

The Tudors

Year 2

Key end points of 'The Tudors' unit are:

- Life was different for the rich and the poor in Tudor England
- Henry VII was the first Tudor monarch.
- Henry VIII made himself Head of the Church of England and had six wives.
- Edward VI was a Protestant and made religious reforms during his short reign.
- Mary I was a Catholic and is sometimes remembered as 'Bloody Mary'.
- Elizabeth I reigned for 44 years. Her reign is sometimes remembered as the Golden Age.

This unit provides children with an introduction to the Tudor monarchs. Chronologically, it leaps from the 'Romans in Britain' unit and focuses on another **historically significant** period in British history. Building on from the Y1 Kings, Queens & Leaders unit, this unit aims to deepen pupils' understanding of how Britain in the past was ruled. The pupils will learn that **powerful dynasties**, where power was inherited and passed down through generations predominately through the male line, ruled over Britain. This unit focuses on the lives on **Henry VIII** and his three children: **Mary I**, **Elizabeth I** and **Edward VI**. All three of Henry VIII children ruled over Britain at various points. Throughout the unit, the children will look at the Tudor family tree and learn about each monarch and look at how they sought to shape England during their reigns. Henry VIII's father Henry VII is briefly discussed in this unit, however, pupils will have an opportunity to learn about him in more depth in Y3 when studying 'The War of the Roses'. During the unit, the children will be supported to use real **historical sources**, such as a portrait commissioned by Elizabeth I and a description of young Henry VIII, to understand how historians find out about the past.

Henry VIII (1491–1547) is one of the most written about kings in English history. Some historians believe that Henry VIII was arguably one of England's most famous kings. He is often remembered for having six wives. Most significantly, his divorce from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, his subsequent fall out with the Catholic Pope, and his marriage to his second wife, Anne Boleyn, led to the establishment of the **Church of England**. During the reign of Mary Tudor, the Church of England once again submitted to Papal authority. However, this policy was reversed when Elizabeth I became Queen in 1558. A key substantive concept covered in this unit is **religion**. Through storytelling, the children learn about the **English Reformation** and learn about some of the religious changes that took place during the Tudor period. The pupils will look at how the monarchy and ruling classes imposed religious beliefs on the people, often by force, and how religious tolerance and freedom of belief did not exist at this time. This provides a foundation for understanding religious conflict and persecution, which will be built upon in subsequent years (for example when studying the Stuarts and the Gunpowder Plot in Y4).

Although a lot of focus in this unit is on the achievements and significance of the monarchy, and the religious and political decisions of the ruling classes, this unit also examines **social**

history and delves into the lives of ordinary people during this period. The unit begins with looking at life in Tudor England, allowing children to compare-and-contrast life between the rich and poor, and between men and women. This is a theme which is explored across the curriculum and aims to inspire children to discuss **social inequality** and **discrimination**.

Lesson Sequencing:

The sequence of lessons in this unit has been designed to provide children with a firm foundation for understanding key substantive concepts, such as **monarchy**, **power** and **religion**, which will be revisited again and again as children progress through the curriculum. Lesson 1 begins by introducing **Tudor England**. Through a lens of social history, pupils will learn about the **similarities & differences** experienced by the rich and the poor during this period. Pupils will also study **sources & evidence** from this period which relay what life was like in Tudor England. Lesson 2 focuses on the personal life of Henry VIII. Through utilising family trees, pupils will learn about Henry VIII's parents, his six wives and his three children (Mary I, Elizabeth I and Edward VI). Lesson 3 focuses on the **English Reformation**, through storytelling, pupils learn about Britain's move from a Catholic to a Protestant country. Lesson 4 builds on pupils learning from lesson 2 and focuses on the reign of Edward VI and Mary I. Pupils will learn that both monarchs were religious, however they held differing beliefs (Edward VI was a **Protestant** and Mary I was a **Catholic**). Lesson 5 ends with the last Tudor monarch: Elizabeth I. Pupils will learn that during Elizabeth's 44 year rule, she helped to create a peaceful country by building the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, which established a form of Protestantism similar to Catholicism, which many former Catholics were willing to follow. For this reason, Elizabeth's reign is often known as the '**Golden Age**', as so much was achieved by figures such as Shakespeare.

Key substantive concepts covered in this unit are **monarchy**, **power** and **religion**.

Key disciplinary concepts covered in this unit are **sources & evidence**, **historical significance** and **similarities & differences**.