Time Travel with Ellie: Life in Tudor Times

Learning objective: To identify key features of Tudor life, including the roles of monarchs and the differences between rich and poor homes.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Tudor period to provide detailed answers. Ellie the elephant has shared some of her favorite historical facts to help you!

Ellie the elephant has travelled back in time to the Tudor era. She noticed that the houses were often made of wood and plaster with black beams. She also saw people eating a vegetable stew called pottage and learned all about the famous kings and queens who ruled England from 1485 to 1603.

Word bank: Monarch · Tudor · Henry VIII · Elizabeth I · Timber-framed · Thatch · Pottage · Wealthy

1. Name two famous Tudor monarchs and explain one thing you know about their reign. (2 marks)

2. Describe what a typical Tudor house looked like on the outside. Why do you think they used wood and thatch? (2 marks)

3. Explain the difference between the diet of a poor Tudor family and a wealthy Tudor family. (2 marks)

4. If you were living in Tudor times, would you rather be a servant in a palace or a farmer in the countryside? Give one reason for your choice. (2 marks)

5. A loaf of bread in a market cost 2p and a bowl of pottage cost 3p. If a villager had £1, how much change would they have left after buying one of each? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Tudor house showing the 'black and white' timber-framed style, and draw a bowl of pottage on a wooden table inside.

Extension challenge: Research what Tudor children wore. Write three sentences describing their clothing and explain why it was different from the clothes you wear to school today.