

Tudor Life: A Window into the Past with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To write a descriptive and informative report about daily life in Tudor England, comparing the experiences of different social classes.

Use this scaffold to structure your report. Ellie the Elephant has provided these prompts to help you organise your historical facts. Use the word bank to help your writing flow, and ensure you include specific details about Tudor homes, food, and social status.

As Ellie the Elephant explores the pages of history, she discovers that life in Tudor England was vastly different depending on whether you were a wealthy merchant or a humble farm labourer.

Word bank: furthermore · in contrast · consequently · on the other hand · significantly · wealthy · impoverished · timber-framed · social hierarchy · nevertheless

1. Housing and Architecture: Describe the appearance of Tudor homes. How did the houses of the rich differ from those of the poor? Start with: 'Tudor architecture was characterised by...' (3 marks)

2. Daily Diet: Compare the food eaten by different social classes. What might a banquet look like compared to a peasant's pottage? Start with: 'While the wealthy enjoyed elaborate feasts consisting of...' (3 marks)

3. Clothing and Status: Explain why clothing was so important in Tudor society. How could you tell someone's rank just by looking at their outfit? Start with: 'In Tudor England, fashion was a clear indicator of...' (3 marks)

4. Reflecting on Change: Explain why the invention of the printing press during the Tudor period was a significant turning point for history. Start with: 'The arrival of the printing press transformed society because...' (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If you could choose to be a child in Tudor England, would you prefer to be part of a noble family or a working-class family? Provide two reasons for your choice. (4 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: What might happen if the Tudor monarchs had not been interested in exploration and trade? How would this have changed the kingdom's wealth? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific Tudor monarch (e.g., Henry VIII or Elizabeth I). Write a short diary entry from their perspective, describing a day in their life. Use at least three technical historical terms and justify one major decision they made during their reign.