



The Tudors

An in-depth study into the local history of the Tudors and the impact of this era on our local area

History

The Tudor Rose:

A combination of the red rose of Lancaster and the white rose of York formed at the end of the War of the Roses.



Objectives

- To use different sources of evidence to find out about the past.
- To understand the way of Tudor life using first hand experiences.
- To use evidence to gain an understanding of Tudor life for the rich and poor.
- To construct and explore the key events of the Tudor era.
- To compare modern advances with the past.

Timeline

- 1485 – Henry VII seizes the throne
- 1502 - 1503 – Henry VII secures peace treaty with Scotland
- 1509 – Henry VIII crowned King
- 1512 – Royal Mail is founded
- 1534-1539 – Church of England is formed
- 1545 – Henry VIII expands the Royal Navy to compete with France and Spain
- 1547 – Edward VI crowned King at the age of 9 and makes country protestant
- 1553 – Mary 1 is crowned Queen and tries to return England to Catholicism
- 1564 – William Shakespeare is born
- 1558 – Elizabeth 1's long reign as Queen begins
- 1587 – Mary, Queen of Scots is executed by order of Queen Elizabeth
- 1588 – Royal Navy defeats the Spanish Armada
- 1601 - The 'Poor Law' is introduced.
- 1603 – The Tudor Dynasty ends with Elizabeth's death as she had no children. James VI of Scotland is named King as her closest relative.

Key Vocabulary

coronation	the ceremony during which a King or Queen is crowned.
monarch	the King or Queen.
plague	a deadly disease spread by the fleas on rats (in Tudor times)
protestant/catholic	both branches of the Christian religion
weaver	someone who weaves thread to make cloth
mercier	a person who trades in textiles
reign	rule as a monarch
wealth	an abundance of valuable possessions or money

Key Content: Tudor Life

Henry VII secured the start of the Tudor Dynasty when the War of the Roses – a civil war between the houses of Lancaster and York – was won in 1487 at the Battle of Stoke Field.

In 16th century **England**, most of the population lived in small villages and made their living from farming. However, towns grew larger and more important. During the 16th century, trade and industry grew rapidly and England became a more commercial country. During this period England became richer and richer.

Upper class and middle class people benefitted from the growing wealth of the country. However, for the poor in **Tudor England** life did not improve. For them, life was hard and rough.

Houses in Tudor England were very different for the rich and poor. Grand houses were built for those wealthiest – for example, Coughton Court in Warwickshire - but most lived in simple wattle and daub huts.



Key Content: William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is a famous **British playwright**, which means he's someone who wrote plays. Shakespeare is considered to be one of the most talented writers of all time.

William Shakespeare was born at the height of the Tudor Dynasty during Queen Elizabeth 1's reign. He was born locally in Stratford Upon Avon in **April 1564** and after a life in London, he returned to Stratford Upon Avon where he died on the **23rd April 1616**.

Growing up in **Stratford-upon-Avon**, William lived in a house with his big family on Henley Street. He went to King Edward VI Grammar School (KES) where he learned about poetry, history, Greek, and Latin. You can visit his birthplace on Henley Street and KES is still a school.

In **London**, Shakespeare wrote plays for a group called 'Lord Chamberlain's Men'. They built a theatre called the Globe Theatre and this is where they performed Shakespeare's greatest plays to wide audiences – even the Queen!

Tudor Monarchs

Henry VII (1485-1509) – Came to the throne at the end of the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

Henry VIII (1509-1547) – The best known of the Monarchs. Mostly because he had six wives!

Edward VI (1547-1553) – The child King. He reigned from the age of 9 to 15

Lady Jane Grey (1553) – the public did not support her and she reigned for only 9 days.

Mary 1 (1553-1558) – the daughter of Henry VIII. She returned England to Catholicism.

Elizabeth 1 (1558-1603) – the last and longest reigning Tudor Monarch.

Home Learning Suggestions

1. The Tudors started to experiment more with herbs in food and medicine – try growing your own herb garden.
2. Research and make a booklet, poster or PowerPoint about one of the Tudor Monarchs.
3. Read Shakespeare stories for younger readers.
4. Visit a local Tudor building (Coughton Court, Anne Hathaway's house, Shakespeare's Birthplace).