

Everyday Life in Tudor Times

The Tudor period lasted from 1485 to 1603. During this time, most people lived and worked in the countryside as farmers. Life was very hard and most families were quite poor.

Tudor houses looked very different from ours. Poor families lived in simple cottages with walls made from wood and mud, called wattle and daub. The roofs were thatched with straw. There was usually just one or two rooms, and the whole family ate, slept and cooked in the same space.

Food depended on how wealthy you were. Poor people ate simple meals of bread, pottage (a thick vegetable soup) and whatever they could grow. Wealthy families enjoyed lavish feasts with roasted meats, fancy pies and imported spices.

Education was not available to everyone. Boys from wealthy families attended grammar schools, where they learned Latin and reading. Most girls were taught at home.

For entertainment, Tudor people enjoyed fairs, wrestling and watching plays performed by travelling actors. Music and dancing were popular at all levels of society.

Questions

1. When did the Tudor period begin and end?
2. Where did most Tudor people work?
3. What materials were used to build poor Tudor houses?
4. What is wattle and daub?
5. What is pottage?
6. What did wealthy families eat at feasts?
7. What did boys learn at grammar school?
8. Where were most girls educated?
9. Name two forms of entertainment that Tudor people enjoyed.
10. Why do you think only wealthy boys were able to go to grammar school?



Text B Quiz



Read and Retrieve