

The Tudors



Quick summary



The Tudors ruled England and Wales between 1485 and 1603. Henry Tudor claimed the throne after defeating Richard III in battle. This victory, at the Battle of Bosworth Field, ended the civil war known as the War of the Roses. Henry Tudor took the title Henry VII and was the first of five Tudor monarchs. Some of the most famous kings and queens in English history came from the Tudor family, and the period of their rule saw significant changes in daily life, politics and religious beliefs throughout Britain. It was also a time of global exploration and popular entertainment. Famous explorers returned with unusual gifts from the New World and writers, such as Shakespeare, were filling theatres with their famous plays.



Culture and pastimes

The Tudors developed new types of architecture. Medieval castles were replaced with large brick-and-stone-built manor houses. In larger towns, the buildings were half-timbered, with a wooden frame filled with stick and clay (wattle and daub). The half-timbered technique was used in the familiar black and white Tudor houses that survive to this day in many towns and cities.



Beliefs

A significant legacy of the Tudor dynasty was Henry VIII's decision to break with the Catholic Church in Rome. In 1534 the Pope had refused to allow Henry to remarry. Henry remarried anyway (to the second of his six wives) and named himself the head of the Protestant Church of England. This started the English Reformation, during which the enormous power of the Roman Catholic Church was challenged. The consequences of this were far reaching and divided Catholics and Protestants even further, in Britain and Europe.



Main events

1485: Battle of Bosworth Field; Henry Tudor became Henry VII
1534: Henry VIII made supreme head of the Church in England
1588: England defeated the Spanish Armada
1603: Elizabeth I died and James Stuart became king



Conflict

The War of the Roses was fought between the House of York and the House of Lancaster. Henry Tudor's victory over Richard III brought these wars to an end. Henry married Elizabeth, the heiress to the house of York, to secure an alliance.



Vocabulary

monarch: the king or queen of a country
medieval: something in European history between 476 CE and 1500 CE
legacy: something left behind after death
Reformation: changes to the Catholic Church that led to the setting up of the Protestant Church
alliance: groups working together



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts