

Off with her Head!

Imaginative learning project for year 5/6



What sort of man would order the beheading of his wife? Was she really that bad? Travel back in time to the 1500s and meet the terrifying Tudors, a domineering dynasty that changed our history. Discover an opulent court where dancing and singing goes hand in hand with swift falls from favour, and even swifter falling of heads. Develop your painting skills in miniature, solve riddles and remember to protect your precious neck with a large white ruff, if you want to survive at Tudor Court. Flex your detective muscles and become a criminal investigator. Will you find out the fact or will the evidence from the past bewuse you? How will you find the accused, innocent or guilty? It's your turn to take part in one of the most famous trials that the world has ever known.

History focus. Key Facts:

- The Tudor Period began when Henry Tudor defeated King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. This ended the War of the Roses
- Henry VIII was King of England from 1509 until he died in 1547. He is mostly remembered for having 6 wives and for breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope. He was only 18 when he became King.
- During his reign, Henry founded the Church of England and expanded the Royal Navy from five ships to 60
- Henry's wives had different experiences! Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived is a good way of remembering what happened.
- Catherine of Aragon was Henry's first wife, then Anne Boleyn followed by Jane Seymour. Anne of Cleves was his fourth wife followed by Catherine Howard and finally Catherine Parr.
- Henry VIII had over 60 homes and his favourite was Hampton Court Palace. He enjoyed showing off his wealth at court. It became a centre for his favourite things, including art, music, dance, poetry and tournaments.
- The richest and most important people in the country also lived at court. To show their wealth and impress the king, the courtiers wore expensive clothes made of silk, velvet and lace. They had to please the king, give him expensive gifts and flatter him. If they displeased him, they would be punished or even executed.

Key Vocabulary

- ⇒ **Annulment:** A legal procedure in which something is no longer legally binding
- ⇒ **Church of England:** a Protestant branch of Christianity created by Henry VIII
- ⇒ **English Reformation:** The breaking away of the Church of England from the authority of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church during the 16th century
- ⇒ **Protestantism:** the beliefs and activities of the Church that separated from the Roman Catholic church in the 16th century
- ⇒ **Reign:** the period that a monarch rules
- ⇒ **Treason:** the crime of betraying your country and going against the ruler or government

Homework Projects

- ◆ What can you find out about Anne Boleyn's family and her childhood? Put your findings into a presentation to show your class
- ◆ Make a model of the Tower of London—or perhaps an instrument of torture, complete with fake bloodstains!
- ◆ Design a Tudor snakes and ladders-style board game, with pitfalls and lucky breaks on the way to freedom from the Tower!
- ◆ Make a Tudor brooch, ring or headdress. Take a photograph of yourself wearing your item in your most stately pose!
- ◆ Visit your local library or museum (or both!) and find out about your area in Tudor times. Are there any maps, buildings or artefacts from that era? Create a scrapbook or poster of photos, leaflets and any other information you discover.
- ◆ Tudor times were a great period of sea voyages and global exploration. Find out the names of some Tudor explorers and the new products they brought home.