



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

# HENRY VIII ON TOUR

---

TUDOR FESTIVAL LEARNING PACK

---





## CONTENTS

Introduction	03
Background Notes	04
Pre and post visit activities	09
Primary source investigation	14
What to see and do at Hampton Court Palace	22



# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome

The Team at Historic Royal Palaces are excited to welcome Schools, Home Educator audiences and Community Groups to our Henry VIII on Tour Tudor Festival at Hampton Court Palace.

This pack has been developed to provide ideas for pre and post visit learning activities. These are suggestions to help you and your learners get the most out of your visit to the festival.

The festival runs in parallel with an academic research project called Henry on Tour which has been investigating historical sources on Henry VIII's royal tours or 'progresses' to reassess Henry VIII and his kingship.

## The Festival

The festival will recreate the pageantry, excitement and awe of King Henry's 1522 royal progress. It will provide a vibrant, interactive, fun and multi-sensory experience to broaden understanding of the Tudor court, Henry's reign and the role of progresses in consolidating Henry's power.

Tudor tents featuring a range of activities, demonstrations, costumed characters and music will be on offer. In addition, the palace and gardens will be open for you to explore. Please note there will be reduced opening on Monday and Tuesday when the palace is closed to general visitors.



# BACKGROUND NOTES

## What is a royal progress?

During his lifetime, King Henry VIII regularly went on large-scale tours of the country to boost his popularity and consolidate his power. These tours were vast in scale with complex itineraries, making them very different to a standard royal journey.

They were known as ‘royal progresses’ and were huge undertakings, involving at least 500 people, and sometimes several thousand. The king spent the nights in royal residences, monasteries, hunting lodges and private homes, often large manor houses, while many in his entourage camped in tents when ‘regular’ accommodation was limited or unavailable.

Along the routes, ordinary people would clamour for sight of their awe-inspiring King. At key points along the way, there would have been feasts, pageantry, music and performances to welcome and entertain the King and his entourage.

Royal progresses were not a new concept in Tudor England but an inherited and established tradition, dating back to the 13th century. Henry VIII both consolidated and adapted it during his long reign.

## What was the purpose of a royal progress?

- Royal progresses served many different functions in King Henry’s reign:
- To display royal magnificence (propaganda)
- To promote royal authority by an impressive show of courtiers and soldiers
- To show off the queen consort and let her fulfil her queenly duties
- To instill a sense of stability and confidence in the way the country was governed
- To quell discontent in the regions
- To enforce loyalty to the King e.g. In York, people performed acts of submission after involvement in a rebellion known as the Pilgrimage of Grace
- To promote diplomatic relations with rulers of other countries
- To perform important kingly duties e.g. dispensing justice, knighting ceremonies, gift-giving and healing ceremonies
- To escape disease-ridden London during the summer months
- To enable the palaces to be cleaned and the loos emptied.
- To pursue leisure activities such as hunting and visiting friends
- To visit places of pilgrimage and make offerings at important shrines



## How were progresses organised?

- King Henry went on a royal progress almost every year of his reign (1509–47).
- Progresses usually took place during the summer months, known as the ‘grass season,’ when hay was being cut for the winter.
- They were huge undertakings and took a lot of planning. The monarch and court travelled by boat, horse or both with their baggage laden in carts.
- An army of harbingers (people sent ahead to secure lodgings), purveyors (those who provides goods or services like food and drink), stewards and ushers were needed to ride ahead of the royal party and prepare supplies and accommodation for the rest of the court, which at times could number upwards of 1000.
- Also needing to be ferried from place to place were the monarch’s bed, clothes, gold plate, musical instruments and tapestries, which would be carefully packed up and unpacked in each place — a task that would need to be done each day, or every few weeks depending on how long the monarch stayed in each place.
- Close communication was required between the Court and the localities and venues to be visited.
- Activities needed to be pre-arranged (e.g. hunting, dispensing royal justice, knighting ceremonies, gift-giving and healing ceremonies).

- Food needed to be bought, stored and prepared for the king and his entourage.
- Entertainment – music, masques (lavish, dramatic entertainment often spoken in verse, usually performed by masked, disguised players representing mythological or allegorical figures), dances, plays, tournaments had to be planned.
- A small group of priests and singers from the Chapel Royal ('the Riding Chapel') travelled with him to enable the King and queen to make their religious devotions each day.
- Provision needed to be made for the king to attend to matters of state whilst on a progress, so a sub-section of the Privy Council usually travelled with the King while the rest remained in London.

### **What can historical sources tell us about royal progresses?**

- 'Giest' is the name for a Tudor itinerary for a progress. It would list where the monarch would be visiting, how far they would travel each day, and where they would be staying each night. A few giests for Henry VIII's progresses survive to show what route was intended.
- The Manuscript State Papers and printed collection of Letters and Papers.
- Exchequer, Wardrobe and Household accounts
- Comptrollers' and Cofferers' accounts
- Accounts and inventories relating to forfeited lands and monastic households
- Records of the Courts of Augmentations, General Surveyors and Requests
- Manuscript collections in the Society of Antiquaries, the College of Arms, the British Library, and the Bodleian Library
- Surviving civic records (e.g. York Civic Records, Corporation of Canterbury Records, Coventry Leet Book - many of which are printed or calendared in Historical Manuscripts Commission Reports)
- Bishops' registers, family archives and the Records of Early English Drama



## What happened on the 1522 progress?

King Henry has been married to Catherine of Aragon since 1509. Their daughter, Mary, was aged 6 at this time.

- 26 May** King Charles I of Spain, recently crowned Emperor Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire, arrived at Dover from Calais (then an English territory). He was Catherine of Aragon's nephew and cousin to Princess Mary.
- He was on his way to Spain from the Netherlands (then it was part of the 'Low Countries') where he was the powerful Duke of Burgundy.
- 28 May** Henry met Charles and together they inspected the English flagship Henry Grace à Dieu at Dover.
- 29 May** England declared war on France.
- Charles and Henry travelled to Canterbury where they were greeted with a civic welcome and dined with the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- 30 May** They travelled to Sittingbourne where they stayed in local inns and private houses.
- 1 June** They travelled to Rochester where they were hosted at the priory.
- 2 June** They travelled to Greenwich Palace by royal barge from Gravesend receiving a salute from ships' canon as they passed up the River Thames.
- 6 June** Charles and Henry entered London with magnificent pomp, dressed in the same attire. The streets were decorated with banners and people performed pageants on London Bridge and elsewhere along their route. The two monarchs feasted and discussed their military plans against France.
- 9–11 June** They were rowed by royal barge from Bridewell Palace, near Blackfriars (where Charles was staying) first to Richmond and then Hampton Court, where they were hosted splendidly by Cardinal Wolsey.
- 12 June** The two proceeded to Windsor Castle where they were entertained and enjoyed excellent hunting in the royal parks.
- 19 June** In a ceremony in St George's Chapel, Charles and Henry signed the Treaty of Windsor, a pact against France. At the same time Princess Mary was betrothed to Charles (as part of the deal).

**21 June**

The royal party travelled onwards to Farnham and Winchester, where Henry showed Charles Edward III's Roundtable, before moving to nearby Bishop's Waltham where they signed another treaty.

**4 July**

Now at the end of the progress their paths diverged. Charles departed for Southampton and embarked his ship for Spain. Henry returned via Farnham to Windsor.





# PRE AND POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

## A. What was King Henry VIII like in 1522? | Ks2 & 3

Find out about Henry's life in 1522, the year of the Tudor Festival.

- Who was he married to?
- How old was he?
- What did he look like as a younger man?
- Did he have any children?
- What sports did he play?
- What leisure activities did he enjoy?

## B. What is a royal progress? | Ks2 & 3

Find out what a royal progress is. Can you think of reasons why a monarch like Henry would travel the country in this way?

## C. Did Henry build Hampton Court Palace? | Ks3

Find out about the history of Hampton Court.

- When was Hampton Court built and by whom?
- When did King Henry VIII acquire the palace?
- What changes did he make to the palace?
- How did he decorate the Great Hall?
- What sport facilities were there?

## D. What senses will I use at the festival? | SEND

Our festival recreates a royal Tudor encampment with music, dancing, outdoor roasting, tents displaying armour, and colourful costumes worn by our cast. There will be things to see, touch, smell, hear and do.

What senses will you use for each of the following activities? :-

1. Tudor Music being played by musicians on traditional Tudor instruments.
2. Having a go at stamping a Tudor pattern onto a clay disc, a bit like coin-striking.
3. Meat roasting on an open fire in our outdoor kitchen.
4. Meeting an armourer who will show Tudor armour and weapons.
5. Playing Tudor games like quoits and skittles.
6. Learning how to bow and curtsey before a king and queen.
7. Tudor dancing being demonstrated and a chance to have a go.
8. Meeting a Tudor surgeon to learn about Tudor medicine.

## E. The Palace and Me | SEND

This activity will help your students to understand some of the things which they might find difficult whilst exploring the palace and how to prepare for this. You can discuss the points with your students where appropriate.

a. I might not know where to find something during our visit.

There are lots of people who can help you during your visit. There are also signs which can help us find a particular place.

b. I might find some parts of the palace dark.

People in Tudor times did not have electric lighting like we do today. They would have used candles. You can see some of these in the great kitchens. Some parts of the palace may be darker than other areas.

c. I might find some parts of the palace busy.

It is really important to stay with your adults at all times as there will be other people in the palace and it can be very busy. If it feels too busy in a room, you can always go outside into one of the courtyard areas with an accompanying adult.

d. I might find it tricky walking around the palace.

Some of the outside courtyards are uneven (cobbled) so it can be tricky walking or using a wheelchair. Make sure you move slowly around.

e. I might hear different sounds when I walk around the palace.

There are a range of audio effects used in and around the palace rooms. These are used to help people think about what life was like at the palace a long time ago. Some of the sounds you might hear are horses' hooves, people talking, water bubbling and sounds of tools.

## F. Sensory exploration | SEND

The festival and palace will provide a multi-sensory experience, and this activity will help your students to familiarise themselves with some of the smells, sounds and sights of Hampton Court Palace.

**Smell** – one of the key herbs used in Tudor cooking was rosemary. The students will be able to smell this herb in the Historic Kitchen and smell roasting meat at the festival. Have some rosemary for your students to smell. Ask them to give you a thumbs up/thumbs down response to the smell.

**Touch** – Many of the things at Hampton Court Palace are very special and delicate and we can't touch them, e.g. the paintings and the furniture. There are people who look after these things to try and make them last as long as possible. There are some things we can touch. We can touch the exterior brickwork of the palace as we are looking around. At the festival we can touch rich textiles, metal and wood.

**Sound** – Hampton Court Palace was a very noisy place and can still be noisy today! You could use some sound buttons to help your students understand what sounds people might have heard. E.g. you could show a picture of the Great Hall





and have the sound of people eating or a picture of the Historic Kitchen and the sound of water boiling. At the festival, Tudor music will be performed by musicians, so there will be a chance to hear different instruments being played.

# HENRY VIII ON TOUR WORDSEARCH

## KEY STAGE 2

Q C P R O G R E S S U C W P R  
 U C N C G G A H D M U B H O H  
 E O I F L A G R N Y R L K R U  
 E U V A K I N G H E N R Y T E  
 N N P B L A C K S M I T H C L  
 T C P N N M V H B E H T W U M  
 I I D A N C I N G O D E H L U  
 G L T U D O R R O S E U C L S  
 C O U R T F H D A B E B E I I  
 H O R S E S N D M J V I R S C  
 C S E B B L N Y G C R M E M A  
 R I P I O K C H U A W F M L A  
 O R C K J M T Y C M H O O I F  
 W Y H R Y U N H U P U O N N S  
 N I G V V C P M U J V L Y U O

blacksmith  
 court  
 fool  
 Queen

camp  
 crown  
 horses  
 portcullis

ceremony  
 dancing  
 music  
 progress

council  
 flag  
 KingHenry  
 TudorRose



# HENRY VIII ON TOUR WORDSEARCH

## KEY STAGE 3

B E P I C B O A L W V A R R Y P D T A A  
 W D L L O O V U J I H D E O S A D L K K  
 K E A V F R U F L T W V Y A E G P B Q I  
 J M H D B K F N O W E D K P A E R B U N  
 T M O L F L H W C L T P D R A A T A E G  
 W V H I C O A J S I P G W B C N U R E H  
 T E C P R E L C Y M L H N B C T D B N E  
 C V G S H C R F K M U D M L O T O E C N  
 O B E N Y D W E B S G A A F U G R R A R  
 U S O T B Y O L M H M D C Y N T R S T Y  
 R C H L C C U P L O M I D C T F O U H I  
 T A V W D R R K W B N A T C S R S R E B  
 I M V I N O R M S B N Y F H O Y E G R J  
 E P R A G W B T W C U U F H M F V E I Y  
 R I G R I N D A I B T H O G L S P O N U  
 S O E V A B B N I D O Y O U N N F N E O  
 V S R Y I U G K R W U F L Y G R L A F N  
 S M U S I C J P B G L S J E M G Y M V W  
 U F D H O R R G T A L V U U U J A U L G  
 R U L H F F J I G B P O R T C U L L I S

accounts  
 ceremony  
 dancing  
 music  
 portcullis

blacksmith  
 council  
 flag  
 KingHenry  
 progress

barbersurgeon  
 courtiers  
 fool  
 QueenCatherine  
 revels

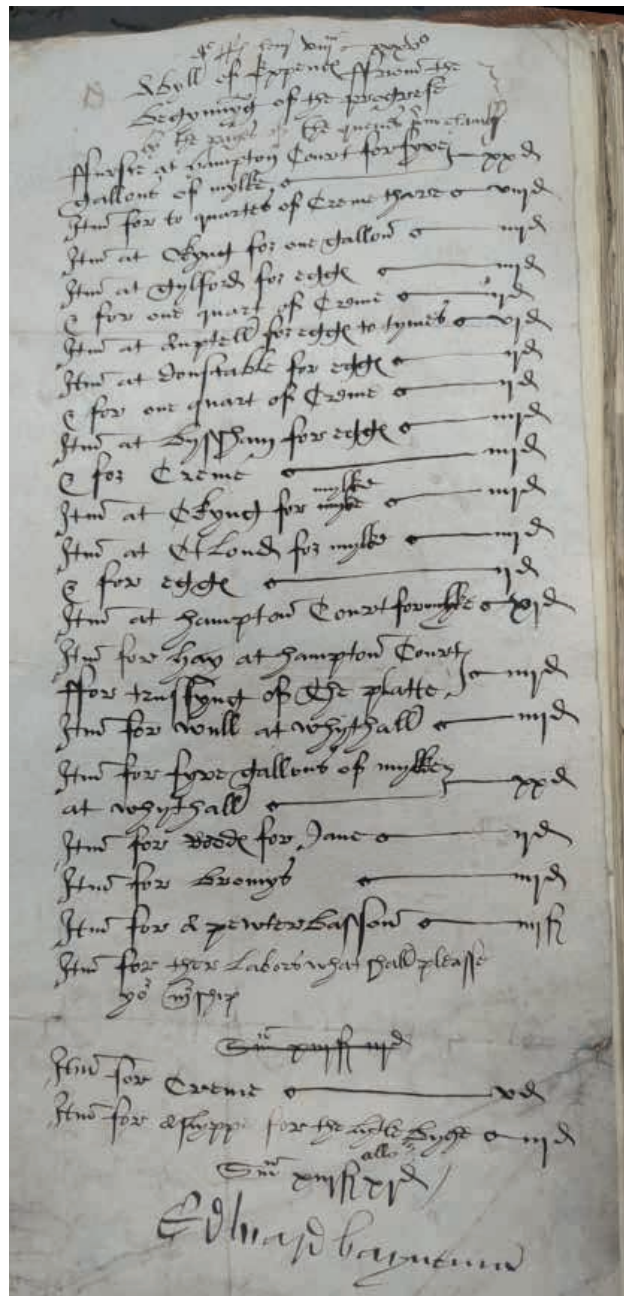
camp  
 crown  
 horses  
 pageant  
 TudorRose

## PRIMARY SOURCE INVESTIGATION

Imagine you are a historian. A historian has to examine historical sources in order to build up a picture of a person, event or other aspect of the past. Imagine you are a historian doing some research into Henry VIII's royal progresses. Examine the following sources and have a go at answering the accompanying questions. This activity will give you a sense of what a historian does and how challenging the work can sometimes be.

### A. Document 1 – A bill of expenses, 1543

The National Archives, E 315/161 f.81, 'A bill of expenses from the beginning of the progress by the pages of the queen's privy chamber', 1543. List of supplies purchased by Katherine Parr's household officers while on progress – many of the purchases are for fresh produce.





# TRANSCRIPT

## Original

A[nno] R Henricus viii xxxv  
 A byll of Expences from the  
 Begynnyg of the progrese  
 by the pages of the quenes privy chamb[er].  
 First at hampton court for five  
 Gallons of mylke } xxd  
 Item for to quartes of Creme thare } viiid  
 Item at Okyng for one gallon } iiid  
 Item at Gylford for egges } iiid  
 & for one quart of Creme } iid  
 Item at Amptell for egges, to tymes } vid  
 Item at Donstable for egges } iid  
 & for one quart of Creme } iid  
 Item at Byssham for egges } iiid  
 & for Creme } iiid  
 Item at Okyng for mylke } iiid  
 Item at Ot lond for mylke } iiid  
 & for egges } iid  
 Item at hampton court for mylke } xid  
 Item for hay at hampton Court  
 For trussing of the platte } iiid  
 Item for wull at Whythall } iiid  
 Item for five gallons of mylke  
 at Whythall } xxd  
 Item for Roode[?] for Jane } iid  
 Item for bromys } iiid  
 Item for a pewterbasson } iiis  
 Item for ther Labours what shall please  
 your w[or]ship  
 Summa xiiis iiid  
 Item for Creme } vd  
 Item for aslyppe for the lytle by[---] } iiid  
 Summa xiiis xid  
 Edward Baynton

## Modernised

The 35th year of King Henry VIII  
 A bill of expenses from the  
 beginning of the progress  
 by the pages of the Queen's privy chamber.  
 First at Hampton Court for five  
 Gallons of milk } 20d  
 Item for 2 quarts of cream there } 8d  
 Item at Woking for 1 gallon (milk) } 4d  
 Item at Guildford for eggs } 4d  
 And for 1 quart of cream } 2d  
 Item at Ampthill for eggs, 2 times } 6d  
 Item at Dunstable for eggs } 2d  
 And for 1 quart of cream } 2d  
 Item at Bisham for eggs } 4d  
 And for cream } 4d  
 Item at Woking for milk } 4d  
 Item at Oatlands for milk } 4d  
 And for eggs } 2d  
 Item at Hampton Court for milk } 11d  
 Item for hay at Hampton Court  
 For trussing of the plate } 4d  
 Item for wool at Whitehall } 4d  
 Item for 5 gallons of milk  
 at Whitehall } 20d  
 Item for Roode[?] for Jane } 2d  
 Item for brooms } 4d  
 Item for a pewter basin } 4s  
 Item for their labours what shall please  
 Your worship  
 Sum 13s 3d  
 Item for cream } 5d  
 Item for a slip for the little b[?] } 3d  
 Sum 13s 11d  
 Edward Baynton

### Key:

s = shillings

d = pence

numbers in  
original text are all  
roman numerals

text in square  
brackets '['']

= expanded  
contractions

? or [---] = words  
we are unsure of or  
have yet to identify

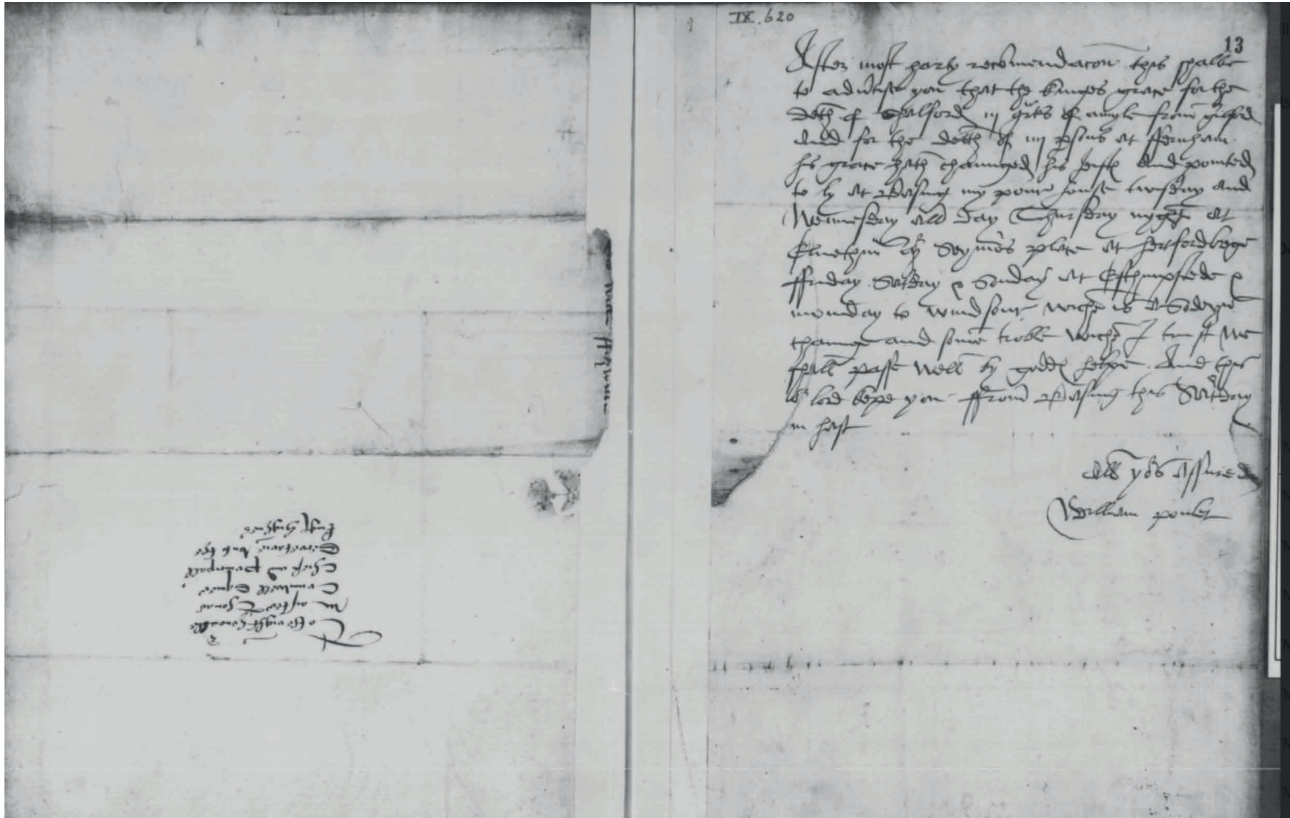
## Questions:

This is a bill showing items that have been bought for the early stages of a royal progress in 1543.

1. What are the three items most often purchased?
2. Why do you think these items needed to be bought so often?
3. Why might hay been purchased?
4. Can you list all the places visited on this progress using the bill of expenses to help you?
5. How much money has been spent in total on milk? (According to the then system, twelve pence used to make one shilling, and twenty shillings used to make a pound.)

### B. Document no.2 - A letter to Thomas Cromwell, 1535.

The National Archives SP 1/98 f.13, 'Sir William Paulet to Thomas Cromwell', 16 October 1535. Letter explaining that the King has changed his itinerary and listing the new route. William Paulet was the Marquess of Winchester. MS Records. Assembled by the State Paper Office.





# TRANSCRIPT

## Original

After most hartye recomendacion this shalbe  
To adv[er]tise you that the kinges grace for the  
Deth of shalford iii quarts of a myle from  
Gilford  
And for the deth of iiii p[er]sons at Fernham  
His grace hath changed his gestes And pointed  
To ly at Basing my pour house tewsdai And  
Wednesday and lay Thursday nyght at  
Elvetham Mr Seymour's place, at Hertfordbrege  
Friday, Saturday and sonday at Esthampstede  
and  
Monday to Windsor whiche is a Sodeyn  
Change and some trouble which I trust we  
Shall passe well by goddes helpe. And this  
Our lord keep you. From Basing this Saturday  
All yours assuredly  
William Poulet

## Modernised

After most hearty recommendation this shall be  
to advertise you that the king's grace for the  
death of Shalford three quarters of a mile from  
Guildford  
and for the death of three persons at Farnham  
his grace hath changed his giests and appointed  
to lie at Basing my poor house Tuesday and  
Wednesday, and lay Thursday night at  
Elvetham, Mr Seymour's place, at Hertfordbridge  
Friday [and] Saturday, and Sunday at  
Easthampstead and  
Monday to Windsor which is a sudden  
change and some trouble which I trust we  
shall pass well by God's help. And this  
our lord keep you. From Basing this Saturday.  
All yours assuredly  
William Paulet

## Questions:

This is a letter explaining that the route of Henry's progress in 1535 is to be changed.

1. Why do you think the route of the progress was changed? What word makes you think this?
2. What might have caused these deaths? Think about a dangerous epidemic that broke out regularly in medieval, Tudor and Elizabethan times.
3. What word(s) are used in the letter that suggest the change of route was unexpected?
4. How can you tell William Paulet is a religious man?
5. In line 5 it says, "...his grace hath changed his giests". What do you think a 'giest' might be? Can you think of another word to use instead?

# ANSWERS:

## Document 1:

1. What are the three items most often purchased?

Cream, milk and eggs

2. Why do you think these items needed to be bought so often?

There are a lot of people on the progress.

Eggs break easily so they are not safe to travel with.

Milk and cream will spoil as there is no way to keep them cool; therefore, it is necessary to buy these goods daily.

3. Why might hay been purchased?

To feed the horses. Over a thousand horses might be needed on progress to carry courtiers and servants but also to transport food, clothes, furniture and personal items.

4. Can you work out the route of this progress from the places mentioned in the bill of expenses? See places highlighted in yellow.

Hampton Court – Woking – Guildford – Ampthill – Dunstable – Bisham –  
Woking – Oatlands – Hampton Court – Whitehall.

5. How much money has been spent in total on milk? (According to the then system, twelve pence used to make one shilling and twenty shillings used to make one pound.)

63d = 5s and 3d.

## Document 2:

1. Why do you think the route of the progress was changed? What word makes you think this?

See 'death of Shalford three quarters of a mile from Guildford and for the death of three persons at Farnham'. People had died in villages where Henry was travelling to or through. The word 'death' tells you this.

2. What might have caused these deaths? Think about a dangerous epidemic that broke out regularly in medieval, Tudor and Elizabethan times.

The plague, sometimes called the Black Death.

3. What words are used in the letter that suggest this change was unexpected?

'a sudden change'.



4. How can you tell William Paulet is a religious man?

He mentions 'God' and 'lord' in the letter.

5. What do you think a 'giest' might be? Can you think of another word to use instead?

A giest is a route or travel plan for a progress. Another word might be an itinerary, a route, a list of destinations, a plan, or a journey.





# WHAT TO SEE AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Your booking for the Henry VIII on Tour Tudor Festival includes a 1 hour and 45 minute slot on the festival site as well as free time before and/or after to explore the palace and gardens.

These are some areas of the palace that you might wish to explore with your group:

## Henry VIII Apartments including:

- [Great Hall](#)
- [Great Watching Chamber](#)
- [Haunted Gallery and Processional Route](#)
- [Council Chamber](#)

## Other areas with links to the Tudors:

- [Henry VIII's Kitchens](#)
- [The Tudor World in the Wolsey Rooms](#)
- [Chapel Court](#)
- [Hampton Court Gardens](#)

## Other areas to explore:

- [Georgian Story](#)
- [William III's apartments](#) (Open Wed-Fri only)

You can find our downloadable trail maps and accompanying teacher notes here: [Self-led school visits](#)

You can access all our free downloadable resources here:

[Learning resources](#)

[Tudor Family Tree – Historic Royal Palaces](#)

[Hampton Court Palace Timeline – Historic Royal Palaces](#)