

Tudor Life: Power, Exploration, and Daily Existence

Learning objective: To analyse the social hierarchy, exploration, and daily life during the Tudor period (1485–1603).

Use your historical knowledge of the Tudor era to answer the following questions. Remember to provide detailed explanations to support your reasoning.

Ellie the elephant has been reading through the royal archives! The Tudor period was a time of great change in England, from the shifting power of the monarchy to the brave sailors navigating the high seas. While the wealthy lived in grand houses and wore silk, life for the average person was very different. Understanding this time requires us to look at how people lived, what they believed, and how England changed its place in the world.

Word bank: Monarch · Hierarchy · Exploration · Galleon · Apprentice · Reformation · Social Mobility · Armada

1. Explain why the social hierarchy was so important to Tudor society. How did a person's status affect their daily life and their clothing? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the life of an apprentice in a busy Tudor city with the life of a child born into a wealthy noble family. (3 marks)

3. Justify why King Henry VIII's decision to break away from the Roman Catholic Church was a significant turning point in English history. (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the English ships had failed to defeat the Spanish Armada in 1588? Consider the impact on England's global status. (2 marks)

5. Nova the owl is curious about Tudor exploration. Why was the development of the galleon ship essential for explorers like Sir Francis Drake? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a Tudor-style house, labelling the 'jetty' (the overhanging upper floor) and the timber-framed walls. Include a detail showing what a wealthy Tudor might wear compared to a peasant.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Tudor explorer returning to London after a long voyage. Write a diary entry describing one challenge you faced at sea and one item you brought back to show the Queen. Use at least four words from the word bank in your writing.