

## Who were the Tudors?

The Tudors were a royal dynasty that ruled England from 1485 to 1603. The dynasty began when Henry Tudor defeated King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field and was crowned Henry VII. This ended a bitter conflict known as the Wars of the Roses, which had been fought between two rival families — the House of York and the House of Lancaster.

Henry VIII, the second Tudor monarch, is perhaps the most famous. He broke from the Roman Catholic Church to form the Church of England, largely because the Pope refused to annul his first marriage. This religious change had a huge impact on ordinary people across the country.

Henry's three children each ruled in turn. Edward VI tried to make England more Protestant. Mary I reversed these changes and made the country Catholic once again. Elizabeth I restored Protestantism and led England through a golden age of art, exploration and naval power. Her sailors, including Sir Francis Drake, circumnavigated the globe.

The Tudor period also saw England's first serious attempts at exploring the wider world. When Elizabeth died without an heir in 1603, the Tudor dynasty came to an end.



## Questions

1. When did the Tudor dynasty begin and end?
2. Who did Henry Tudor defeat to become king?
3. What was the Wars of the Roses?
4. Which two families fought in the Wars of the Roses?
5. Why did Henry VIII break from the Roman Catholic Church?
6. What was the name of the church Henry VIII created?
7. What did Edward VI try to do during his reign?
8. What did Mary I do during her reign?
9. Name one achievement of Elizabeth I's reign.
10. Henry VIII changed the religion of the whole country because of a personal problem. What does this tell us about the power that Tudor monarchs had?

