

The Tudors

500 years ago, the world was a very different place. European people had only just made contact with the Americas. England and Scotland were separate kingdoms, each with their own royal family. During this time, the Tudor family ruled England and Wales.

Who Were the Tudors?

- A Welsh-English family that ruled England and Wales from 1485 to 1603.
- There were six different monarchs during the 118 years of their reign.
- They encouraged new religious ideas, exploration and colonisation.

What Was It Like Living During Tudor Times?

Life was difficult and most people did not live past 35 years old. Most of the population worked on the land, living in small villages. However, under Tudor rule, England and Wales became gradually richer. Towns grew larger and some people lived in large towns like London, Bristol or Norwich.

What Was Daily Life Like for the Poor?

- Water was collected from wells, pumps or streams and it was often dirty.
- Toilets (called privies) were not at all private. They were a piece of wood with a gap over a hole or bowl. People would wipe with leaves or moss.
- Daily food included a dry, grey bread made from rye and barley eaten with vegetable soup. Poor people sometimes had milk, cheese and eggs if they kept animals, but they rarely had meat.

What Was Daily Life Like for the Rich?

- Wealthy Tudors loved to show off their elegant clothes, grand homes and expensive food and drink, such as roast veal, venison and French wine.
- The rich did not work on the land so had time for activities like falconry, hunting, jousting, tennis and bowls.

Glossary

- Monarch – King or queen.
- Exploration – Visiting an unfamiliar area.
- Colonisation – Settling among and controlling people living in an area.
- Population – The people who live in a particular place.

