

HISTORY · Y4-Y6

The Tudors

Knowledge Organiser — KS2 History

Key vocabulary

1

Tudor

The royal family that ruled England and Wales from 1485 to 1603.

2

Monarch

King or queen — ruler of a country.

3

Reformation

Period when Henry VIII separated the Church of England from the Roman Catholic Church.

4

Catholic

Christian who follows the Pope as head of the Church.

5

Protestant

Christian who broke away from the Catholic Church during the Reformation.

6

Heir

A child who will inherit a throne or property.

7

Armada

A large fleet of warships. The 'Spanish Armada' was sent to invade England in 1588.

8

Court

Where the monarch lived with their household and advisers.



9

Privy Council

The monarch's closest advisers.

10

Plague

Deadly disease that swept through Tudor towns regularly.

Tudor monarchs

Five rulers in 118 years

- HENRY VII (1485-1509) — first Tudor king. Ended the Wars of the Roses.
- HENRY VIII (1509-1547) — famous for his six wives and breaking from the Catholic Church.
- EDWARD VI (1547-1553) — Henry VIII's son. Became king at age 9. Strongly Protestant. Died age 15.
- MARY I (1553-1558) — Henry VIII's daughter. Catholic. Tried to reverse the Reformation. Burned 280 Protestants — earned her the nickname 'Bloody Mary'.
- ELIZABETH I (1558-1603) — Mary's half-sister, Henry VIII's daughter. Long reign. Defeated Spanish Armada. Last Tudor monarch.

Henry VIII's six wives

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived

- 1. Catherine of Aragon (DIVORCED) — Spanish princess. Mother of Mary I. Henry divorced her — sparking the Reformation.
- 2. Anne Boleyn (BEHEADED) — Mother of Elizabeth I. Accused of treason after failing to give Henry a son.
- 3. Jane Seymour (DIED) — Gave Henry the son he wanted (Edward VI) but died shortly after childbirth.
- 4. Anne of Cleves (DIVORCED) — Henry didn't like her appearance in real life. Marriage annulled quickly.
- 5. Catherine Howard (BEHEADED) — Young queen accused of being unfaithful to Henry.
- 6. Catherine Parr (SURVIVED) — Henry's last wife, outlived him.



- Memory rhyme: 'Divorced, beheaded, died — divorced, beheaded, survived.'

Tudor daily life

How rich and poor lived

- RICH TUDORS lived in big houses with many rooms, wore fine clothes (silk, velvet), ate banquets with meat, sweetened wine.
- POOR TUDORS lived in small one-room cottages, wore rough wool, ate bread and pottage (vegetable soup).
- FOOD: bread was the main food. Rich ate meat and fish. Poor rarely ate meat. Sugar was a luxury.
- MUSIC: very popular at all levels — songs, dancing, instruments like the lute.
- SCHOOL: only boys from richer families attended. Lessons in Latin and Greek. Discipline very harsh.
- ENTERTAINMENT: theatre (Shakespeare's time!), bear-baiting, public executions, jousting, hunting.
- MEDICINE: very basic. Many died of plague, smallpox, or simple infections.
- RELIGION: at the centre of everyone's life. Going to church was compulsory by law.
- EXPLORATION: Tudor ships explored the New World. Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe (1577-1580).

