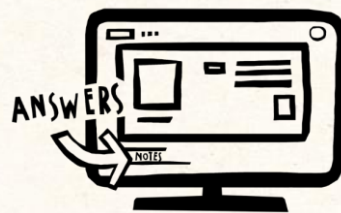


HOW TO USE - NOTES FOR TEACHERS

These resources from Historic Royal Palaces are multi-purpose.
They are ready for you to tweak and use in your lessons.



For the best experience,
download and open the
file in the PowerPoint
desktop app.



Answers are found
under the slide. Click
on the notes symbol at
the bottom of the screen.



Delete text and images
to make your own
worksheets.

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Courtesy of the British Library Royal 15 E. VI

Lived: 1421-1471

Birthplace: Windsor Castle

Reigned: 1422-1461 & 1470-1471

HENRY VI

The Lancastrian King who lost his throne during the Wars of the Roses

Henry VI became king when he was a baby after his father died. He was part of the house of **Lancaster**. As an adult, he sometimes suffered with mental illness and his wife Margaret would often help to rule.

However, his relative Richard, Duke of **York** also wanted power and **became Lord Protector**. These **power struggles** led to the **Wars of the Roses** between the **Lancastrians** and the **Yorkists**.

In 1461, the **Yorkist** armies defeated Henry's **Lancastrian** armies at the Battle of Towton and Richard's son Edward IV became King. In 1470, Henry VI briefly became king again, but he was **deposed** a year later. Henry VI's only son and **heir** was killed in battle. In 1471, Henry was imprisoned in the Tower of London and eventually murdered.

Q: Henry VI may have been murdered on the orders of the **Yorkist** brothers Edward IV or Richard, Duke of Gloucester. What did they have to gain from Henry's death?

Henry founded Eton College and King's College at Cambridge.



Courtesy of the British Library Royal 15 E. VI

Lived: 1430 - 1482

Birthplace: Lorraine, France

Reigned: 1445-1461 & 1470-1471

MARGARET OF ANJOU

Strong-willed Queen Consort who raised armies

Margaret married Henry VI in 1445, when she was 15. She became **Queen Consort** and was now part of the house of **Lancaster**. In 1453 they had their only child, Edward. Margaret was intelligent, determined and had a powerful influence over her husband.

When Henry was unwell, Margaret ruled the kingdom in his place. However, Richard, Duke of **York** became **Lord Protector**. This created a **power struggle** and led to the start of the **Wars of the Roses**.

Margaret helped to organise **Lancastrian** armies, but they were defeated, and she fled to France with her son in 1461. In 1471 they returned but their army was defeated again, and her son was killed. Margaret was imprisoned but was later released and went back to France.

In 1455, she was offered a deal to allow Henry VI to keep the throne, if she agreed that after he died, the throne would pass to Richard, the Duke of York. This may have avoided war, but she refused.

Q: Why do you think Margaret refused the deal in 1455? Do you think Margaret's was brave and courageous to refuse the deal, or do you think she should have compromised?



Royal Collection Trust
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Lived: 1442 - 1483

Birthplace: Rouen, France

Reigned: 1461-1470 & 1471-1483

EDWARD IV

The Yorkist King who won the crown twice in battle

Edward IV was the eldest son of Richard, Duke of York, and Cecily Neville. He grew up fighting on the **Yorkist** side in the **Wars of the Roses**. His father was killed in 1460 at the Battle of Wakefield.

He became king after defeating the **Lancastrian** armies at the Battle of Towton in 1461.

He was **deposed** in 1470 but became king again a year later.

Edward secretly married Elizabeth Woodville in 1464, but their marriage was later declared **invalid**.

He died in 1483, leaving two young sons who became known as the 'Princes in the Tower' after they mysteriously disappeared.

Q: What impression do you have of Edward from his portrait and this biography?

Edward was the tallest king of England, at 1.93 metres tall.



Royal Collection Trust
© His Majesty King Charles III 2024

Lived: c.1437 - 1492

Birthplace: Northamptonshire

Reigned: 1465-1470 & 1471-1483

ELIZABETH WOODVILLE

The widow of a Lancastrian knight who became a Yorkist Queen

Elizabeth was born to a family of low-ranking **nobles** who were supporters of the **Lancastrians**.

She married Sir John Grey, a **Lancastrian** knight, and they had two children. However, he was killed in battle in 1461, fighting for the **Lancastrian** army.

Elizabeth later married the **Yorkist** Edward IV in secret, and this caused a public **scandal**. She was crowned **Queen Consort** in 1465 and used her position to increase the status and **wealth** of her family.

After Edward's death, her sons were taken to the Tower of London. Elizabeth took **sanctuary** in Westminster Abbey with her other children. Her two sons mysteriously disappeared.

Years later, Elizabeth helped to arrange the marriage of her daughter Elizabeth of York to Henry Tudor, which ended the **Wars of the Roses** and started the Tudor **dynasty**.

Q: Why do you think Elizabeth's marriage to Edward caused a **scandal** when it became public?

What evidence is there to explain why Elizabeth was not a popular queen?



Courtesy of the British Library Add. 48976

RICHARD NEVILLE

Known as the 'Kingmaker' - changed sides during the Wars of the Roses

Richard became Earl of Warwick when he married Anne, Countess of Warwick, and his life was transformed.

He became one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in England. At first, he fought on the **Yorkist** side with Richard, Duke of York, and helped the Duke's son win and to become King Edward IV.

However, Richard did not support Edward's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville, and he started to disagree with the King more and more. As a result, Richard began to lose his power.

In 1470, he made an **alliance** with the **Lancastrians**. He helped Margaret of Anjou to put Henry VI back on the throne. Since Henry was unwell, Richard planned to rule through the King, but Richard was killed at the Battle of Barnet in 1471.

Q: Using this evidence, how would you describe Richard, the Earl of Warwick?

Lived: 1428 - 1471
Birthplace: Unknown

As part of the **alliance** with Margaret of Anjou Richard's daughter, Anne, would marry Margaret's son, Edward.



Philip Mould & Company, London

Lived: 1449 - 1478
Birthplace: Dublin Castle

George was the middle son of Richard, Duke of **York**. His brother Edward became King Edward IV in 1461 and gave George the title of Duke of Clarence and **Lord Lieutenant** of Ireland.

He married Isabel Neville, who was the daughter of Richard Neville. This was against his brother, King Edward IV's wishes. George made an **alliance** with his father-in-law. Together, they deserted the **Yorkists** and now supported the **Lancastrians**. They helped Henry VI return to power in 1470.

GEORGE PLANTAGENET

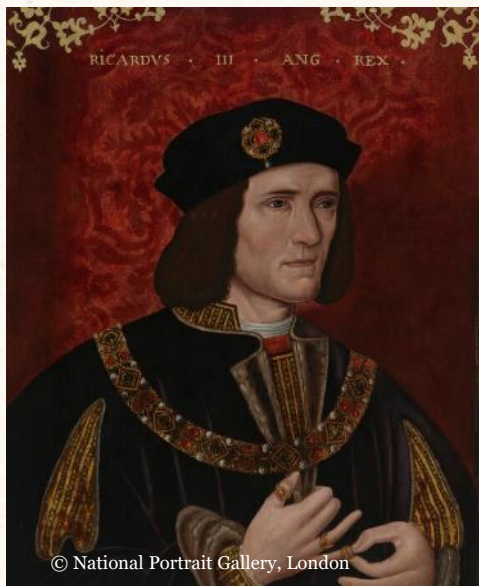
A member of the House of York who was executed for treason

Q: How old was George when his brother made him Duke of Clarence and **Lord Lieutenant** of Ireland?

What does this tell you about royal titles and positions in the Middle Ages?

However, George soon realised that his father-in-law was more interested in gaining power for himself than in supporting Henry VI, so George changed sides again. He made up with his brother in 1471 and fought with the **Yorkist** armies to help Edward IV become king again.

Later, George was accused of plotting against Edward IV. He was found guilty of **treason** and executed at the Tower of London.



© National Portrait Gallery, London

Lived: 1452 - 1485

Birthplace: Northamptonshire

Reigned: 1483 - 1485

*Richard III's skeleton was discovered in a car park in 2012. It was revealed that he had **scoliosis**.*

This was probably painful but hardly visible when he was clothed.

Q: What impression do you get of Richard from his portrait?
Do you think Richard was a popular king?

RICHARD III

The last English king to die on the battlefield

Richard was the youngest son of Richard, Duke of **York**, and Cecily Neville. His brother Edward IV became king in 1461 and Richard became the Duke of Gloucester.

- Experienced **military** commander by age 17.
- Later put in charge of northern England.
- When his brother Edward IV died, he became **Lord Protector** and ruled on behalf of his 12-year-old nephew Edward V.
- Placed his nephews, the two princes (the uncrowned Edward V and his 10-year-old brother Richard) in the Tower of London.
- The boys were declared **illegitimate** and disappeared soon after.

A few weeks after the disappearance of the princes, in July 1483, Richard was crowned King Richard III. Two years later, he was killed at the Battle of Bosworth.



© National Portrait Gallery, London

Lived: 1457 - 1509

Birthplace: Wales

Reigned: 1485 - 1509

The new Tudor emblem combined the red rose of Lancaster with the white rose of York. It became known as the Tudor Rose.

Q: How did Henry secure the future of the Tudor dynasty?
Do you think Henry was a popular king?

HENRY VII

Founder of the Tudor dynasty

Henry became king after the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

He was part of the House of **Lancaster** but did not have a strong claim to the throne. He made his claim stronger by marrying Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of the **Yorkist** King Edward IV. Together, they united the two royal houses of **Lancaster** and **York**.

- Defeated two **uprisings** that were led by people stating they had a stronger claim to the throne than he did.
- Strengthened the power of the monarchy.
- Reduced the power of **nobles**.
- Increased taxes.

Henry arranged marriages for his children to help him make **alliances** and keep peace.

He left behind a stable country, a secure throne and a full treasury when he died.

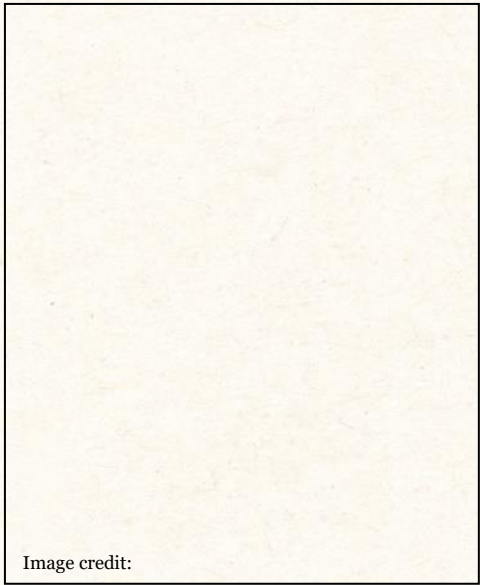
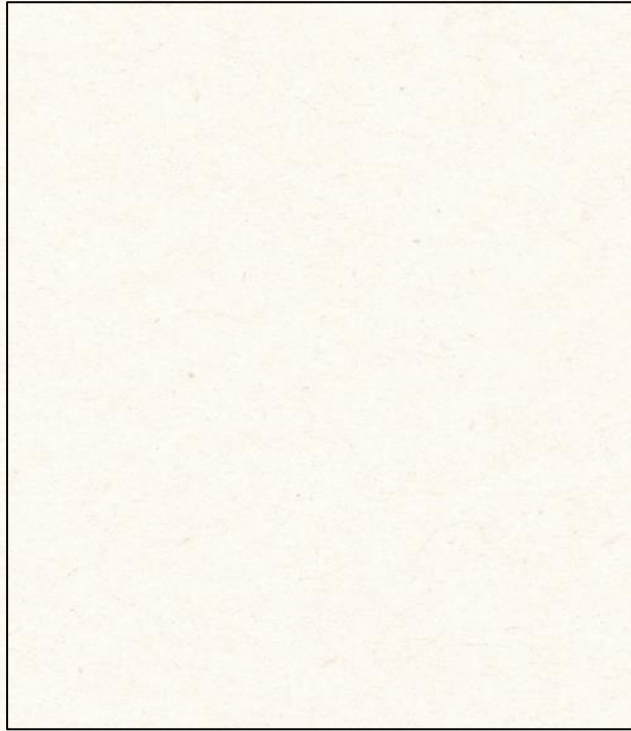
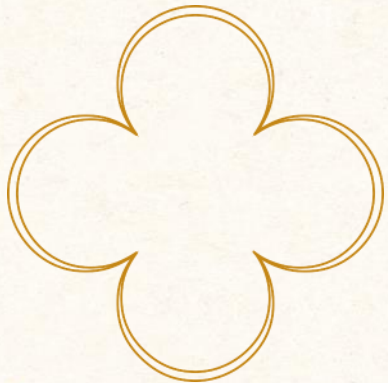
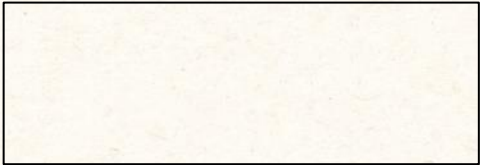


Image credit:

Lived: _____
Birthplace: _____



Q:

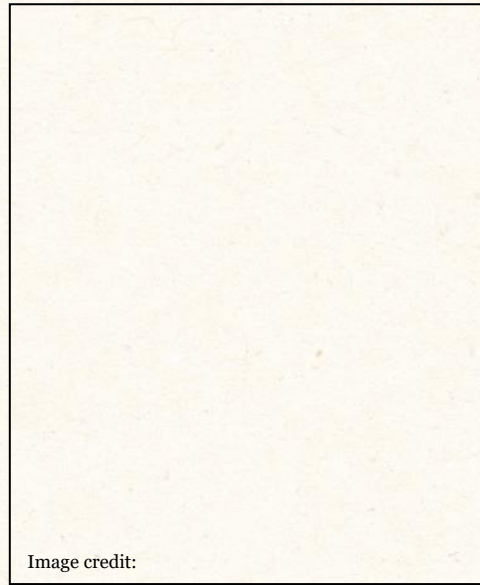
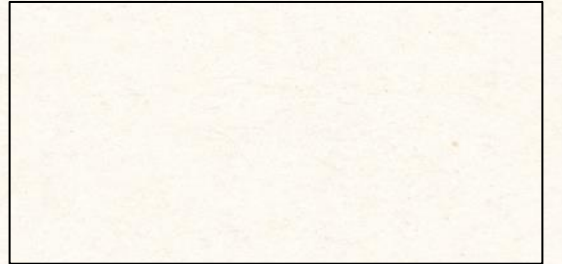
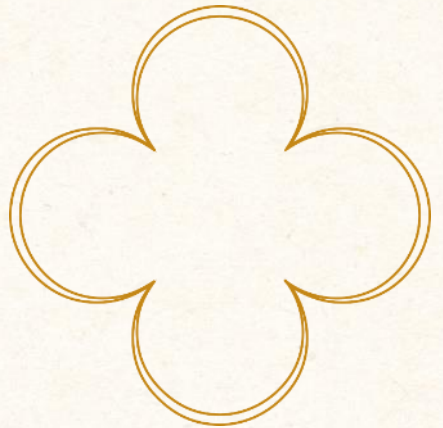


Image credit:

Lived: _____
Birthplace: _____



Q:

VOCABULARY LIST



alliance | agreement between people or countries to help each other

emblem | picture of an object used to represent something else, such as membership of a group or an idea

depose | remove someone from power

dynasty | series of leaders from the same family

government | group of people that have the authority to rule a country

heir | person who will become the next king or queen

illegitimate | child whose parents were not legally married to each other when they were born

invalid | not legal

Lancaster | one side of the Plantagenet royal family who fought in the Wars of the Roses; their emblem was the Red Rose

Lancastrians | supporter of the Lancaster side in the Wars of the Roses

Lord Lieutenant | person who represents the king or queen

Lord Protector | title used by someone in charge of a country when the king or queen is unable to rule (if they are unwell or a child, for example)

military | word used in connection with an armed force such as soldiers

nobles | people of high rank in society

Plantagenet | royal family who ruled England from 1154 to 1485

VOCABULARY LIST

plot/plotting | secretly plan to harm someone, especially a government or ruler

power struggle | a fight for control between two or more people or groups

Queen Consort | wife of a reigning king

scoliosis | condition where a person's spine twists and curves to the side

treason | the crime of acting against your own country, especially by trying to kill the king or queen, or overthrow the government

Treasury | place or building where money is stored

uprising | protest against the government or ruler by people who are angry and want change; usually in one part of the country and often violent

Wars of the Roses | name given to battles fought in England between 1455 and 1485 between two sides of the Plantagenet royal family

York | one side of the Plantagenet royal family who fought in the Wars of the Roses; their emblem was the White Rose

Yorkists | supporters of the York side in the Wars of the Roses

