

The Battle of Bosworth

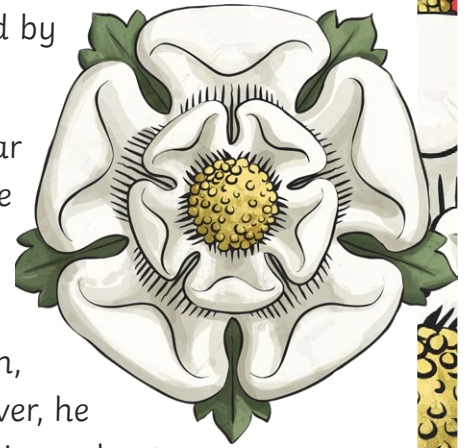
King Richard III of England

The Wars of Roses began in the middle of the 1400s. It was called this because each side of the battle was represented by a rose.

Richard III was a Yorkist king, but he was not popular with everybody. He may have been a good king, but some people thought that he had killed members of his own family!

After Richard's older brother died (King Edward IV), his son, also called Edward, should have been the next king. However, he was only 12 years old so Richard made important decisions about the country until the child was old enough to be crowned king.

Eventually Richard was crowned king and he had his brother's sons put in the Tower of London. They were never seen again. There are rumours that he had them killed so that he could always be king.



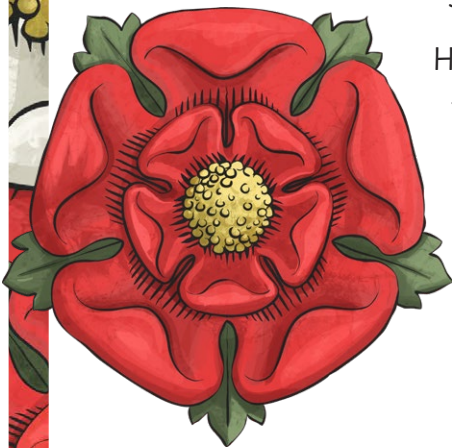
Henry Tudor

Henry Tudor also had a claim to the English throne so he wanted to get Richard off it! This meant that Henry needed money if he was going to get a strong enough army together to fight Richard and his army.

Henry had about 500 loyal followers and 1500 French soldiers but he needed more. He sailed from France to Wales and then Henry's army marched to the English border.

Henry managed to get the support and money of some of the most important landowners in South Wales, and made promises about what he would give them as a reward if they helped him and he became king.

Then Henry turned to his stepfather, Lord Stanley, and his brother, Sir William Stanley, for support. Both of these men owned land and gave Henry money.



The Battle of Bosworth

What a mistake!

When Richard heard about Henry's invasion, he did not think it was a real threat because he expected the Welsh landowners to attack Henry.

Eventually, Richard realised his mistake. Richard was shocked to find out the Welsh landowners were actually helping Henry!

Richard marched his army to meet Henry's army in Leicester.

Richard knew that Lord Stanley would only support the side he would get the most reward from. Richard did not trust Lord Stanley to be on his side.

The Battle of Bosworth

The fighting began on the 22nd August, 1485. The Stanleys stayed away at first, because they needed to work out whether they were going to support Henry or Richard in the battle. Both armies suffered huge injuries.

Then things changed.

King Richard decided to charge at Henry himself. Henry's bodyguards closed ranks and saved him. Suddenly, Lord Stanley decided who to support! He attacked Richard, and defended Henry.

King Richard III of England was killed and his army ran away.

The Yorkist king was dead. Lord Stanley picked up the crown from the ground and placed it on Henry's head. Henry Tudor of the House of Lancaster was now King Henry VII of England.

The red rose was the badge of the Lancastrians and the white rose was the badge of the Yorkists.



The Battle of Bosworth

1. What colour rose was each side in the War of the Roses represented by?

2. Why did Richard make decisions about the country before he was king?

3. What did Henry need to do to become king?

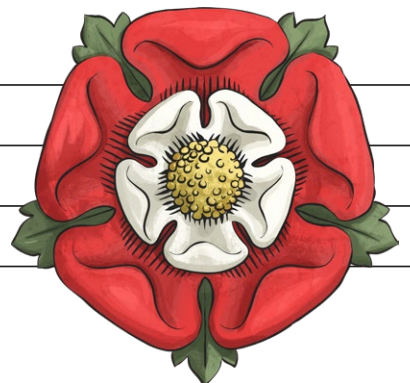
4. How did he get the money to do this?

5. When Richard heard about Henry's invasion what was he shocked to find out?

6. Could Richard depend on Lord Stanley being on his side? Explain your answer.

7. On which date did the Battle of Bosworth occur?

8. Which side did Lord Stanley decide to support in the end?



The Battle of Bosworth Answers

1. What colour rose was each side in the War of the Roses represented by?

The Lancastrians were represented by a red rose and the Yorkists wore a white rose.

2. Why did Richard make decisions about the country before he was king?

Richard made decisions about the country because Edward was not old enough to be crowned king

3. What did Henry need to do to become king?

Henry needed to fight Richard to become king.

4. How did he get the money to do this?

He got the money to do this by making promises to the landowners of the rewards he would give them, if they helped him become king.

5. When Richard heard about Henry's invasion what was he shocked to find out?

Richard was shocked to find out that the Welsh landowners were actually helping Henry.

6. Could Richard depend on Lord Stanley being on his side? Explain your answer.

No, Richard could not depend on Lord Stanley being on his side because he knew that Lord Stanley only supported the side he would get the most reward from.

7. On which date did the Battle of Bosworth take place?

The Battle of Bosworth took place on the 22nd August, 1485.

8. Which side did Lord Stanley decide to support in the end?

Lord Stanley decided to support Henry in the end.

The Battle of Bosworth

King Richard III of England

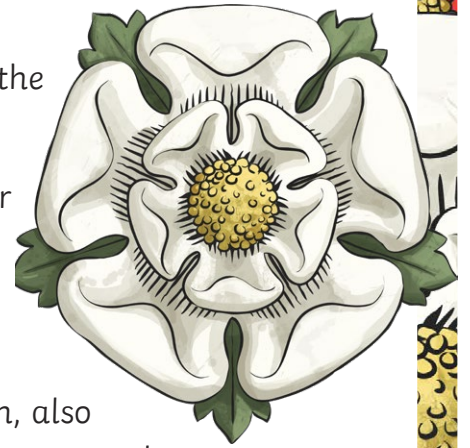
The War of Roses began in the middle of the 1400s. It was called this because each side of the battle was represented by a rose.

Both sides believed they had a right to the throne and the crown of England.

Richard III was a Yorkist king, but he was not popular with everybody. He may have been a good king, but some people thought that he had killed members of his own family!

After Richard's older brother died (King Edward IV) his son, also called Edward, should have been the next king. However, he was only 12 years old so Richard was made Protector of the Realm and made important decisions about the country until the child, Richard's nephew, was old enough to be crowned king.

It was proved that Edward could not be king, so Richard was crowned. He had the boy and his brother sent to the Tower of London, and they became known as 'the Princes in the Tower'. They were never seen in public again. Some people thought that Richard had them killed so they could not become king in the future.



Henry Tudor

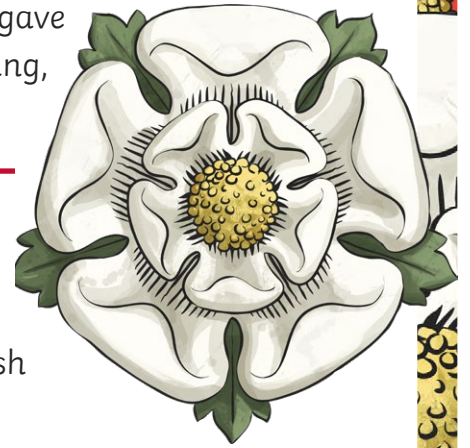
Henry Tudor also had a claim to the English throne so he started a campaign against Richard. He wanted to get rid of him (overthrow him) so that he could become king of England. Henry needed money if he was going to get a strong enough army together.

When he started the campaign, Henry had about 500 loyal followers and 1500 French soldiers with him. He landed in Milford Haven in Wales on 7th August and marched along the Cardigan coastline. They finally reached the English border.



Henry managed to get the support and money of some of the most important landowners in South Wales, and making promises to them if he became king.

Then Henry turned to his stepfather, Lord Stanley, and his brother, Sir William Stanley, for support. Both of these men owned land and gave Henry money. They knew that if he won, and became king, he would reward them.



What a mistake!

When Richard heard about Henry's invasion, he did not think it was a real threat because he expected the Welsh landowners to attack Henry.

Eventually, Richard realised his mistake. The Welsh landowners were actually helping Henry!

Richard marched his army to meet Henry's army in Leicester.

Henry had 5000 men. Richard had 12,000 men. However, 4000 of these men actually belonged to the Stanley family. Richard knew that Lord Stanley only supported the side he would get the most reward from. Richard did not trust Lord Stanley to be on his side.

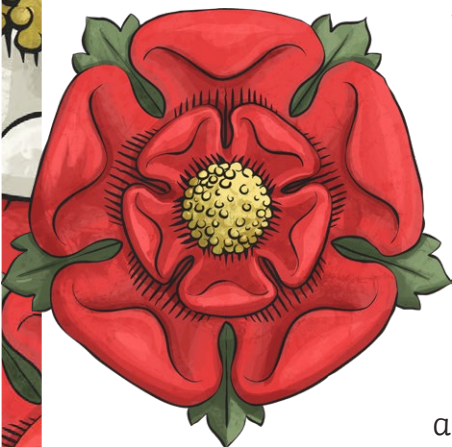
The Battle of Bosworth

The fighting began early in the morning of 22nd August 1485. The Stanley armies stayed away at first, whilst they worked out who to support. Richard's army was at the top of Ambien Hill. Henry's army was at the bottom in marsh land. Henry's army charged up the hill, but suffered huge casualties.

King Richard decided to charge at Henry himself. Henry's bodyguards closed ranks and saved him.

Suddenly, Lord Stanley decided who to support! He attacked Richard, and came to the defence of Henry.

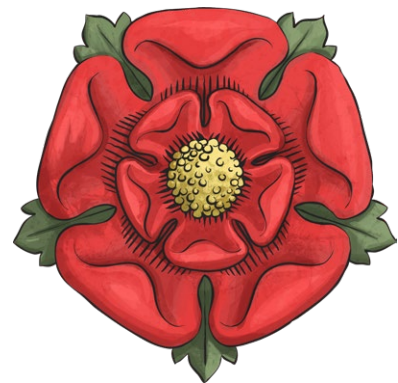
King Richard III of England was killed and his army ran away.



The Yorkist king was dead. Lord Stanley picked up the crown from the ground and placed it on Henry's head. Richard's naked body was put on the back of a mule and taken to Leicester to be buried. Henry Tudor of the House of Lancaster was now King Henry VII of England.



The red rose was the badge of the Lancastrians and the white rose was the badge of the Yorkists.



The Battle of Bosworth

1. Why was the time of war in the 1400s called The Wars of the Roses?

2. What did 'Protector of the Realm' mean?

3. Why might Richard want Edward and his brother dead?

4. What did Henry need to fight Richard and how did he get it?

5. Why did Richard do nothing when he heard about Henry's invasion?

6. Explain why Richard did not trust Lord Stanley.

7. What happened during the battle that made Lord Stanley decide to support Henry?

8. What are your thoughts about how Henry became king? Explain your reasons.

The Battle of Bosworth Answers

1. Why was the time of war in the 1400s called The Wars of the Roses?

The War of the Roses was called this because each side was represented by a rose. The Lancastrians were represented by the red rose and the Yorkists were represented by the white rose.

2. What did 'Protector of the Realm' mean and why was Richard given this title?

Protector of the Realm meant that Richard made important decisions about the country. He was given this title because his nephew was only 12 years old and too young to be the king.

3. Why might Richard want Edward and his brother dead?

Richard might have wanted his nephews dead because he didn't want them to become kings in the future/he wanted to be king.

4. What did Henry need to fight Richard and how did he get it?

Henry needed money and support to get an army together to fight Richard. He got this by making promises to the important landowners if he became king.

5. Why did Richard do nothing when he heard about Henry's invasion?

When Richard heard about Henry's invasion, he did not do anything because he thought that the Welsh landowners would attack Henry.

6. Explain why Richard did not trust Lord Stanley.

Richard did not trust Lord Stanley because he knew that Lord Stanley would only support the side he would get the most reward from.

7. What happened during the battle that made Lord Stanley decide to support Henry?

When Lord Stanley saw Richard charge at Henry, and saw Henry's bodyguards save him, Lord Stanley decided to support Henry.

8. What are your thoughts about how Henry became king? Explain your reasons.

Pupil's own response possibly based on the following:

- **Richard was the crowned king so Henry should not have tried to fight him to get the crown.**
- **Richard should not have been king anyway; it should have been his nephew Edward.**
- **Henry had a claim to the throne so he was right to fight Richard.**

The Battle of Bosworth

King Richard III of England

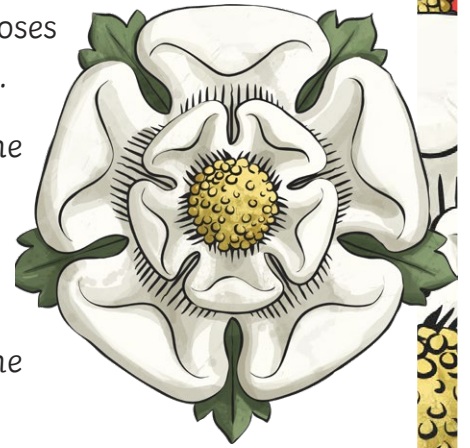
During the mid-15th century, civil war had been raging through England for 30 years. This became known as The War of Roses because each side of the battle was represented by a rose.

Both sides believed they had a right to the throne and the crown of England.

Richard III was a Yorkist king, but he was not popular with everybody. He may have been a good king, but some people were suspicious about how he had actually become king of England.

His brother, Edward IV, was king so when he died it should have been Edward's eldest son who became king. The boy, also called Edward, was only 12 years old so Richard was made Protector of the Realm until the child was old enough to be crowned.

A campaign proved that the boy could not be king, so Richard was crowned king and he had his two nephews imprisoned in the Tower of London. They were never seen in public again. It is thought he had them killed so that they could not become king instead of him.



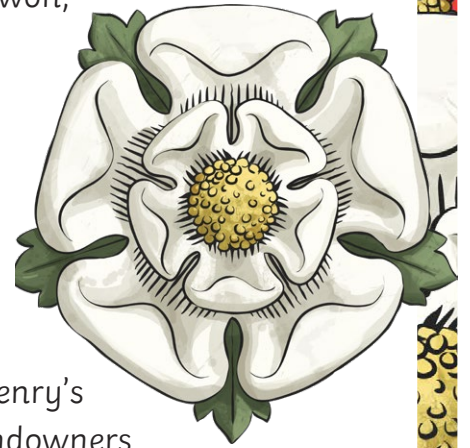
Henry Tudor

Henry Tudor also had a claim to the English throne so he started a campaign against Richard. He wanted to overthrow him so that he could become king of England. Henry needed money if he was going to get a strong enough army together so Henry got some money from King Charles VIII of France.

Henry set sail from France on 1st August, 1485. He had about 500 loyal followers and 1500 French soldiers with him. He landed in Milford Haven in Wales on 7th August and marched along the Cardigan coastline. They finally reached the English border.



Henry managed to get the support and money from some of the most important landowners in South Wales, and then Henry turned to his stepfather, Lord Stanley, and his brother, Sir William Stanley, for support. Both of these men owned land in England and gave Henry money. They knew that if he won, and became king, he would reward them.



What a mistake!

Richard was at Nottingham Castle when he heard about Henry's invasion. He did nothing. He thought that the Welsh landowners would attack Henry. He made a big mistake!

Eventually, Richard realised his mistake. The Welsh landowners were actually helping Henry! This meant Henry had time to gather together a stronger army. Richard marched his army to Leicester.

Henry had 5000 men. Richard had 12,000 men. However, 4000 of these men actually belonged to the Stanley family. Richard knew that Lord Stanley often fought for the side he thought he had most to gain from if they won, so the king did not trust him.

The red rose was the badge of the Lancastrians and the white rose was the badge of the Yorkists.



The Battle of Bosworth

The fighting began early in the morning of 22nd August, 1485. The two Stanley armies stayed away at first, whilst they worked out who to support. Richard's army was at the top of Ambien Hill. Henry's army was at the bottom in marsh land. Henry's army charged up the hill, but suffered huge casualties.

However, Henry had recruited long bow men and their aim inflicted severe wounds on Richard's army, who had no shelter from the arrows. King Richard decided to target Henry himself. He charged at Henry, but Henry's bodyguards closed ranks and saved him.

Suddenly, Lord Stanley decided who to support! He attacked Richard, and came to the defence of Henry. King Richard III of England was killed and his army ran away.

The Yorkist king was dead. Lord Stanley picked up the crown from the ground and placed it on Henry's head. Richard's naked body was put on the back of a mule and taken to Leicester to be buried. Henry Tudor of the House of Lancaster was now King Henry VII of England.

He ended the War of the Roses by marrying Elizabeth of York.



The Battle of Bosworth

1. Why was Richard III not popular with everybody?

2. Why did Henry Tudor start a campaign to overthrow Richard?

3. What country did Henry and his army land in?

4. Explain why Henry travelled to see some of the important landowners in England and Wales?

5. What mistake did Richard make and why do you think it was a mistake?

6. Describe what Lord Stanley's character is like and give your reasons.

7. Which words does the author use to tell us that many of Richard's army were injured by Henry's long bow men.

8. What happened that made Lord Stanley eventually choose which side to support?

9. What are your opinions about the Battle of Bosworth? Do you think Henry should have been king? Explain your reasons.

The Battle of Bosworth Answers

1. Why was Richard III not popular with everybody?

Richard III was not popular with everybody because people were suspicious about how he had become king. He had sent his nephews to the Tower of London and they were never seen again. People thought that he may have murdered them.

2. Why did Henry Tudor start a campaign to overthrow Richard?

Henry Tudor started a campaign to overthrow Richard because he had a claim to the throne /he wanted to be king of England.

3. What country did Henry and his army land in?

Henry's army landed in Wales.

4. Explain why Henry travelled to see some of the important landowners in England and Wales?

Henry travelled to see some of the important landowners in England and Wales because he needed money and support from them to get an army together to fight Richard III.

5. What mistake did Richard make and why do you think it was a mistake?

Richard's mistake was that when he heard about Henry's invasion, he didn't do anything because he thought the Welsh landowners would attack Henry. I think this was a mistake because it gave Henry more time to gather together a stronger army.

6. Describe what Lord Stanley's character is like and give your reasons.

Pupil's own response based on Lord Stanley supporting people depending on how much he has to gain, and not deciding who to support in the battle until he knew who might win.

7. Which words does the author use to tell us that many of Richard's army were injured by Henry's long bow men.

The words the author uses to tell us that many of Richard's army were injured by Henry's long bow men, are "inflicted severe wounds".

8. What happened that made Lord Stanley eventually choose which side to support?

When Lord Stanley saw Richard charge at Henry, he decided to support Henry's army.

9. What are your opinions about the Battle of Bosworth? Do you think Henry should have been king? Explain your reasons.

Pupil's own response but opinions could be based on the following:

- **Richard was the crowned king and should have stayed king.**
- **Richard might have killed his nephews to be king, so he shouldn't have been king in the first place.**
- **Henry should have been king because he won the battle.**