

Ellie's Tudor Time-Traveler's Log

Learning objective: To analyse the social hierarchy and daily life of the Tudor period by categorising historical evidence.

Ellie the Elephant has been visiting the Tudor era to learn about how different people lived. Look at the list of items and roles below. Your task is to sort these into the correct social category: 'Monarchs and Nobility' or 'Commoners'. For each item, you must justify why it would belong to that specific group based on the wealth and status of the Tudor period.

Word bank: Velvet doublet · Woollen tunic · Pottage · Roast swan · Earth floor · Tapestries · Hard labour · Courtiers

1. Sort 'Velvet doublet' and 'Woollen tunic' into the correct groups. Explain why the material used in these clothes was a key indicator of social status. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the diets of a wealthy noble and a typical farmer. Why did their access to certain foods differ so greatly? (2 marks)

3. If a person lived in a house with tapestries on the walls, what does this tell us about their wealth and the practical purpose of those items? (2 marks)

4. Justify why 'Hard labour' is categorised under 'Commoners'. What might happen if a person of noble birth was forced to perform manual labour? (2 marks)

5. Explain why the monarch might spend large sums of money (£) on extravagant feasts and clothing. Was this purely for comfort, or did it serve a political purpose? (2 marks)

6. What might happen to the social structure of Tudor England if the cost of imported luxury fabrics, such as silk and velvet, became affordable for everyone? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration. On the left, sketch a Tudor noble's grand dining hall filled with tapestries and silver plates. On the right, sketch a humble peasant's cottage with a dirt floor and a simple wooden table.



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive diary entry from the perspective of a Tudor merchant who has just become wealthy enough to buy a velvet doublet. Describe how your life and status have changed, and how you think your neighbours might view your new appearance.