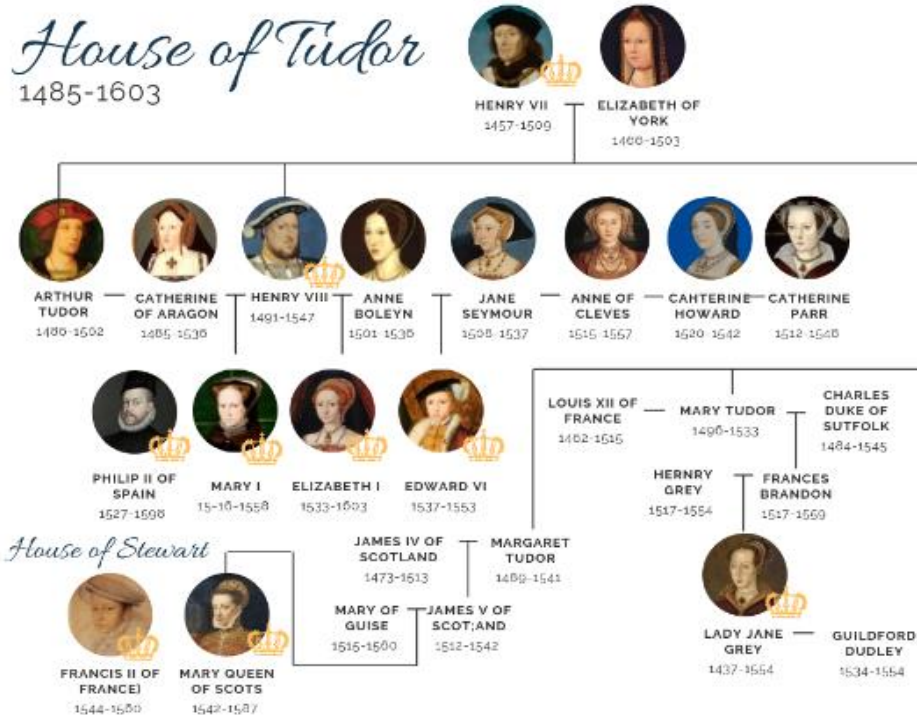


## Year 6 Knowledge Organiser – What was it like in Tudor times?

### Who were the Tudors?

The Tudors were a dynasty of kings and queens who ruled England between 1485 and 1603. The Tudors produced two of England's most famous monarchs: Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.



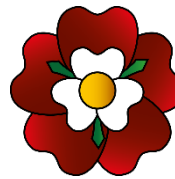
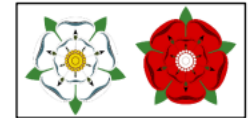
**Henry VIII (1491-1547)** He is most famous for having 6 wives with their fate remembered best by the rhyme 'Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived.' He broke away from the Catholic Church, claiming himself at the head of the Church of England but when he was young he was also well-known for being athletic, good-looking, intelligent, speaking many languages and playing musical instruments.

### How did the Tudors come to power?

From 1154 – 1485, England was ruled by the Plantagenet family. In the 1450s, war broke out between two branches of this family: the House of York and the House of Lancaster. This war was named the Cousins War, or Wars of the Roses after the symbols each side used (the white rose of York and the red rose of Lancaster). The war continued until 1485, when Henry Tudor, who was related to the House of Lancaster, killed King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field.

### The Tudor Rose

The Tudor rose was created when Henry VII brought an end to the Wars of the Roses. By marrying Elizabeth of York, he joined the White Rose of York with the Red Rose of Lancaster, creating the Union Rose (or Tudor Rose), which is still used as the floral emblem of England today!



**Elizabeth I (1533-1603)** Elizabeth found out several catholic plots to overthrow her and had Mary-her cousin, the Queen of Scots- executed in 1587. In 1588 the King of Spain sent the Spanish Armada (a fleet of ships) to take England. Elizabeth won the war and it was seen as a great victory. She had no children of her own so the throne went to King James of Scotland (Stuarts begin and the Tudors end).



### Timeline

1485	1509	1528	1534	1542	1558	1577	1585	1591	1603
Battle of Bosworth / Henry VII King of England	Henry VIII reigns	Henry VIII sacks Cardinal Wolsey	Henry VIII forms the Church of England	Mary Queen of Scots lays claim to the throne	Elizabeth I Queen of England	William Drake sails around the world	England and Spain at war	First performance of a Shakespeare play	James of Scotland first Stuart King



### William Shakespeare (1564-1610)

The famous writer and actor performed several times for Elizabeth I and wrote many famous plays including Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth and Hamlet.

### Tudor Entertainment

People had to make their own entertainment in Tudor times. They worked for most of the week and only Sunday was the day of rest reserved for entertainment

#### Theatres

Tudor people went to watch plays in newly-built round theatres. The well-off sat in covered seats on each side, while poorer people stood up in an open area in front of the stage called the pit. They laughed at the actors' jokes or booed and jeered if they did not like the play. Only men could be actors so teenage boys played all the female parts dressed in women's clothes, wigs and make-up.



#### Music

Streets and markets were visited by travelling musicians. The rich employed musicians to play music on flutes and lutes whilst they ate. There were always popular tunes for dancing. Dances were lively with many moves such as turns, spirals and jumps.

#### Sport

Poor peoples' sport included fishing and archery. An early version of football was played between neighbouring villages on holidays. The game was much more violent than today and might continue for hours as crowds of men often fought to get the ball to their opposition's village goal (sometimes a tree!). Tennis was played and a court still exists in Hampton Court. Henry VIII was said to be very keen. Like football, it was different from today. It has similarities to the modern game of squash.

### How was life different for rich and poor people?

The **wealthy** in Tudor society lived increasingly rich and flamboyant lives:

- **Fashion** was important, with men wearing decorated doublets (jackets) with rounded fronts and slashed trunks. Women would wear kirtles (overskirts) over wooden frames (farthingales) and high collars.
- **Food** consisted almost entirely of meat, with few vegetables, with beer or wine amongst the predominant drinks of choice.
- Tudor Lords lived in huge **mansions** in the countryside (e.g. Hampton Court).
- **Pastimes** included jousting, hunting, dancing, and real tennis.



Life for **poor people** in this era was exceptionally harsh.

- For many **manual labour jobs**, such as **farming**, the day would begin at approximately 5am.
- Work would continue throughout most of the day, only breaking for mealtimes, which was normally some form of simple vegetable stew.
- As there was no welfare state, many who grew too old or weak were forced to beg, steal, or die.
- **Punishments** for crime were brutal – death by hanging was given to anyone who stole over one shilling, beggars were whipped through the streets, and poisoners were boiled alive! The Poor Laws made life even harder for poor people, mostly punishing their poverty.



### Tudor Houses

Tudor houses are very distinctive and many can still be seen today. The houses had a wooden frame with walls made from "wattle and daub" – a building material consisting of wooden strips covered with mud, clay and wet soil. The walls were then painted white giving what is known as "the black and white effect".



Tudor towns and villages were not particularly clean and tidy. People threw rubbish in the street and even emptied the loo there! It was a very smelly time to exist!