the tudors
history activity pack
Who Were The Tudors?

Five hundred years ago, the world was a very different place! We were only just realising that America existed and we had no idea about Australia. England, including the Principality of Wales and Scotland, were separate kingdoms, each with their own royal family.

- The Tudors were a Welsh-English family that ruled England and Wales from 1485 to 1603.
- Henry Tudor was crowned King of England on the battlefield at Bosworth after his army defeated Richard III and Henry killed him.
- Throughout the 118 years of ruling, the Tudors encouraged new religious ideas, overseas exploration and colonisation.
- Tudor England had two of the strongest monarchs ever to sit on the English throne: Henry VIII and his daughter Elizabeth I.
- The Tudors are famous for making England richer than ever before. As the country became wealthier, towns grew, beautiful houses were built and schools and colleges were set up. England was home to great painters, writers and musicians.
- Life had many problems when living during the Tudor reign, towns became overcrowded, roads were muddy and travelling was difficult, causing danger from fire and disease.
Tudor Monarchs

Through this book, we are going to have a look at the different Tudor Monarchs, starting with Henry VII.

**Henry VII 1485 – 1509**

Henry VII was the last king of England to win his throne on the field of battle. Henry VII’s reign was characterised by his success at restoring the power and stability of the English monarchy after the civil war, as well as his talent for replenishing the fortunes of an effectively bankrupt exchequer.

**Interesting fact:**

Henry was a big fan of taxes, he improved tax collection by introducing ruthlessly efficient systems.
Henry VIII 1509 - 1547

It’s fair to say that the popular image of Henry VIII as an obese, bloodthirsty control freak isn’t much of an exaggeration. Henry’s older brother Arthur was set to take the throne but at the age of 15 Arthur died of a mysterious illness. This left Henry as next in line to the throne and he took the crown in 1509 at the age of 17. Henry wasn’t always a large man, prior to his physical decline, Henry was 6 foot 4 inches and he had an athletic frame. Armour measurements from when he was a young man reveal a waist measurement of 34 to 36 inches. However, in his later life he weighed nearly 400 pounds.

Interesting fact:
Henry was rather paranoid about illness and would go to great lengths to avoid contracting the sweating sickness and the Plague. He would frequently spend weeks in isolation and steered well clear of anyone he thought might have been subjected to disease.
The Tudor Rose

Henry Tudor took the throne as Henry VII and, as promised, married Elizabeth of York in January 1486. The emblem of the new dynasty was the Tudor Rose which was created from the red rose of Lancaster and the white rose of York.
My Tudor Rose

Create your very own Tudor Rose by colouring in the template below! Choose your own colours to give it that personal touch.
Edward VI 1547 – 1553

Edward was King Henry VIII’s only legitimate son. His mother was Henry’s third wife, Jane Seymour. She died 12 days after Edward’s birth. His tutors found him to be intellectually gifted, he was a student of Greek, Latin, French, and theology. On January 28, 1547, Henry VIII died and Edward succeeded to the throne. In January 1553, Edward showed the first signs of Tuberculosis, and by May it was evident that the disease would be fatal. Working with Northumberland, he determined to exclude his two half-sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, from the succession and to put Northumberland’s daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Grey, and her male heirs in direct line for the throne.

Interesting fact:
He allowed two of his Uncles to be condemned to death. Although he did not make the decision to execute both men (that was done by the privy councillors who governed England on behalf of the king) Edward had sufficient authority to stop the executions if he had chosen to do so.
Tudor Monarchs

Mary I 1553 – 1558

When Edward VI died, Lady Jane was proclaimed queen by John Dudley and his supporters. Mary I, Henry VIII’s illegitimate daughter, enjoyed widespread popular support and on 19 July, she was proclaimed as Queen. Lady Jane was imprisoned in the Tower of London and Dudley was executed for high treason.

If we exclude the disputed reigns of Lady Jane and Empress Matilda, Mary I was the first Queen of England, i.e. a female monarch who reigns in her own right and not by being a wife of a king.

However, she is more known for the hundreds of persecutions of Protestants that were carried out during her reign. She is condemned for creating an anti-Catholic and anti-Spanish sentiment in England during the time.

Mary I abolished all religious legislation passed under Edward VI. Over the next three years, hundreds of Protestants were burned at the stake. It is due to this that she became known as Bloody Mary.
Tudor Monarchs

Mary I 1553 – 1558

Interesting fact:
In 1558, Mary fell ill during an influenza epidemic and died childless on 17 November. She was succeeded by Queen Elizabeth I.

Colour me in:
Tudor True or False

Circle whether you think each statement is true or false – then check the answers which are on the next page!

1. Girls could marry at the age of twelve?  
   **True** OR **False**

2. People deliberately made their teeth look black.  
   **True** OR **False**

3. If someone was ill, the Tudor doctors made sure they did not have any cuts so no one could catch their disease.  
   **True** OR **False**

4. Children were not allowed to drink alcohol, even in Tudor times.  
   **True** OR **False**

5. People used to go to the toilet at the same time.  
   **True** OR **False**

6. Tudor people had baths once a month.  
   **True** OR **False**

7. Tudors loved gambling.  
   **True** OR **False**
1. **True** - But they still had to live with their parents until they were 16!

2. **True** - Because they knew sugar made your teeth go black and sugar was REALLY expensive. So they made their teeth black because they wanted people to think they were rich!

3. **False** - The Tudors thought that illness was caused by too much blood in the body. So if someone was ill, they would cut them and squeeze some blood out.

4. **False** - Everyone drank lots of beer, even children, because it was safer to drink than dirty water.

5. **True** - Tudor toilets were called ‘privies’ and some of them were built so that 6 people could go to the toilet at once.

6. **False** - People thought washing in water was unhealthy (which it was in the sewer water they used!) so they just wore strong perfume to cover up their disgusting smell.

7. **True** - Henry VIII loved gambling so much that in 3 years he managed to lose £3242 when most people earned 5p a week.
Tudor Monarchs

Elizabeth I 1558 - 1603

Although Elizabeth is now hailed as one of our greatest monarchs, she should never have got anywhere near the throne! She was not only a girl at a time when the laws of succession favoured boys, but she had an elder sister, Mary. Elizabeth was also removed from the line of succession altogether when her parents’ marriage was declared invalid prior to Anne Boleyn’s execution, and was only reinstated thanks to the kindly intervention of her last stepmother.

Elizabeth reigned as queen of England and Ireland for 44 years until her death in 1603. She was the last monarch of the Tudor period.

During her reign, Elizabeth took 25 royal progresses throughout England. This helped to endear the Queen to her people. Elizabeth refused to ride in a carriage during these progresses, and, instead, rode on horseback. Elizabeth is famously known as the “Virgin Queen”. Yet in 1566, parliament attempted to force her to marry. Elizabeth refused, declaring that she had married her country and had no intention of marrying a man in the future.
Tudor Monarchs

Elizabeth I 1558 - 1603

Interesting fact:
Elizabeth was infamous for colourful language, a characteristic she is said to have inherited from her father, King Henry VIII.

Colour me in:
Understanding Roman Numerals

Kings, Queens and Popes who have the same names as their predecessors use Roman Numerals to be identified.

I: It’s easy to understand, but first it’s important to learn the basic value of each digit. There are only a few Roman numerals, so it doesn't take long to learn them:

1. I = 1
2. V = 5
3. X = 10
4. L = 50
5. C = 100
6. D = 500
7. M = 1000

II: Roman numerals add numbers with larger digits first. If the digits are ordered largest to smallest, all you need to do to read them is add the value of each digit. Here are some examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
VI &= 5 + 1 = 6 \\
LXI &= 50 + 10 + 1 = 61 \\
III &= 1 + 1 + 1 = 3
\end{align*}
\]
Understanding Roman Numerals Continued

III: Treat numbers with smaller digits first as subtraction. Most people who use Roman numerals save space by using subtraction to show certain numbers. You'll know this is happening if a smaller digit is in front of a larger digit. This only happens in a few situations:

\[
\begin{align*}
IV &= 1 \text{ subtracted from } 5 = 5 - 1 = 4 \\
IX &= 1 \text{ subtracted from } 10 = 10 - 1 = 9 \\
XL &= 10 \text{ subtracted from } 50 = 50 - 10 = 40 \\
XC &= 10 \text{ subtracted from } 100 = 100 - 10 = 90 \\
CM &= 100 \text{ subtracted from } 1000 = 1000 - 100 = 900
\end{align*}
\]
What Number Monarch?

Have a look at the roman numerals which follow the Kings names. Work out what number monarch they are and put your answer below the picture. You will find the correct answers at the bottom of the page.

Edward VII

Answer: ____________________

William III

Answer: ____________________

George VI

Answer: ____________________

George IV

Answer: ____________________

Answers: Edward VII, William III, George VI, George IV
Henry VIII’s Wives

Catherine of Aragon
Date of Marriage: 1508-1533
What happened to her? Divorce

Catherine was first married to Arthur, Henry’s older brother, but was betrothed to Henry after Arthur’s death. Catherine had a string of failed pregnancies and finally gave birth to a healthy daughter in 1516, this was Mary I. Although Henry seemed to adore Catherine, the marriage was annulled on the basis that she had been his brother’s wife.

Anne Boleyn
Date of Marriage: 1533-1536
What happened to her? Beheaded

Clever, pretty and witty. Anne soon attracted Henry’s attention as the handmaiden of Catherine of Aragon. She refused to become a mistress and demanded that he wed her. This led Henry to seek a divorce and start the English reformation. Although Anne produced the would-be heir, Elizabeth, her failure to produce a son had Henry plot her downfall.

Jane Seymour
Date of Marriage: 1536-1537
What happened to her? Died after giving birth

It is highly likely that Jane Seymour was the mistress who disposed of Anne. Seymour married Henry shortly after Anne’s execution. Jane gave Henry his much desired male heir, Edward, and in doing so, secured his everlasting love. She died from postnatal complications and Henry was later buried next to her.
## Henry VIII’s Wives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife</th>
<th>Date of Marriage</th>
<th>What happened to her?</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne of Cleves</td>
<td>Jan 1540-July 1540</td>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>A German princess, Anne was selected by Henry from nothing more than a portrait. Henry asked the artist to paint Anne realistically, and not to flatter her. However, when Henry met her he was greatly disappointed and was not enthusiastic about the marriage. The marriage provided a vital alliance with the Germans, but was later annulled.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Howard</td>
<td>1540-1541</td>
<td>Beheaded</td>
<td>Referred to by Henry as his ‘rose without a thorn,’ the young and pretty woman quickly caught the King’s eye and the two were soon married. However, in early 1941, Howard allegedly embarked upon an affair with Henry’s male courtier, Thomas Culpepper. Howard was charged with treason and adultery, found guilty and executed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Parr</td>
<td>1543-1547</td>
<td>Survived</td>
<td>Having had four husbands, of which Henry was the third, Catherine Parr was the most married Queen in English History. Her friendship with Henry’s daughter Mary caused her to catch the King’s attention. As Queen, Catherine worked to restore Henry’s court as a family home, and helped strengthen the Tudor line, thereby ensuring Elizabeth’s eventual succession.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Tudor Coat of Arms

In Tudor times, a special badge, or coat of arms, was used to show who you were. Pictures on a flag or a shield could be used to show who your family were or where you came from. Using pictures and shapes in this way is called heraldry.

When knights wore helmets during a battle or a joust, it was hard to tell who was who. So they used heraldry to tell each other apart. Their followers wore uniforms with the same coat of arms.

You did not have to fight in a battle or joust to have a coat of arms.

Men, women, and even towns and universities, used heraldry. Coats of arms were used on buildings and they were put on letters to show who sent them.

Having a coat of arms showed that you and your family were important. No matter how much money you had, it was hard to be accepted by the highest people at court without the right family coat of arms.

Royal House of Tudor Official Coat-of-Arms, 15th Century, England
My Coat of Arms

Research and plan how you will design your own family or personal coat of arms.

My family is/ I am:

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

Our family motto/ My motto or rule:

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

Animals that would represent my family/me:

Colours that could feature and why:

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

Additional info:

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________
My Coat of Arms

Design your coat of arms on the template below:
Sir Thomas Wyatt

Thomas Wyatt was a Tudor poet at the court of Henry VIII. It was rumoured that he was once the lover of Henry VIII’s second wife, Anne Boleyn. He was arrested in May 1536 at the same time as Anne but wasn’t charged and later released. Wyatt’s poetry included ‘Whoso List to Hunt’, ‘Sometime I Fled the Fire’ and ‘Circa Regna Tonat’. The latter was written while Wyatt was in the Tower and translates as “about the throne the thunder rolls”.

In Spain
By Sir Thomas Wyatt

Tagus, farewell! that westward with thy streams
   Turns up the grains of gold already tried
With spur and sail, for I go seek the Thames
Gainward the sun that shewth her wealthy pride,
And to the town which Brutus sought by dreams,
   Like bended moon doth lend her lusty side.
My king, my country, alone for whome I live,
   Of mighty love the wings for this me give.
Tudor Wordsearch

HENRY VIII
ARCHBISHOP
EXECUTION
REFORMATION
THOMAS CROMWELL
WINDSOR CASTLE
ANNE BOLEYN
KATHERINE
RICHARD RICH
HAMPTON COURT
CATHERINE PARR
MONASTERIES
JANE SEYMOUR
PRIVY COUNCIL