The Tudors

The Tudors ruled England for 118 years and are one of the most famous families in history. Their **reign** started with King Henry VII in 1485 and ended when Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603. In that time, the country went through many changes.

**Who Were the Tudors?**

‘Tudor’ is the surname that each of the kings and queens during this period had. When Henry Tudor defeated Richard III in the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, he became King. He took the name Henry VII but his surname was still ‘Tudor’, which meant that it was the beginning of England’s Tudor period.

**The Tudor Rose**

Henry VII’s family sign was a red rose. Elizabeth of York’s family sign was a white rose. When he married her in 1486, the signs came together to create a completely new red and white flower. This was known as the Tudor Rose and it is still used as a symbol of England today.

**Henry VIII**

When Henry VII died in 1509, his son came to power. His name was Henry VIII and he went on to become one of history’s most famous figures. In his 37-year reign, Henry VIII had six wives, created a new church and ordered more than 70,000 people to be executed!

Henry’s first act as King was to marry Catherine of Aragon, who was once married to Henry’s brother. However, he divorced her in 1533 because she hadn’t given him a son. Henry then married Anne Boleyn; she didn’t give him a son either so Henry had her beheaded! In all, Henry VIII had two wives executed and he divorced two of them. One wife died of natural causes and one survived him.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Beheaded</td>
<td>Died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Beheaded</td>
<td>Survived</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

visit twinkl.com

visit twinkl.com
The Church of England
When the Pope refused to allow Henry to divorce his first wife, it made him very angry. He wanted to get his own way and so he made his own strand of Christianity, calling it the Church of England. He named himself as head. That way, he gave himself permission to divorce Catherine!

Henry's Children
After Henry VIII died in 1547, three of his children went on to rule England. His son, Edward VI, was very young when he became King and died when he was just 15. Mary I was known for being cold-hearted but Elizabeth I was the most famous of all. She was Queen for 44 years, until she died in 1603, ending the Tudor period.

Did You Know...?
Lady Jane Grey became Queen after Edward VI died. She only reigned for nine days before Mary I was announced as Queen!

Glossary
Pope: Head of the Roman Catholic Church.
reign: To rule as king or queen.
Spanish Armada: A fleet of warships from Spain that attacked England.
1485
Henry VII becomes King. Tudor period begins.

1502-1503
Agreed peace with Scotland.

1509
Henry VIII becomes King.

1547
Edward VI becomes King.

July 1553
Lady Jane Grey becomes Queen.

1553
Mary I becomes Queen.

1558
Elizabeth I becomes Queen.

1588
The Spanish Armada is defeated.

1603
Elizabeth I dies. The Tudor period ends.
Questions

1. Who was the first Tudor to rule England?
   - King Henry VII
   - King Henry VIII
   - Queen Mary I
   - Queen Elizabeth I

2. Where does the name ‘Tudor’ come from?

3. Whose family symbols came together to create the Tudor Rose?

4. Explain how you think Henry VIII felt in 1509. Think of two different emotions and explain why you think he felt that way.

5. Explain how Henry VIII’s first wife was already known to the family.

6. He wanted to get his own way and so he made his own strand of Christianity, calling it the Church of England.
   Imagine you are the Pope. Write Henry VIII a short message explaining how you feel about what he has done.

7. Which two women did Henry VIII divorce?
8. Match the numbers to these events in the text, so that they are in order. The first one has been done for you.

- [ ] The Spanish Armada is defeated.
- [ ] Elizabeth I becomes Queen.
- [ ] Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn.
- [ ] Henry VII died in 1509.
1. Who was the first Tudor to rule England?
   - King Henry VII
   - King Henry VIII
   - Queen Mary I
   - Queen Elizabeth I

2. Where does the name ‘Tudor’ come from?
   ‘Tudor’ is the surname of the kings and queens during the Tudor period. The first one was Henry Tudor.

3. Whose family symbols came together to create the Tudor Rose?
   Henry Tudor’s family symbol (red rose) and Elizabeth of York’s family symbol (white rose) came together to create the Tudor Rose.

4. Explain how you think Henry VIII felt in 1509. Think of two different emotions and explain why you think he felt that way.
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: In 1509, Henry VIII became King. He probably felt really happy about being King but really sad that his father had died.

5. Explain how Henry VIII’s first wife was already known to the family.
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: Henry VIII’s first wife was Catherine of Aragon. She had been married to Henry’s brother so the family would already have known her.

6. He wanted to get his own way and so he made his own strand of Christianity, calling it the Church of England.
   Imagine you are the Pope. Write Henry VIII a short message explaining how you feel about what he has done.
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: Dear Henry VIII, I am very disappointed that you have broken away to create the Church of England. As the head of all Roman Catholics, I need to tell you to stay true to the teachings of God.

7. Which two women did Henry VIII divorce?
   Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon and Anne of Cleves.

8. Match the numbers to these events in the text, so that they are in order. The first one has been done for you.
   5 The Spanish Armada is defeated.
   1 Henry Tudor defeated Richard III in the Battle of Bosworth.
   4 Elizabeth I becomes Queen.
   3 Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn.
   2 Henry VII died in 1509.
The Tudors

The Tudors ruled England for 118 years and are one of the most famous families in history. It started with King Henry VII in 1485 and ended in 1603 when Queen Elizabeth I died without an heir. In that time, the country went through many changes.

Who Were the Tudors?
‘Tudor’ is the surname that each of the kings and queens during this period had. When Henry Tudor defeated Richard III in the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, he became King. He took the name Henry VII but his surname was still ‘Tudor’, which meant it was the beginning of England’s Tudor period.

The Tudor Rose
With Henry becoming King, it brought an end to the Wars of the Roses. This was an ongoing fight between two royal families – the House of Lancaster, whose emblem was a red rose, and the House of York, represented by a white rose. In 1486, a year after his triumph, Henry (who was from the House of Lancaster) married Elizabeth of York, uniting both houses. As a symbol of this union, the two roses were merged to create the Tudor Rose, which is still used as an emblem of England today.

Henry VIII
When Henry VII died in 1509, his son – also called Henry – came to power. He was crowned Henry VIII and went on to become one of history’s most famous figures. During his 37-year reign, Henry VIII made history in so many ways. He had six wives, created a new church and was responsible for having more than 70,000 people executed!

Henry’s first act as King was to marry Catherine of Aragon. He then divorced her in 1533, with her not having given him a son. Henry then married Anne Boleyn. She didn’t give him a son either and Henry had her beheaded! In all, Henry VIII had two wives executed, two he

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Beheaded</td>
<td>Died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Beheaded</td>
<td>Survived</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
divorced, one died of natural causes and one of them survived him.

The Church of England
When the Pope refused to allow Henry to divorce his first wife, Henry decided to take matters into his own hands. Henry split from the Roman Catholic Church and made his own strand of Christianity! He called it the Church of England and he named himself as head. That way, he gave himself permission to divorce Catherine!

Henry's Children
After Henry VIII died in 1547, three of his children went on to rule England. Elizabeth I was the most famous of all. She was Queen for 44 years until she died in 1603, ending the Tudor period.

Did You Know...?
Edward VI was King for just six years before he died aged 15. However, his successor, Lady Jane Grey, had an even shorter reign. She held the throne for a mere nine days before Mary I was proclaimed Queen.

Glossary
emblem: A symbol, like a badge or sign.
heir: A person (usually a son or daughter) who is given the position, property and wealth of another person (usually their parent) when they die.
Pope: Head of the Roman Catholic Church.
Protestant: A member of a Christian faith that is separate from the Roman Catholic Church.
Roman Catholic: A member of a Christian faith that has the Pope as its head.
1485  Henry VII crowned King. Tudor period begins.

1509  Henry VIII crowned King.

1512  The Royal Mail begins.

1534-1539  Henry VIII splits from the Roman Catholic Church.

1547  Edward VI crowned King. England becomes Protestant.

1553  Mary I crowned Queen.

July 1553  Jane Grey’s reign as Queen lasts nine days.

1558  Elizabeth I crowned Queen.

1588  The Spanish Armada is defeated.

1603  Elizabeth I dies. The Tudor period ends and the Stuart era begins.
Questions

1. Which king and queen started and ended the Tudor period?

2. **In 1486, a year after his triumph, Henry married Elizabeth of York.**
   Why might this have been hard for Elizabeth’s family to live with?

3. What is the Tudor Rose?

4. Do you think Henry VIII married for love? Give reasons in your answer.

5. How long was Lady Jane Grey Queen for?

6. Which of these dates are periods in which a Tudor king or queen was on the throne?
   Tick **two**.
   
   ○ 1485-1509
   ○ 1509-1574
   ○ 1553-1558
   ○ 1558-1903

7. Match the numbers to these events in the text so that they are in order. The first one has been done for you.
   
   ■ The Royal Mail begins.
   1 The Battle of Bosworth.
   ■ Split from the Roman Catholic Church.
   ■ End of the Wars of the Roses.
   ■ The Spanish Armada is defeated.
8. **Queen Elizabeth I died without an heir.**

What does this mean and how do you think Queen Elizabeth I felt knowing that this was going to happen?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

9. What two events happened in 1553? Explain how this may have affected the country.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
Answers

1. Which king and queen started and ended the Tudor period?
   King Henry VII started the Tudor period and it ended with Queen Elizabeth I.

2. *In 1486, a year after his triumph, Henry married Elizabeth of York.*
   Why might this have been hard for Elizabeth’s family to live with?
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: *A year before the marriage, Henry’s family had defeated Elizabeth’s family in the Wars of the Roses. There may have still been bad feelings towards Henry from Elizabeth’s family.*

3. What is the Tudor Rose?
   The Tudor Rose is an emblem that symbolises the union between the House of Lancaster and the House of York. It merges the red and white roses of both houses.

4. Do you think Henry VIII married for love? Give reasons in your answer.
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: *Henry VIII may have loved his wives but overall, I think he married them to give him a son. He had two of his wives executed and he divorced two others so it makes me think he probably didn’t love them.*

5. How long was Lady Jane Grey Queen for?
   Lady Jane Grey was Queen for just nine days.

6. Which of these dates are periods in which a Tudor king or queen was on the throne?
   Tick two.
   - ☒ 1485-1509
   - ☐ 1509-1574
   - ☒ 1553-1558
   - ☐ 1558-1903

7. Match the numbers to these events in the text so that they are in order. The first one has been done for you.
   - 4 The Royal Mail begins.
   - 1 The Battle of Bosworth.
   - 3 Split from the Roman Catholic Church.
   - 2 End of the Wars of the Roses.
   - 5 The Spanish Armada is defeated.
8. **Queen Elizabeth I died without an heir.**

What does this mean and how do you think Queen Elizabeth I felt knowing that this was going to happen?

*Pupils’ own responses, such as:* It means Queen Elizabeth I didn’t have a son or daughter who could take over from her as king or queen when she died. This must have made her sad as she probably would have wanted a child to rule England after her and it also meant the Tudor name was going to end.

9. What two events happened in 1553? Explain how this may have affected the country.

*Pupils’ own responses, such as:* In 1553, Edward VI died and Lady Jane Grey became Queen. However, her reign lasted just nine days before Mary I became Queen. This must have unsettled the country as the people would have had three rulers in one year.
The Tudors reigned in England for 118 years and are one of the most famous families ever to have ruled the nation. The Tudor era started with King Henry VII in 1485 and ended in 1603 when Queen Elizabeth I died without an heir. In that time, the Tudors changed the course of history.

Who Were the Tudors?
‘Tudor’ is simply the surname that each of the kings and queens during this period had. When Henry Tudor defeated Richard III in the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, he became King. He took the name Henry VII but his surname was still ‘Tudor’ – hence the beginning of England’s Tudor period.

The Tudor Rose
With Henry becoming King, it brought an end to the Wars of the Roses. This was an ongoing feud between two royal families – the House of Lancaster, whose emblem was a red rose, and the House of York, represented by a white rose. In 1486, a year after his triumph in battle, the Lancastrian Henry married Elizabeth of York, uniting both houses. As a symbol of this union, the two roses were merged to create the Tudor Rose, which is still used as an emblem of England today.

Henry VIII
When Henry VII died in 1509, his son – also called Henry – came to power. The young 17-year-old was crowned Henry VIII and went on to become one of history’s most famous figures. In his 37-year reign, Henry VIII made history in many ways. He had six wives, created a new church and was responsible for having more than 70,000 people executed!

Henry’s first act as King was to marry his brother’s widow, Catherine of Aragon. He divorced her in 1533 having not given him a son and Henry went on to marry one of Catherine’s ladies-in-waiting. Her name was Anne Boleyn. In all, Henry VIII had six wives. Two were executed, two he divorced, one died of natural causes and one of them survived him.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Beheaded</td>
<td>Died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Beheaded</td>
<td>Survived</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Church of England
When the Pope refused to allow Henry to divorce his first wife, Henry decided to take matters into his own hands. At the time, most people in England were Roman Catholic. But, eager to get his own way, Henry created his own strand of Christianity called the Church of England. This event in history is known as the English Reformation.

Henry’s Children
After Henry VIII died in 1547, three of his children went on to rule England but it was his daughter, Elizabeth I, who became arguably the most famous of all. She was Queen for 44 long years until she died in 1603, ending the Tudor period.

Did You Know...?
Mary I earned the nickname 'Bloody Mary' because Protestant people were killed during her reign.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tudor Kings and Queens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry VII – 1485-1509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry VIII – 1509-1547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward VI – 1547-1553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Grey – July 1553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary I – 1553-1558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth I – 1558-1603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tudor Timeline

1485
Henry VII crowned King. Tudor period begins.

1502-1503
Peace treaty with Scotland.

1509
Henry VIII crowned King.

1512
England's postal service, The Royal Mail, begins.

1547
Edward VI crowned King. England becomes Protestant.

1553
Mary I crowned Queen.

July 1553
Jane Grey's reign as Queen lasts nine days.

1558
Elizabeth I crowned Queen.

1585
England set up colonies in America.

1588
The Spanish Armada is defeated.

1585
England becomes Protestant.

1588
Elizabeth I dies. The Tudor period ends and the Stuart era begins.

1534-1539
English Reformation.
Questions

1. Explain the significance of the events of 1485 and how that shaped history.

2. Which houses were involved in the Wars of the Roses?

3. What is the Tudor Rose and why do you think it was important?

4. When Henry VII died in 1509, his son – also called Henry – came to power.
   Summarise Henry VIII’s life in two or three sentences.

5. Do you think Henry VIII married for love? Give reasons in your answer.

6. Which of these dates are periods in which a Tudor king or queen was on the throne?
   Tick three.
   - 1553-1554
   - 1558-1603
   - 1553-1585
   - 1547-1553
7. What was the English Reformation and when did it take place?

8. Why was 1512 a good year to be a letter-writer?

9. Match the Tudor kings and queens to the correct fact.

   | Henry VII | son of Henry VIII |
   | Henry VIII | defeated Richard III |
   | Edward VI | married his sister-in-law |
   | Elizabeth I | ruled in the 16th and 17th century |

10. What is a Protestant and why wasn't it a good time to be one during Mary I’s reign?
Answers

1. Explain the significance of the events of 1485 and how that shaped history.
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: 1485 marked the beginning of the Tudor period. When Henry Tudor defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, he became King Henry VII and the Tudors went on to rule England for 118 years.

2. Which houses were involved in the Wars of the Roses?
   The two houses involved in the Wars of the Roses were the House of Lancaster and the House of York.

3. What is the Tudor Rose and why do you think it was important?
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: The Tudor Rose was an emblem that combined the white rose of York with the red rose of Lancaster. It was important because it symbolised the end to the Wars of the Roses and the union between the two houses with the marriage of Henry Tudor and Elizabeth of York.

4. **When Henry VII died in 1509, his son – also called Henry – came to power.**
   Summarise Henry VIII’s life in two or three sentences.
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: Henry VIII had six wives, created his own Church and was responsible for having more than 70,000 people executed. He also had three children who went on to rule England after he died.

5. Do you think Henry VIII married for love? Give reasons in your answer.
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: Henry VIII may have loved his wives but overall, I think he married them to give him a son. He had two of his wives executed and he divorced two others so it makes me think he probably didn’t love them.

6. Which of these dates are periods in which a Tudor king or queen was on the throne?
   Tick three.
   - 1553-1554
   - 1558-1603
   - 1553-1585
   - 1547-1553

7. What was the English Reformation and when did it take place?
   Pupil’s own responses, such as: The English Reformation was when Henry VIII broke away from the Roman Catholic Church to create his own strand of Christianity, called the Church of England. It happened between 1534 and 1539.
8. Why was 1512 a good year to be a letter-writer?
   
   Pupils’ own responses, such as: 1512 was a good year to be a letter-writer as England’s postal service, The Royal Mail, began.

9. Match the Tudor kings and queens to the correct fact.

   - Henry VII
   - Henry VIII
   - Edward VI
   - Elizabeth I

   - son of Henry VIII
   - defeated Richard III
   - married his sister-in-law
   - ruled in the 16th and 17th century

10. What is a Protestant and why wasn’t it a good time to be one during Mary I’s reign?
    
    Pupils’ own responses, such as: A protestant is a member of a Christian faith that is separate from the Roman Catholic Church. It was a bad time to be one during Mary I’s reign as she had some Protestants killed.