band played on. In total, 1503 people died. Either they drowned, or froze to death.

- 1) What was 'Titanic'?
- 2) When did she set sail on her maiden voyage?
- 3) What did people say about her?
- 4) Why did she sink?
- 5) How long did it take for her to sink?
- 6) Did the band abandon ship?
- 7) How many people lost their lives, and how?



Tutankhamun - nicknamed 'King Tut' - was an Egyptian pharaoh, who died young, maybe as young as eighteen. Howard Carter, an archaeologist and his team, discovered Tut's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, in 1922. There were wonderful things in it! This discovery sparked a worldwide interest in Egyptology. An analysis of Tut's mummy showed many possible causes of death, including an infection in a leg, which may have been broken in a chariot race.

1. Who was King Tut?
2. Who discovered his tomb?
3. Where is his tomb?
4. In which year was it discovered?
5. What followed the discovery of the tomb?
6. Has his mummy been examined?
7. What might the cause of death have been?



Archimedes was a mathematician and philosopher who lived over 2000 years ago. Although he was Greek, he lived on Sicily. His most famous discovery was how to work out the volume of an irregular-shaped object. It is said he discovered this while in his bath, and ran through the town, Syracuse, shouting 'Eureka!'. After the Roman invasion of Sicily, a soldier came to take Archimedes. He told the soldier to wait. Then the soldier got angry and killed Archimedes.

- 1) Who was Archimedes?
- 2) What was his nationality?
- 3) Where did he live?
- 4) How did he discover how to calculate the volume of an irregular shape?
- 5) What does 'Eureka' mean in English?
- 6) How did he die?



# Reading History

**James Westfall Thompson**



## Reading History:

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Current Encyclopedia, a Monthly Record of Human Progress, 1902      **Readings in Modern Jewish History, from the American Revolution to the Present** Eliezer L. Ehrmann, 1977      **Reference Studies in Mediaeval History** James Westfall Thompson, 1907      **The History and Character of Calvinism** John Thomas McNeill, 1923 This is a masterful historical portrait of the whole movement of Calvinism for general readers and scholars alike      The History of Sicily from the Earliest Times Freeman, 1891      List of References on the History of the United States Thomas Powderly Martin, 1924

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