









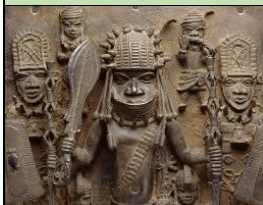
# The Tudors

The Tudor rule began at the end of a violent 30 year civil war that had a terrible impact on the lands and people of England. Henry Tudor took the throne after defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth which ended the civil war known as the War of the Roses. Henry Tudor took the title Henry VII and was the first of five monarchs to make up the Tudor reign. This period of time saw significant changes in daily life, politics and religious beliefs throughout Britain. It was also a time of global exploration and popular entertainment. The Tudor dynasty helped lay the foundations for the exploration and colonisation that were to make England a powerful global force.

## Main events

<p><b>1485</b> Battle of Bosworth Field. Henry VII becomes King.</p> 	<p><b>1509</b> Henry VIII becomes King.</p> 	<p><b>1534</b> Henry VIII is made head of the <u>Church of England</u>.</p> 	<p><b>1547</b> Edward VI becomes King of England.</p> 	<p><b>1553</b> Mary I succeeds to the throne.</p> 	<p><b>1558</b> Elizabeth I becomes Queen of England (<u>Elizabethan era</u>).</p> 	<p><b>1588</b> England defeated the Spanish Armada.</p> 	<p><b>1603</b> Elizabeth I dies and King James I takes over. Tudor rule ends and the <u>Stuarts</u> rule begin.</p> 
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## What else was happening at the time?



The **Kingdom of Benin**, in West Africa, was around at the same time as the Tudors. The first British traders to make contact with the Edo people were in fact people from Tudor times! You will learn about this next term in your history lessons.



When the Tudor period started, the **Aztec Empire** was still thriving. The Aztecs lived in what we know today as Mexico, South America. In 1519 however, they were taken over by a Spanish explorer called Hernan Cortes, and the Aztec Empire was destroyed.

## What should I already know?

- In year 3 you learnt that a lot of early British history went unrecorded because people did not have the means to record it. Thankfully, the Tudor period is a time of history we know lots about because it was able to be recorded in many different ways. We have things like artwork, diaries, royal and government documents, literature, buildings and objects that tell us all about what life in Tudor Britain was like. Many of these artefacts are also well preserved.
- When looking British history from Stone Age (Y3) to Anglo-Saxons (Y4), you learnt about how much life in Britain changed with the influence of new technologies, advances in farming and different rulers such as Alfred the Great. Life in Britain continued to change drastically in Tudor times due to these things but also through exploration and colonisation.

- In year 2 you learnt about the significance of Henry VIII. Conflicts in 1534 made Henry VIII decide to split from Rome and make himself supreme head of the Church of England.
- When looking at the Romans (Y3) you have learnt that people have always fought for power and land. The Tudor dynasty is no different.
- In year 1 you should remember learning about Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer who lived during Tudor times. You should also remember learning about Queen Elizabeth I. She was the last Tudor monarch.

### Who were the monarchs of the Tudor period?

Henry VII (1485 – 1509)



Henry VIII (1509 – 1547)



Edward VI (1547 – 1553)



Mary I (1553 – 1558)



Elizabeth I (1558 – 1603)



### Society

#### The role of women

Tudor times saw little change to the role of women in society, despite there being two queens on the throne during this reign (see above). It was very rare for girls to receive an official education. If you were a girl from a rich family, it is likely you would have received an education that taught you how to raise a good home, be a good wife and needlework. Girls from poor homes would have received nothing. It was widely believed that teaching women to read and write was a waste of time.

A large part of being a woman in Tudor times was having children and becoming a mother. As a woman, it was favourable to have a son to carry on the family name. This desire was particularly important to Henry VIII as he married six different wives in his quest for a male heir. His third wife Jane Seymour had a son, Edward VI who would later become King of England in 1547. Unfortunately he died six years later aged only 15.

### Culture and Pastimes

The Tudors developed new types of architecture. Medieval castles were replaced with large brick and stone-built manor houses. In larger towns, the buildings were half-timbered, with a wooden frame filled with stick and clay (wattle and daub). The half-timbered technique was used in the familiar black and white Tudor houses that still survive today in many towns and cities.

### Beliefs

#### Reformation

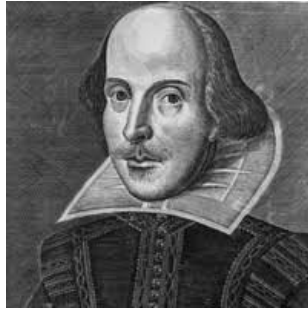
A significant legacy of the Tudor dynasty was Henry VIII's decision to break with the Catholic Church in Rome. This happened because in 1534, the Pope refused to grant Henry a divorce from Catherine of Aragon. Henry ignored this and remarried Anne Boleyn anyway and in doing so appointed himself head of the Protestant Church of England, initiating the concept of an 'absolute monarchy.' This started the English Reformation, during which the power of the Roman Catholic Church was challenged.

Henry's decision to break from the Catholic Church created significant upheaval throughout England's churches for centuries afterwards. Edward VI was a devout Protestant, Mary I, a devout Catholic. Elizabeth I was also Protestant but she tried to be more moderate. She wanted to stop the religious violence that dominated Edward and Mary's reigns but was unable to succeed.

**Cardinal Wolsey** - was a cardinal and statesman, Henry VIII's lord chancellor and one of the last churchmen to play a big role in English political life. He fell out of favour and died mysteriously on the way back to London.



**William Shakespeare** – was an English playwright, poet and actor and is regarded as the greatest writer in the English language. He worked mostly in London but was born and educated in Stratford-Upon-Avon. His work has remained popular because he wrote about important human themes such as love, power, revenge and conflict. His home still stands today in Stratford-Upon-Avon and it has been turned into a museum that you can visit!



**Thomas Cromwell** – was an English statesman and lawyer and was Henry VIII's chief minister. He was one of the strongest and most powerful supporters of the Reformation that helped Henry VIII break from the Roman Catholic Church. He was executed in 1540 after being charged with treason.



### Health and Medicine

Tudor medicine mostly consisted of herbal remedies. An example of this was using a mixture of sage, lavender and marjoram was recommended to treat a headache.

The wealthy were visited by a Tudor physician or surgeon. Poor Tudors would get basic health care from their own family members, the Church or by visiting local people (who would make herbal remedies and potions).

Plague doctors treated those suffering from diseases like the Bubonic Plague (Black Death). They dressed in a beaked mask, boots, and gloves and were wrapped head-to-toe in clothes doused in liquids to help disinfect.



### Conflict

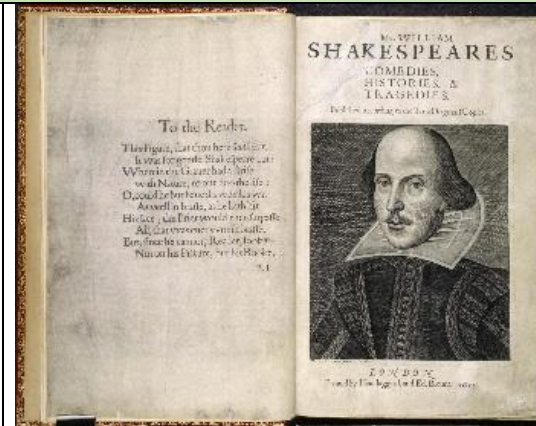
The Tudor dynasty began through conflict with the War of the Roses (between the houses of Lancaster and York), and rebellion and war were never far away during this period. People would revolt over taxes, land ownership and religion. Most rebellions were short but some lasted years, particularly those taking place in Ireland during Queen Elizabeth's reign.

The Tudors also had to deal with the threat of invasion, particularly from Spain, and because of this threat, they made lots of military developments. Henry VIII built up a powerful navy, which included the famous Mary Rose warship. Conflict existed in the Tudor period also because of Henry VIII's decision to split from Rome and become head of the Church of England. This created a split between Catholic people and Protestants across England, and the after effects were felt for years.

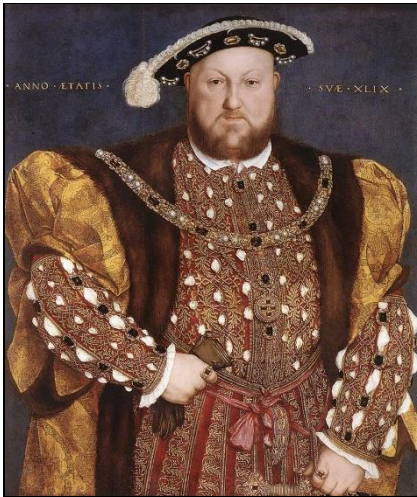
### Artefacts



We are fortunate enough to have many well-preserved artefacts that survive from Tudor times that reveal to us what life was like. Some of them include the **Mary Rose** warship that sailed for 34 years until it sunk in 1545 at the Battle of the Solent. It was raised from the sea bed in 1982 and is currently on display in a museum in Portsmouth.



There are many written sources that survive from Tudor times. One of these is the **First Folio**. This is a printed collection of 36 of Shakespeare's plays. Without this, many of his plays would have been lost forever but instead they were recorded which has allowed them to be read and performed to this day.



There are copies of paintings of Tudor monarchs, most notably portraits of Henry VIII by Hans Holbein who was a German painter. When looking at these paintings it is important to remember that Hans Holbein was trying to create a particular image of Henry VIII and they cannot necessarily be trusted as accurate. Hans Holbein painted Henry VIII in the way the King would have wanted to be seen and remembered by his people: powerful, successful, wealthy and handsome. It is similar to creating an advertisement today or even using Photoshop!



This is a copy of a Hans Holbein painting of Henry VIII's fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. It is reported that Holbein made her look much prettier than she actually was, and so when Henry VIII saw her in person he wasn't very pleased! They were only married for 6 months.

Cardinal Wolsey began turning Hampton Court into the grand palace we know today. However, Henry VIII became so fond of it that he took the palace for himself and stayed there regularly with each of his six wives! By the 1530s, Henry VIII's Hampton Court was a palace, a hotel, a theatre and a leisure complex.

Henry VIII used it to demonstrate magnificence and power in every possible way, through lavish banquets, extravagant court life and fabulously expensive art. In addition to Henry's state and private apartments, where he slept, ate and relaxed, and the queen's private apartments, the palace contained accommodation for courtiers. The style depended on the status of the occupant, but again, were intended to impress. Around Base Court, the first big courtyard of the Tudor palace inside the West Front, there were 30 suites of lodgings used for the grandest visitors. Hampton Court is a great artefact that tells us lots of information about what Tudor life was like because it is so well preserved.



A picture of the outside of Hampton Court Palace.

### Vocabulary

Cardinal	A leading and high-ranking member of the Roman Catholic Church, nominated by the Pope.	Pope	Head of the Catholic Church.
Catholic	A member of the Roman Catholic Church.	Protestant	A member of Christian churches separate from the Roman Catholic Church.
Church of England	A combination of Catholic and Protestant traditions, but rejects the Pope's authority.	Reformation	Changes to the Catholic Church that led to the creation of the Protestant Church
Elizabethan	The name of the period of time when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne.	Stuarts	The name of the royal dynasty that ruled from 1603 – 1714.
Lancaster	A branch of the Plantagenet that ruled England from 1154 – 1485.	wattle and daub	A building method. Wooden strips (wattle) are woven together and stuck with wet soil, clay, sand, animal dung and straw (daub).
Monarchy	A form of government with a monarch (King, Queen or Emperor) at the head.	York	A branch of the Plantagenet which ended with the death of Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.