

The Reformation in France and England

Student Page

Introduction:

Now that the Protestants had broken with the Catholics, how would the new Protestant churches be organized? Since Protestants had rejected the authority of the pope and priests, who would lead Protestant congregations? How would Protestants and Catholics get along in kingdoms where both religions were practiced? Who else would become dissatisfied with the Catholic church and break away? You will find the answers to these questions as you study three important documents from the later part of the Protestant Reformation: a chapter from John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, the Edict of Nantes from Henry IV of France, and the British Act of Supremacy.

All Web links for this lesson can be found at:

<http://www.socialstudies.com/worldlinks.html>.

Directions:

Calvin's *Institutes*

<http://www.bible.org/docs/history/calvin/institut/ci400021.htm>

This lengthy text is just one chapter from John Calvin's influential *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

1. Scroll down to section 2, which begins, "By these words..." Whom does God employ in governing the church?
2. Scroll down to section 4, which begins, "Those who preside..." Who presides over the government of the church? Which of these have an "ordinary office" in the Church?
3. Scroll down to section 11, which begins, "The subject is comprehended..." What is the difference between the "external call" and the "secret call" that ministers receive? Describe the "secret call."

4. Why would it have been important for a Protestant scholar such as Calvin to define the structure and organization of the Protestant church?

Henry IV and the Edict of Nantes

http://www2.sunysuffolk.edu/andersje/edict_nantes.htm

The Edict of Nantes was passed by Henry IV of France in 1598. Read the Edict, then answer the following questions:

5. What does the Edict say is the most precious benefit God has granted Henry IV?
6. What does Henry IV order in Section III?
7. What does Henry IV order in Section VI?
8. What does Henry IV order in Section VII?
9. What does Henry IV prohibit in Sections XIII, XIV, and XVIII?

The Act of Supremacy (1534)

<http://tudorhistory.org/primary/supremacy.html>

The Act of Supremacy was passed by the English parliament in 1534. Read the Act, then answer the following questions:

10. The text contains the phrase "Be it enacted by authority of this present Parliament..." What did the Parliament enact?

11. The King "shall have full power and authority" to do what?

12. The second to last line of the Act states "any...foreign laws, foreign authority...to the contrary hereof notwithstanding." What did this mean for the relationship between the King of England and the Pope?

13. In conclusion, write one paragraph in which you compare and contrast 16th-century developments in the Protestant Reformation in France with developments in England. In your paragraph, include specific examples from the documents you have studied in this lesson.