



The Protestant Reformation

The Protestant Reformation is the name of the religious reform movement that divided the Roman Catholic Church. Corruption was the main reason that people wanted reform of the Church. Often, Popes were more concerned with politics than with spiritual matters. Many church officials used their church offices to gain wealth. Some clergy sold indulgences. An indulgence was a reduction of all or part of the punishment of a sin. In the Middle Ages, indulgences were earned by doing good deeds, such as joining the Crusades. But by the late 1400s, the Church gave indulgences in exchange for money.



Many Christians thought paying for indulgences was wrong. Martin Luther was one of these people. He was a German monk and professor who prayed, fasted, and tried to lead a holy life. The Church's corruption and worldliness disappointed Luther.

An event in 1517 was the last straw for Martin Luther. A priest named Johann Tetzel set up a pulpit near Wittenberg, Germany. He offered indulgences to any Christian who gave money to rebuild the Cathedral in Rome. Tetzel made it sound like buying these indulgences would guarantee entry into Heaven.

Martin Luther was outraged. He wrote a list of 95 arguments against indulgences. The list, called the "Ninety-Five Theses," said the Church was wrong to sell indulgences. Luther wrote that Christians could be saved only by faith in God. He posted his list on the door of the Wittenberg Church, and copies were distributed all over Europe. Later, Luther told Christians to reject the authority of Rome. He said that because the Church would not reform itself, it must be reformed by others.

The Church told Luther to take back what he had said, but he refused. The Pope excommunicated Luther in 1521, which means he was thrown out of the Church. The Holy Roman emperor declared Luther an outlaw. It became a crime for anyone to give him food or shelter.

But Luther had many powerful supporters, and thousands of Germans said he was a hero. Many people liked Luther's ideas. By 1530, Luther's followers called themselves Protestants because they protested the Pope's authority. They set up Lutheran churches. The Western Church had split. The Roman Catholic Church was beginning to lose much of the political power it had held for centuries.



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Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The religious reform movement that divided the Western Church is called the _____.

- A. Catholic Change
- B. Roman Reformation
- C. Protestant Reformation
- D. Lutheran Shift

2. People wanted reform in the Church because _____.

- A. Popes were more concerned with politics than spiritual matters
- B. many church officials used their offices to gain wealth
- C. some clergy sold indulgences
- D. all of the above

3. By the late 1400s, the Church gave indulgences in exchange for _____.

- A. good deeds
- B. money
- C. food
- D. prayers

4. _____ wrote the "Ninety-Five Theses."

- A. John Calvin
- B. The Pope
- C. Martin Luther
- D. Johann Tetzel

5. Luther's followers called themselves _____.

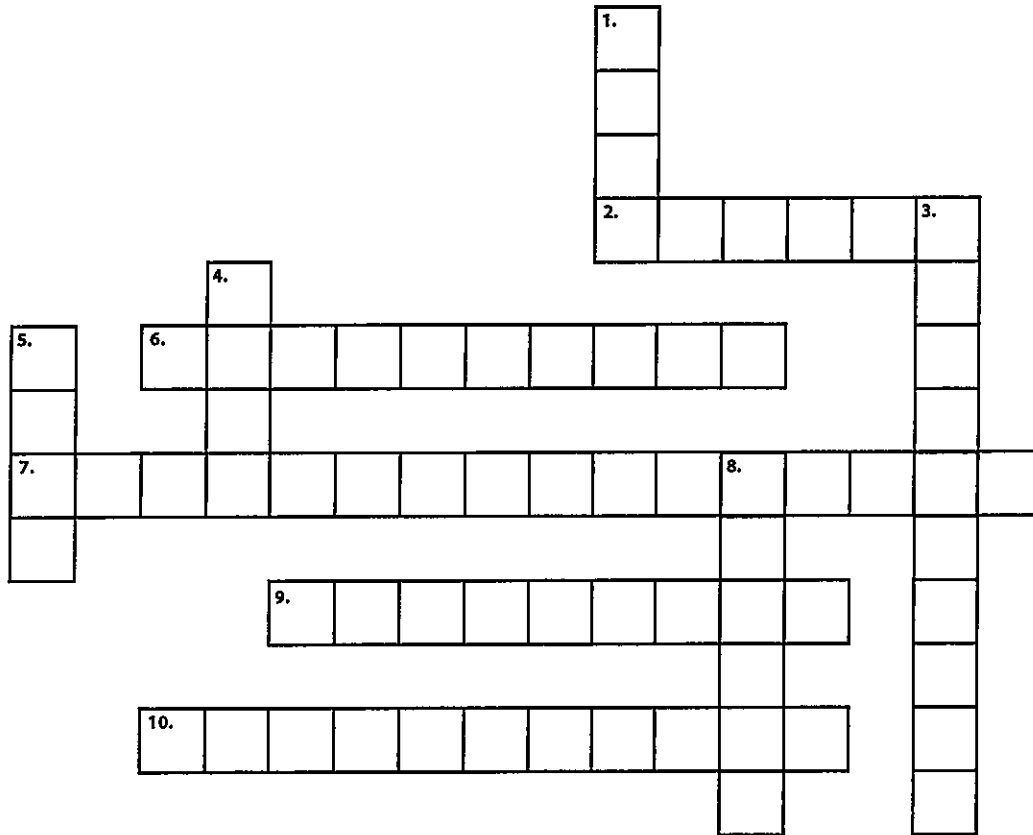
- A. Protestants
- B. Protestors
- C. Reformers
- D. Transformers



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Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

- The Holy Roman emperor declared Martin Luther a/an _____.
- _____ was the main reason that people wanted reform of the Church.
- The _____ said it was wrong for the Church to sell indulgences.
- Because of Martin Luther, the Roman Catholic Church began to lose much of its _____ power.
- Many Christians thought paying for _____ was wrong.

DOWN

- Martin Luther's supporters said he was a/an _____.
- Luther posted the "Ninety-Five Theses" on the door of the _____ Church.
- Luther told Christians to reject the authority of _____.
- Martin Luther was a German _____ and professor.
- A priest named Johann Tetzel made it sound like buying indulgences would guarantee entry into _____.



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Time Line – Henry VIII

England's King Henry VIII wanted a male heir. His first wife gave birth to a daughter, but after that she had no more children. Henry wanted to marry another woman who could give him a son. Church law did not allow divorce, and the Pope refused to end Henry's marriage. So Henry ended the Pope's power in England and began the Anglican Church. Use the time line to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

1509	• Henry VIII becomes king of England.
1516	• Henry's first wife, Catherine, gives birth to a baby girl, Mary. Catherine has no more children. Henry wants a son.
1527	• Henry asks the Pope to end his marriage, and the Pope refuses.
1529	• Henry ends the Pope's power in England and begins the Anglican Church.
1533	• Henry marries Anne Boleyn, who gives birth to a baby girl, Elizabeth.
1536	• Henry has Anne Boleyn beheaded.
1537	• Henry's third wife has a son, Edward. His wife dies.
1540–1544	• Henry divorces his fourth wife and beheads his fifth wife.
1547	• Henry dies. His sixth wife outlives him.

1. Why did Henry VIII want a divorce from Catherine?

2. In what year was Henry's son, Edward, born?

3. How many wives did Henry VIII have?



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Extension Activities

Choose one of the following activities to complete. Write the answer in complete sentences.

1. What was the Edict of Worms? What did it do? Look on the Internet or at the library to find out.
2. Who is John Calvin? What did he do? Look on the Internet or at the library to find out.
3. Martin Luther had strong beliefs. Is there something you believe in strongly enough to argue with others about? Explain your answer.



Quiz: The Protestant Reformation

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- _____ 1. People wanted to reform the Roman Catholic Church because of corruption.
- _____ 2. By the 1400s, the Church refused to give or sell indulgences to anyone.
- _____ 3. Johann Tetzel wrote the "Ninety-Five Theses."
- _____ 4. Martin Luther was a German monk.
- _____ 5. Luther told Christians to reject the authority of England.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. The Holy Roman emperor declared Luther a/an _____.

A. outlaw
B. hero
C. monk
D. saint

7. Johann Tetzel made it sound like buying indulgences would guarantee entry into _____.

A. the Cathedral in Rome
B. the Wittenberg Church
C. Heaven
D. Purgatory

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. What did Martin Luther's followers call themselves?
