

# The Tudors

500 years ago, the world was a very different place. European people had only just made contact with the Americas. England and Scotland were separate kingdoms, each with their own royal family. During this time, the Tudor family ruled England and Wales.

## Who Were the Tudors?

- A Welsh-English family that ruled England and Wales from 1485 to 1603.
- There were six different monarchs during the 118 years of their reign.
- They encouraged new religious ideas, exploration and colonisation.

## What Was It Like Living During Tudor Times?

Life was difficult and most people did not live past 35 years old. Most of the population worked on the land, living in small villages. However, under Tudor rule, England and Wales became gradually richer. Towns grew larger and some people lived in large towns like London, Bristol or Norwich.

## What Was Daily Life Like for the Poor?

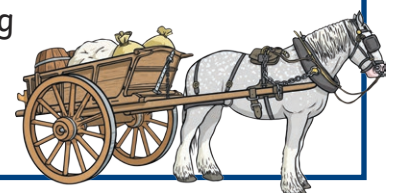
- Water was collected from wells, pumps or streams and it was often dirty.
- Toilets (called privies) were not at all private. They were a piece of wood with a gap over a hole or bowl. People would wipe with leaves or moss.
- Daily food included a dry, grey bread made from rye and barley eaten with vegetable soup. Poor people sometimes had milk, cheese and eggs if they kept animals, but they rarely had meat.

## What Was Daily Life Like for the Rich?

- Wealthy Tudors loved to show off their elegant clothes, grand homes and expensive food and drink, such as roast veal, venison and French wine.
- The rich did not work on the land so had time for activities like falconry, hunting, jousting, tennis and bowls.

## Glossary

- Monarch – King or queen.
- Exploration – Visiting an unfamiliar area.
- Colonisation – Settling among and controlling people living in an area.
- Population – The people who live in a particular place.



# Questions

1. What does the word separate mean? Tick one.

- together
- unconnected
- joined

2. For how many years did the Tudors rule? Tick one.

- 118
- 35
- 1485

3. Which country had just been discovered? Tick one.

- England
- Scotland
- America

4. In which year did the Tudor rule end? Tick one.

- 500
- 1485
- 1603

5. Fill in the missing word in the sentence below.

Five hundred years ago, the world was a very \_\_\_\_\_ place.

6. Where did the poor get their water from?

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7. Why do you think that the rich people didn't work?

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# Answers

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- 500
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- 1603

5. Fill in the missing word in the sentence below.

Five hundred years ago, the world was a very **different** place.

6. Where did the poor get their water from?

**Accept any answer which says that water was collected from wells, pumps or streams.**

7. Why do you think that the rich people didn't work?

**Children's own responses, such as: They had enough money already so didn't need to; They were wealthy so had plenty of money for homes, food, clothes and sport activities.**

# The Tudors

500 years ago, the world was a very different place. European explorers began trading with the Americas. England and Scotland were separate kingdoms, each with their own royal family. During this time, the Tudor family ruled England and Wales.

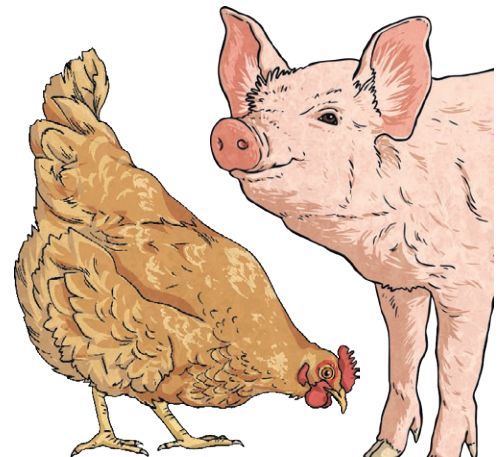
## Who Were the Tudors?

The Tudors were a Welsh-English family that ruled England and Wales from 1485 to 1603. They came to the throne when Henry Tudor defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. They ruled for 118 years in total (with six different monarchs during that time); during their reign, they encouraged new religious ideas, exploration and colonisation (settling among and controlling people living in an area). The Tudor period ended in 1603 when Elizabeth I died.



## What Was It Like Living During Tudor Times?

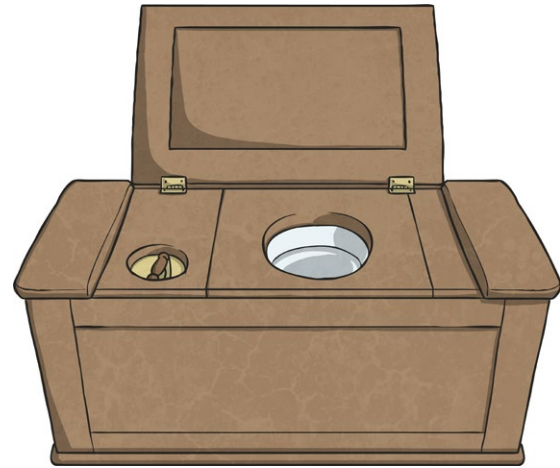
Life was harsh and most people did not expect to live beyond the age of 35. The vast majority of the population were involved in farming, living in small villages. However, under Tudor rule, England and Wales became more peaceful and richer; towns grew larger and some people lived in large towns like London, Bristol or Norwich.





### What Was Daily Life Like for the Poor?

There were none of the comforts we know today. Water was collected from wells, pumps or streams and it was often dirty and polluted. Toilets (called privies) were not at all private. They were a piece of wood with a gap over a hole or bowl. People would wipe themselves with leaves or moss. Food was usually a coarse, grey bread made from rye and barley eaten with vegetable and herb soup. Meat was a luxury but poor people sometimes had milk, cheese and eggs if they kept animals.



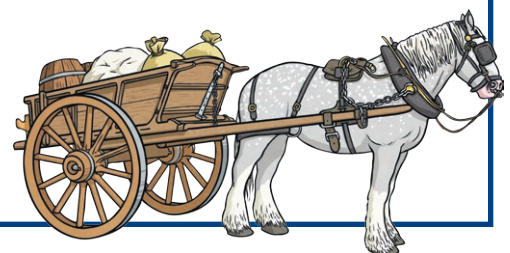
### What Was Daily Life Like for the Rich?

Wealthy Tudors loved to show how rich they were by wearing their elegant clothes, living in grand homes and eating and drinking expensive food and drink, such as roast veal, venison and French wine. The types of sports they did were also a way to boast about their wealth. The rich had time for activities like falconry, hunting, jousting, tennis and bowls. It is believed that King Henry VIII only worked one hour per day and spent the rest of his day doing a variety of leisure activities.



### Did You Know...?

- Most normal people worked for six days a week and only had holy days and public holidays off.
- Towns started to become overcrowded which caused danger from fire and disease.



# Questions

1. Which of these was **not** a place that the poor got water? Tick one.

- wells
- taps
- streams
- pumps

2. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

500 years ago,

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Wealthy Tudors

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the world was a very different place.

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3. How many days a week did most people work in Tudor times? Tick one.

- 5
- 6
- 7

4. Where did most people live during Tudor times? Tick one.

- towns
- villages
- London

5. In which year did the Tudors come to the throne?

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6. Fill in the missing word in the sentence below.

The types of \_\_\_\_\_ they did were also a way to boast about \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Why might disease have become a problem in towns?

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8. Explain why meat was a luxury for the poor.

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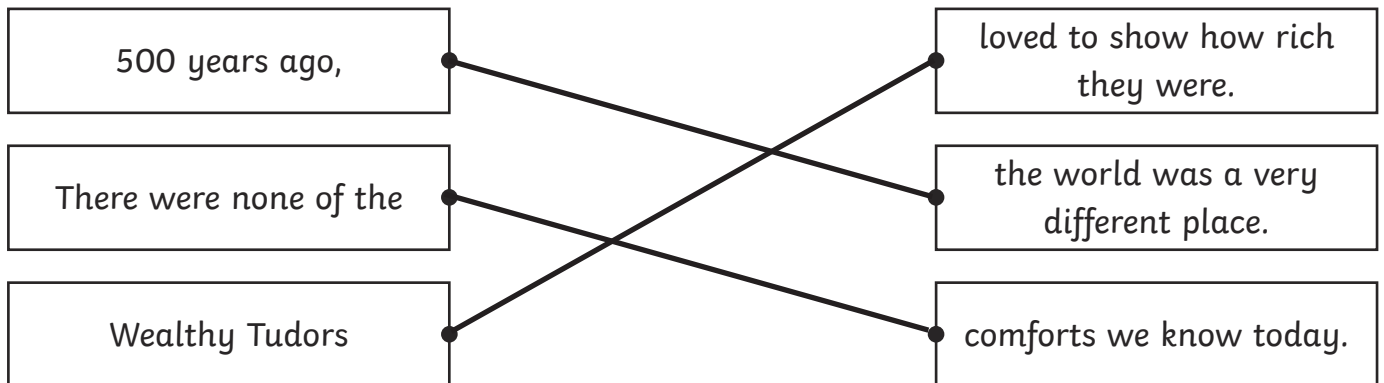
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# Answers

1. Which of these was **not** a place that the poor got water? Tick one.

- wells
- taps
- streams
- pumps

2. Draw a line to complete the sentences.



3. How many days a week did most people work in Tudor times? Tick one.

- 5
- 6
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4. Where did most people live during Tudor times? Tick one.

- towns
- villages
- London

5. In which year did the Tudors come to the throne?

**The Tudors came to the throne in 1485.**

6. Fill in the missing word in the sentence below.

The types of **sport** they did were also a way to boast about **their wealth**.

7. Why might disease have become a problem in towns?

Children's own responses, such as: **With overcrowding and lack of clean water or toilets, germs could spread easily.**



8. Explain why meat was a luxury for the poor.

**Children's own responses, such as: Meat was expensive and the poor didn't have much money to be able to buy it.**

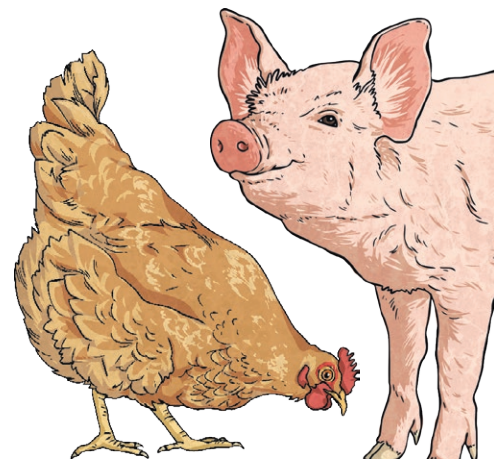
# The Tudors

500 years ago, the world was a very different place. During this period, Europeans discovered new trading routes with the Americas, and England and Scotland were separate kingdoms, each with their own royal family. In England and Wales, the Tudor dynasty reigned over both countries.

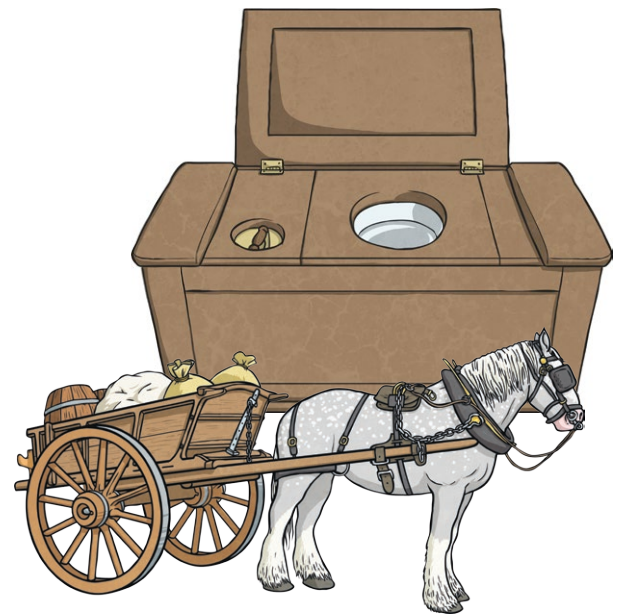
The Tudors were a Welsh-English family that ruled England and Wales from 1485 to 1603. Henry Tudor became King of England in 1485 when his army defeated and killed Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field. They governed for 118 years in total (with six different monarchs during that time); during their reign they encouraged new religious ideas, exploration and colonisation (settling among and controlling people living in an area). During the Tudor rule, England also became wealthier than ever before. The Tudor period ended when Elizabeth I died in 1603. She had no children so the crown passed to her relation, James VI of Scotland. The kingdoms of England and Scotland were united and James became James I of England. This was the start of the Stuart era.



Life was tough for most people with an average life expectancy of just 35 years. 90% of the population worked as farm labourers, living in small villages. However, under Tudor rule, England and Wales gradually became more peaceful and wealthier; towns grew larger and people moved to cities such as London, Bristol or Norwich to find new work. Fire and disease were common as towns started to become overcrowded. Most normal people worked for six days a week and only had holy days and public holidays off.



None of the comforts we know today existed for poor Tudor families. Water was collected from wells, pumps or streams and it was often polluted. Toilets (called privies) were not at all private. They were a piece of wood with a gap over a hole or bowl and people would wipe with leaves or moss. Food was usually a coarse, flavourless bread made from rye and barley eaten with vegetable and herb soup. Meat was a luxury but poor people sometimes had milk, cheese and eggs if they kept animals.



Wealthy Tudors loved to demonstrate their riches. They did this by wearing their elegant clothes, inviting guests to their grand homes and eating and drinking expensive food, such as roast veal, venison and French wine. Playing sport was another way that people could boast about their wealth. Henry VIII spent little time working and left much of his daily decision-making to his advisors. This allowed him to spend time doing the activities he loved: falconry, hunting, jousting and tennis.



### Did You Know... ?

- During the Tudor times, many schools were set up for wealthy boys to learn to read and write (in Latin).
- Most girls stayed at home to help with housework, or went out to work to earn money.
- Most village children never went to school in their lives but a few might have attended a local dame school, where they were taught the alphabet and maybe to read.

# Questions

1. England and Scotland were separate kingdoms... 'What does the word **separate** mean?

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2. How much of the population were farm labourers? Tick one.
- 35%
- 90%
- 6%

3. Match each question to the correct answer.

What was the average life expectancy for most people?

6

For how many years did the Tudors rule?

35

How many days per week did most people work?

118

4. Name two things that people living in towns were at risk of.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'Toilets (\_\_\_\_\_) were not at all private. They were a piece of \_\_\_\_\_ with a hole over a \_\_\_\_\_.'

6. Find and copy a word from the first paragraph which means **found unexpectedly or during a search**.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Where did most people live during Tudor times?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Explain how the food eaten by the rich differed from the food eaten by the poor.

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9. If you were a child in Tudor times, would you rather be rich or poor? Why?

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# Answers

1. England and Scotland were separate kingdoms... 'What does the word **separate** mean?

**Accept an answer that describes 'separate' as apart/unconnected.**

2. How much of the population were farm labourers? Tick one.
- 35%
- 90%
- 6%

3. Match each question to the correct answer.

What was the average life expectancy for most people?	6
For how many years did the Tudors rule?	35
How many days per week did most people work?	118

4. Name two things that people living in towns were at risk of.

- **fire**
- **disease**

5. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'Toilets (**called privies**) were not at all private. They were a piece of **wood** with a hole over a **hole or bowl**.'

6. Find and copy a word from the first paragraph which means **found unexpectedly or during a search**.

**Accept 'discovered' only.**

7. Where did most people live during Tudor times?

**Accept an answer that explains people lived in small villages (working as farm labourers).**



8. Explain how the food eaten by the rich differed from the food eaten by the poor.  
**Accept an answer that describes the difference in food as explained in the text, such as: Poor people would eat a coarse, flavourless bread made from rye and barley with vegetable and herb soup. Meat was a luxury but poor people sometimes had milk, cheese and eggs if they kept animals, whereas wealthy Tudors would eat expensive food such as roast veal, venison and French wine.**
9. If you were a child in Tudor times, where would you like to live? Why?  
**Children's own responses, such as: I would rather be a child living in the villages during Tudor times because I wouldn't have to go to school and I could spend time helping on the farm.**