



The Tudors: England's Most Dramatic Royal Family

KS2 HISTORY

KS3 HISTORY

Ages 10-14 ⌚ 4 min read

Who Were the Tudors?

The **Tudors** were a royal family who ruled **England** and **Wales** from **1485 to 1603** — that's **118 years** of history! The family started when **Henry VII** defeated the last king of the **Wars of the Roses** and became king. He married **Elizabeth of York**, which brought peace between two fighting families and made the Tudors the most powerful family in the land.

The most famous Tudor king was **Henry VIII**, who is remembered for having **six wives** (two he divorced, two he executed, and two outlived him). He was big, bold, and ruled with total power. But the Tudors also gave us other important rulers, like **Elizabeth I**, who never married and is called the **Virgin Queen**. She was one of England's greatest ever monarchs.

Why Are They So Important?

The Tudors changed **Britain** in massive ways. First, **Henry VIII** broke away from the **Roman Catholic Church** and created the **Church of England** because the Pope wouldn't let him divorce. This was a huge deal — it changed what religion most English people followed.

Think of it like this: imagine your whole country had to change what they believed in because the king wanted something different. That's how important this change was!

The Tudors also made **England** much stronger as a country. They built up the **Navy**, which helped **England** become powerful at sea. When **Elizabeth I** was queen, the **Spanish Armada** (a massive fleet of enemy ships) tried to invade, but the English defeated them. This showed the world that **England** was a force to be reckoned with.

The Tudors also loved art, music, and learning. They brought the **Renaissance** (a rebirth of art and ideas) to **England**. Famous people like **William Shakespeare** wrote amazing plays during Tudor times.

The End of the Tudors

When **Elizabeth I** died in **1603**, she had no children, so the Tudor line ended. But their impact lasted forever — they shaped modern **Britain** and made the country what it is today.