

# THE Field of Gold



# WHAT?

- In 1520, **Henry VIII** of England and **Francis I** of France **met** near Calais in order to strengthen the bond between their two countries.
- About **12,000** people attended the event.



## WHEN?

- The meeting took place **from 7 to 24 June** in a valley between Ardres in France and Guînes the English territory of Calais and is sometimes described as **the first European summit in history.**



## WHY «FIELD OF GOLD»?

- For the sumptuousness of the materials used for:

1. the tents,
2. pavilions
3. other furnishings

That is why the valley took the name of *Val d'Or*.

- Both kings used the meeting as an opportunity to show off their grandeur and riches.





# HENRY'S TENT

- The Field of the Cloth of Gold owes its name to the spectacular fabric, cloth of gold, woven with strands of real gold that covered Henry's tent.





## A TEMPORARY WORK

- Everything was **temporary** and only served to make a show.
- Henry had commissioned a **portable palace** filled with:
  1. ornaments characteristic of a Christian royal court
  2. gold statues of the saints stood next to a crucifix festooned with pearls.
- Nearly six thousand men worked on the event.



Remember!  
The Event  
happened in  
1522!

While «The  
Act of  
Supremacy»  
dates back  
to 1534!

What  
conclusion  
would you  
draw?





# Insanely Sumptuous



- There two fountains placed at the entrance, which provided **wine and beer**.
- Behind the temporary palace, there were **ovens** and **kitchens**.
- In the fields beyond the castle, **thousands of tents** were erected for less distinguished visitors.
- Francis built an equally splendid temporary residence in the city of Ardres, in which Henry and his close entourage were received.
- These quarters had **blue velvet** walls richly **embroidered** with France's gold fleur-de-lis





# Bankrupt

- The event nearly bankrupted the two countries,
- According to historian Greg Jenner: *“King Francis I spent 400,000 livres (£40,000 in Tudor money) on this 2-week spectacle. But the crown later sold off lots of the fabric and accoutrements in 1543, recouping 125,000 livres..... King Henry VIII ... spent £36,000 on the festivities – more than his royal household’s entire annual expenditure, and more than 1/3 of England’s total annual income of £90,000...*
- It makes £32.3 million by today’s standards.



# WRESTLING

- During the summit great **tournaments** and contests took place, including.
  1. horseback combat
  2. jousting
  3. foot battles
  4. archery displays



# SPORTY KINGS

- Both kings had to follow strict protocols to prevent one from overshadowing the other.
- They could not compete against each other
- It was reported that: "*Francis I was injured in a somewhat violent activity, and Henry was so eager to show off his prowess that one of his best horses died of exhaustion.*"





## Kingly Combat

- One day Henry defied Francis:  
*"Brother, let us wrestle!"*
- Francis was 23 and Henry 29.
- Francis initially objected, but the latter managed to persuade him.
- Two headed towards a flat and grassy area for their match. T
- The French king overthrew him using a move known as the Breton trip.



## Was it Worthy?



- 23 months after the tournament, Henry VIII **declared war** on France, joining sides with the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.
- As **DICKENS** ironically summed up in his nonfiction chronicle "*A Child's History of England*", "Of course, nothing came of all these fine doings but a speedy renewal of the war between England and France, in which the two Royal companions and brothers in arms longed very earnestly to damage one another."





*The End*

