

Meet the Tudors



King Henry VII (Henry Tudor) – After spending nearly 15 years in exile, he returned from France and defeated King Richard III at the battle of Bosworth. He reigned (was king) for 24 years, from 1485 until 1509. His reign was not without its problems, and once he was crowned there were a number of attempts to take his crown.

Queen Elizabeth of York. She was the daughter of King Edward IV (d.1483). Edward IV, and his brother Richard III, are frequently referred to as the **Yorkist** kings, as their father had been the Duke of York. Henry VII married her to help secure the throne, but they had a happy marriage and had seven children together, though only three survived to adulthood. Elizabeth died shortly after giving birth to a daughter in 1503.

Keyword Search: *Queen or Quene.*



Arthur – The eldest son of Henry and Elizabeth, he was born in Winchester in September 1486. He was created Prince of Wales, the title traditionally given to the heir to the throne, at the age of 4. He was given his own household, based at the castle of Ludlow on the Welsh Border, when married Catherine of Aragon at the age of 15. He died only a few months later, leaving his brother, Henry, as heir to the throne.

Keyword Search: *Lord Prince.*

Henry VIII – succeeded to the throne aged 18 in April 1509, on the death of his father. He is one of the most famous kings in English History, known mainly for breaking with the Catholic church and setting up the church of England (**The Reformation**) and for having had six wives.

Keyword Search: *Duke of York. Prince.*



Margaret Beaufort – King Henry VII’s mother. Margaret was only 13 years old when her son was born, and her husband, Edmund Tudor, had died of plague whilst she was pregnant. Margaret was married twice more, but had no more children. After Henry returned to England from exile in France, she became a frequent visitor to his court. The court also occasionally visited her! Can you find references to her in the Chamber Books?

Keyword search: *mother*



Margaret Tudor - Eldest daughter of Henry and Elizabeth. Margaret became queen of Scotland when she married King James IV of Scotland. It was through her that king James VI of Scotland was able to claim the throne of England as James I and unite the crowns of England and Scotland in 1603.

Mary Tudor - was born in 1496. She was engaged to the future Spanish ruler, Charles V, when she was 12, but an actual marriage did not happen. In 1514, a few years after her father’s death, she was married to the 52 year old king Louis of France. She was only 18. Louis died two months after the marriage. Within weeks, Mary secretly married her brother’s friend, Charles Brandon, with whom she had fallen in love. They remained married until she died.



Key Dates



August 22nd – Battle of Bosworth

The armies of King Richard III and Henry Tudor met at this battle. Richard was killed and Henry claimed the crown. Henry officially dated his reign from the day before the battle, which allowed him to prosecute those who fought against him for treason.

1485

- Aug. 22 - Henry Tudor wins the battle of Bosworth and becomes king Henry VII.
- Oct 30 - Henry is crowned in London

1486

- Jan. 18 - Henry and Elizabeth marry
- Sept - Prince Arthur is born in Winchester

1491

- June - birth of Prince Henry, duke of York and later king Henry VIII.
- Nov - The pretender, Perkin Warbeck, began his campaign for the throne - can you find him in the books (Keyword - Perkyn)?

Perkin Warbeck claimed to be Richard, Duke of York – the second son of Edward IV who, along with his brother, was thought to have died as a child in mysterious circumstances. If he were Richard, then he would have had a better claim to the throne than Henry VII. He tried to convince various European leaders that he was the rightful king of England, and gained enough support that he was able to bring a small army to invade England in 1497. His attempt to march on London failed, though, and he was captured. Two years later, he was executed.



1501

- Nov - Marriage of Arthur and Catherine

1502

- April - Prince Arthur dies suddenly at Ludlow, age 15.

1503

- Feb - Death of Queen Elizabeth of York, days after she gave birth to a daughter, Katherine. The baby lived for only a few more days.

April 1509 – Death of King Henry VII



This is the death mask of Henry VII. It was common to have death masks made of members of the royal family – Henry VIII had one. It was made by pouring wax or plaster on to the face of the dead person, and then taking using the mould to make the mask.

1509

- 11 June - Marriage of Henry VIII and Catherine
- 24 June - Henry and Catherine are crowned King and Queen of England

1511

- 1 Jan - birth of prince Henry, son of Henry and Catherine
- 22 Feb - death of Prince Henry

1513

- 16 Aug - Battle of the Spurs - Henry VIII defeats the French army. This is his only victory during his expensive invasion of France



Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII, as we are accustomed to seeing them. Henry VIII, when first crowned, was described as a handsome young man, possibly taking after his grandfather, Edward IV, who had been described as the 'handsomest prince in Christendom'.