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The Tudors

Learning Resource

Teacher Notes

KS2



Overview

The Royal Armouries learning resources have been created for teachers to use in the classroom or for your pupils to access from home with strong teacher guidance. The Tudors learning resources pack is specifically designed to:

- support your Key Stage 2 pupils undertaking the statutory study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066 section of the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum

Our resources focus on King Henry VIII and his life. The Tudors had a huge impact on the history of Britain, increasing monarchical popularity while disrupting centuries of religious and societal practices. They are excellent inspiration for cross-curricular learning, as well as for developing:

- chronological understanding, source knowledge and understanding
- development of historically valid question skills

The Royal Armouries collection began as King Henry VIII's store of weaponry and armour from the Greenwich Armoury. Because of this, highlights of our collection include full suits of Henry's armour, his weapons and one of our most recognisable objects, the 'Horned Helmet'.

Below are notes intended to help you use our online resources and collection to bring this topic to life for your pupils.

General information

The Tudors

The Tudor period stretches from 1485 and the victory of Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth, until the death of Elizabeth I in 1603.

Throughout the Tudor period, monarchs had to ensure their security by putting down rebellions, waging war, winning favour from their people and making alliances with the other major powers in Europe. Weapons and armour played a huge part in the Tudor fight for stability and power. They were used to deadly effect on the battlefield, at tournaments as a dazzling display of power, or as influential gifts to solidify alliances.

Henry VIII was a big spender and used his newfound Greenwich Armoury in order to show off with magnificent armours that displayed his love of the best fashions and technology.

Our current Queen Elizabeth II, is a descendant of the first Tudor monarch, Henry VII.

Key terminology

Two handed sword A sword that is so large, two hands are required to wield it. Used in battle and tournament.

Pollaxe A multipurpose weapon that has a spear-like head at the 'bottom' end, and a hammer and axe at the 'top' end. Used in battle and tournament.

Longbow A large bow, approximately 6ft tall, used by many men in England for hunting and as a weapon of

war. Laws and instructions were made so that men could practice with them to ensure they would be 'battle ready' at any moment.

Tonlet A skirt-like piece of armour that would protect the hips and tops of the legs. This was the piece of armour required for Henry VIII to compete in the foot combat at the Field of Cloth of Gold.

Arquebus- A type of early gun.

The resources

Court Gossip: The Field of Cloth of Gold video

The court of Henry VIII was only for the top ranks of society. Ladies-in-Waiting from noble families took care of the Queen's every need, as well as advancing the political standing of their own families through service and finding a husband. In this video, a Lady-in-Waiting discusses The Field of Cloth of Gold, the most expensive sporting event to ever staged. The event was a show of the King's wealth and sporting prowess, designed to broker peace with France through a show of his splendid magnificence.

Such expense nearly bankrupted the country, but it was completely within the right of the King to do so. It is a great comparison of whether this behavior would be accepted today, or if a monarch still needs this kind of display to ensure their position.

Designed to give pupils a first person view of life at the court of Henry VIII, this fictional account of a Lady-in-Waiting from Queen Catherine of Aragon's household will assist pupils with their:

- **Historical knowledge**
- **Creative writing, composition and drama-based skills**

Photo Bank

The photo bank has been compiled to assist your lessons in any way that you see fit. They are all original photographs or images of items in our collection. Please download them for educational use only. They would be great for increasing historical knowledge, building evidentially supported enquiries and historical source work.

Images will be added and updated on a regular basis.

We have added notes to each image; collections items are hyperlinked in the descriptions to our Collections Online, where you can get more images and technical information; and the asset numbers for our Image Library are given where relevant. If you would like any more information about any image, please contact educate.leeds@armouries.org.uk and we would be happy to assist.