Tudor Life and Legacy: A Historical Investigation

Learning objective: To understand the social hierarchy, daily life, and historical impact of the Tudor period in England (1485–1603).

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Tudor era to provide detailed answers. Ellie the elephant has provided a word bank to help you with key terminology.

As Ellie the elephant always says, history is a giant tapestry of stories! The Tudor period was a time of great change in England, marked by famous monarchs, religious shifts, and daring voyages across the seas.

Word bank: Monarchy · Hierarchy · Exploration · Galleon · Reformation · Apprentice · Tudor Rose

1. The Tudor period is famous for its strict social hierarchy. Explain how life differed between a wealthy merchant and an apprentice in a Tudor town. (3 marks)

2. Name two monarchs from the Tudor dynasty and identify one significant event or change that occurred during their reign. (2 marks)

3. Many Tudor explorers used a specific type of ship called a galleon. Why were these ships essential for the exploration and trade that happened during the 16th century? (2 marks)

4. What was the 'Tudor Rose' and what did it symbolise regarding the end of the Wars of the Roses? (2 marks)

5. If you were living in the year 1550, how would the religious changes known as the Reformation have impacted your daily attendance at church? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Tudor-style timber-framed house with a thatched roof and a leaded glass window. Label the 'jetty' (the overhanging upper floor).

Extension challenge: Research the cost of common goods in the 16th century. If a loaf of bread cost 1d (one penny) in the 1500s, how might you compare this to the modern value of bread in £ today? Write a short paragraph explaining the difficulty of comparing historical prices.