



THE TUDORS

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Life for Everyday People

Tudor Lords – The wealthy in Tudor society lived privileged lives:

-**Fashion:** Men wore doublets (jackets) with rounded fronts and slashed trunks. Women wore kirtles (overskirts) over wooden frames (farthingales) and high collars.

- **Foods:** mainly meat, with few vegetables. Beer or wine were popular drinks.

- **Activities:** jousting, hunting, dancing, and real tennis.



Tudor Food – In Tudor times, people ate their main meal in the middle of the day.

The meal could take up to 3 hours!

-Food could be cooked on a spit, or sometimes baked in an iron box. People used their hands, knives and spoons.

-People ate all kinds of meat, including deer, pheasant and rabbit. They often killed the animals themselves.

-Tudors also made breads, and ate a range of fruit and vegetables. Fish were eaten by those near waterways.



Life in Towns–

90% of people lived in towns and villages

There were not many cities yet. Towns had inns and dwellings for tired travellers (of course, there were no cars or planes back then!

Towns also had market places, and leisure facilities.

London living conditions gradually improved.

Although health gradually improved, life expectancy was still only around 35.



Life for the Poor – Poor people had a harsh life. For farmers, the day would begin at 5am.

Work would continue throughout most of the day, only breaking for mealtimes (e.g. vegetable stew). People who were too old or weak to work were forced to beg, steal, or die. Punishments for crime were brutal – death by hanging for stealing,

beggars were whipped through the streets, and poisoners were boiled alive!



Major Events and Key Information

Battle of Bosworth – 22nd August 1485



This was the last main battle in the 'War of the Roses', a civil war between the houses of Lancaster and York. The battle was won by the Lancastrians, and Henry Tudor became the first King of the Tudor period. Richard of York had been an unpopular King, and so Henry took his chance to take the throne.

Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy – 1534

-Before 1534, England was a Catholic country.

-Henry VIII wanted to divorce his wife, Catherine of Aragon, but the Pope (the leader of the Catholic Church) refused to allow this.

-Henry broke from the Catholic Church and proclaimed himself the leader of the Church of England.

-The Act was presented in a way so that Henry was not seen to be granted new powers, it was rather acknowledging a 'known fact.'

Reign of Lady Jane Grey – 1553



-Lady Jane Grey was the first cousin (once removed) of Edward VI.

-He had named her his successor, and she officially reigned for 9 days. After Mary was proclaimed Queen, Lady Jane was executed for treason.

Henry VIII's Wives– In total, Henry VIII had six wives:

1st Wife: Catherine of Aragon – Divorced (child: Mary I)

2nd Wife: Anne Boleyn – Beheaded (child: Elizabeth I)

3rd Wife: Jane Seymour – Died (child: Edward VI)

4th Wife: Anne of Cleves – Divorced

5th Wife: Catherine Howard – Beheaded

6th Wife – Catherine Parr – Survived

Mary, Queen of Scots



-Mary, Queen of Scots, was born in 1542, and had been Queen of Scotland since she was only six days old. She had been married to the French King, but he died.

-Mary was forced to give up her throne to her son in Scotland, and so fled to England.

-Considered a worthy heir, she was a threat to Elizabeth's throne, and so was imprisoned for 19 years.

-Found guilty of treason, she was beheaded in 1587.

Defeat of The Spanish Armada – August, 1588

-In May 1588, the Spanish launched a massive fleet of 130 ships carrying 30,000 men to defeat England.

-The smaller English navy managed to comprehensively defeat the Armada. It was considered one of Elizabeth I's greatest moments as Queen.

Tudor Monarchs – date of reign, biography and spouse info

Henry VII
reigned 1485-1509



-Henry VII was the first Tudor monarch, after winning the Battle of Bosworth Field.
-He married Elizabeth of York (from the enemy family) to end the war.

-During his reign, he avoided further wars at all costs, bringing peace to England.

-He made England rich during his reign.

-In total, Henry had 9 children with his wife, including Henry VIII.

Elizabeth of York
m.1486-1503

Key Vocabulary

Protestantism

Catholicism

Church of England

Execution

Monarch

Heir

Beheaded

Divorced

Tudor Rose

Battle of Bosworth

Doublet

Farthingale

Kirtle

Henry VIII
reigned 1509-1547



-Henry VIII is famous for having six wives - two of which he had executed.

-He also brought England away from the Catholic church: instead developing the Church of England (he became head of it).

-Some consider him a strong King, whilst some call him a tyrant - as many as 72,000 people were executed throughout his reign.

-He was a talented sportsman & musician.

Henry had six wives – see the section on the left.

Edward VI
reigned 1547-1553



-Edward VI came to the throne at only 9 years of age. Therefore, the country was run by his protectors, the Duke of Somerset and then the Duke of Northumberland.

-He is often considered to have been a sickly child, however many historians now believe that this was not true.

-He died aged only 15, naming Lady Jane Grey (a distant relative) as the new Queen.

Did not marry

Mary I
reigned 1553-1558



-Mary I was Henry VIII's first daughter – her mother was Catherine of Aragon.

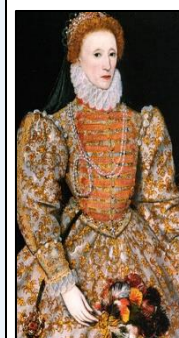
-Edward VI's wishes for his successor were ignored in favour of Mary (his half sister).

-She aggressively tried to return England to Rome and Catholicism, burning those against her on the stake and earning the name 'Bloody Mary.'

-Mary was the first queen to rule England in her own right (not under a King).

Philip II of Spain
m.1554-1558

Elizabeth I
reigned 1558-1603



-Henry VIII's second daughter, Elizabeth turned the country Protestant again.

-She had a long and successful reign. One of the greatest signs of her strength was the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

-It was expected that Elizabeth would marry and produce an heir, but she never did. She was sometimes called the Virgin Queen, Gloriana or Good Queen Bess.

-She had Mary, Queen of Scots, executed, as she saw her as a threat to the throne.

Did not marry

As Elizabeth had no children, and therefore no heir to the throne, she was the last Tudor monarch.

Following her death, James VI of Scotland – was named King James I of England.

Timeline of Major Events

22nd August, 1485 – Battle of Bosworth ends the War of the Roses.

24th June, 1509 – Henry VIII is crowned King.

1534 – 'Act of Supremacy'

20th February, 1547 – Edward VI becomes King.

1st October, 1553 – Mary I becomes Queen.

12th February, 1554 – Lady Jane Grey is executed.

15th January, 1559 – Elizabeth I is crowned Queen.

August, 1588 – England defeats the Spanish Armada.

1603 – Elizabeth I dies with no heir – end of Tudor line.