



Knowledge Organiser - The Tudors

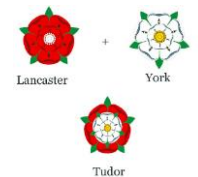
How did the Tudors come to power? What was King Henry VIII really like? Why did Henry divorce Catherine and marry Anne? What can we learn about the everyday life of rich, poor and yeomen in Tudor times from studying their wills and inventories? What do portraits of Queen Elizabeth I tell us about the way she ruled her country? Why did the Spanish Armada set out to attack England and why was it defeated? What can we learn about life in Tudor times by studying Shakespeare's theatre?



Timeline

1485	On August 22nd, Henry Tudor defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. On October 30th he is crowned King Henry VII and the Tudor reign begins.
1486	The war of the roses ended with the marriage of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York.
1497	John Cabot sailed from Bristol and discovered North America.
1502	Henry VII's eldest son died; his second son (also called Henry) became heir to the throne.
1509	Henry VII died and his son (Henry VIII) became king. He married Catherine of Aragon - his brother's widow.
1528	Henry VIII appealed to the pope to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon so that he could marry Anne Boleyn.
1533	Henry finally managed to divorce Catherine and married Anne Boleyn.
1534	Henry made himself head of the English church, separating from the Roman Catholic Church.
1536 - 1541	Dissolution of the monasteries. Over 800 monasteries were dissolved, demolished for building materials, sold off or reclaimed as Anglican Churches.
1536	Anne Boleyn is executed. 11 days later, Henry marries Jane Seymour. The first bible written in English is also published.
1537	Jane Seymour gave birth to Edward, finally giving Henry his male heir. Sadly, she died shortly after the birth.
1547	Henry VIII died and was succeeded by his nine-year-old son, Edward VI.
1553	Edward VI died and was succeeded by Lady Jane Grey. Her reign lasted only 9 days until Mary I (daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon) became queen. As a devout Catholic, she was determined to return Britain to Catholicism.
1558	England's last French territory, Calais, was lost to French rule. Mary I died and Elizabeth I became queen at the age of 25.
1570-1580	Sir Francis Drake set sail for his first voyage to the West Indies. In 1577, he set sail to circumnavigate the world, returning in 1580.
1587	Mary, Queen of Scots, was found guilty of treason (she was plotting to kill Elizabeth I) and was executed.
1588	The English fleet defeated the Spanish Armada at the Battle of Gravelines.
1591	The first performance of a William Shakespeare play.
1603	Elizabeth I died, ending the reign of the Tudors. Because she had no husband or children, the throne passed to James I (James VI of Scotland) who was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Five hundred years ago, the world was a very different place. We had only just started to discover America and we had no idea Australia existed! England and Scotland were separate kingdoms with their own royal family. The War of the Roses was fought from 1455 to 1485 between the noble houses of Lancaster and York, who each thought they were entitled to the throne. After these wars ended, the two houses were united (through marriage) to become House Tudor. The Tudors ruled England and Wales from 1486 to 1603 - 118 years in total!



Key Vocabulary

annul	To cancel a marriage
circumnavigate	Sail around the world.
colonisation	The act of settling in another country and establishing control over its people.
heir	A person who will inherit something, in this case the person who was next in line for the throne.
monarch	The ruler of a place (such as a king, queen or emperor).
reformation	The move of the church away from the control of Catholicism, leading to the formation of the Protestant church.
reign	The period of rule for a monarch.
treason	The act of betraying one's country, especially by plotting to kill or overthrow the monarch.

