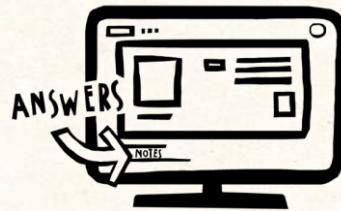


# HOW TO USE - NOTES FOR TEACHERS

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.

## Disclaimer and Use Terms

We are the owner or the licensee of all intellectual property rights in these resources which are protected by copyright laws and treaties around the world. All such rights are reserved. These resources, and the content included within them, may be used by you for educational purposes only. This means that you may download the resources and use or share them solely in educational environments (including for home school lessons) or as part of homework. You may not share the resources other than for the above purposes and you must not use the resources, or any part of them, for any commercial purpose.



Royal Collection Trust  
© His Majesty King Charles III 2024

**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?



© National Portrait Gallery, London

**Lived:** 1470 - ?  
**Birthplace:** London

**Reigned:** 1483

In 1674 skeletons of two children were found at the Tower of London. Many people believe these are the remains of the princes.

## EDWARD V

The older of the two boys known as the Princes in the Tower

Edward V was the elder son of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville. He became Prince of Wales in 1471 and grew up with his uncle Antony Woodville, Earl Rivers, at Ludlow Castle.

Edward became king when he was 12, when his father died. His other uncle, Richard of Gloucester, was named **Lord Protector**. Edward and his younger brother, also called Richard, were taken to the **Royal Apartments** at the Tower of London, to prepare for Edward's coronation.

However, not long before his coronation, his parents' marriage was declared **invalid**. This meant he and his brother were **illegitimate** and he could not become king. Days later, Richard of Gloucester became king.

Edward and Richard were last seen in autumn 1483, playing in the gardens at the Tower of London. They both disappeared soon after.

**Q:** Why do you think the story of the two princes still fascinates people today?



© Historic Royal Palaces

**Lived:** 1473 - ?  
**Birthplace:** Shropshire

Richard was the younger son of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville. He became Duke of York in 1474 and grew up with his mother and sisters. He became the next in line to the throne at 9 years old, when his brother Edward V became king. Their uncle, also called Richard, took young Edward to the Tower of London.

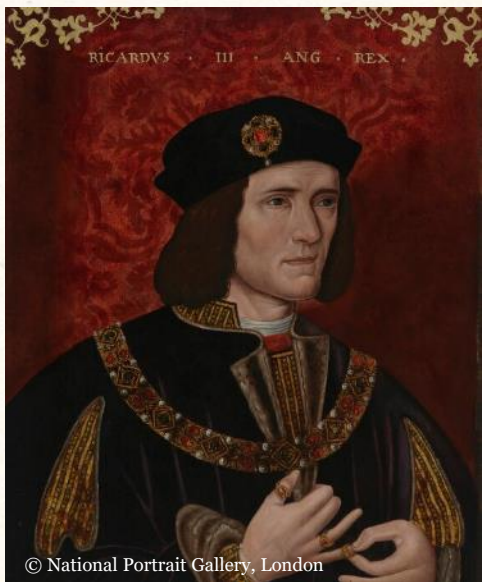
**Q:** Why do you think Richard's mother took him into **sanctuary** with her? The painting is called 'The Princes in the Tower'. How has the artist created a sense that something evil is about to happen?

## RICHARD OF SHREWSBURY

The younger of the two boys known as the Princes in the Tower

The last reported sightings of the boys were in 1483 at the Tower of London, playing with their bows and arrows.

The princes' mother took young Richard with her into **sanctuary** at Westminster Abbey, but she was forced to give him up. He joined Edward at the Tower of London. They both disappeared soon after.



© 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?  
Richard is often viewed as the prime suspect in the princes' disappearance. What might he have had to gain from their deaths?

## RICHARD III

The last English king to die on the battlefield

Richard III 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.



Courtesy of Lambeth Palace Library

**Lived:** c.1440 - 1483

**Birthplace:** Northamptonshire

Anthony was Elizabeth Woodville's brother. He originally fought on the **Lancastrian** side in the **Wars of the Roses** but later became loyal to the **Yorkist** side. When Elizabeth married Edward IV, Anthony became a powerful **courtier**.

Elizabeth and Edward IV had two sons, and the eldest, Prince Edward, was cared for by Anthony at Ludlow Castle.

After King Edward IV's death, Anthony set off for London with his nephew.

## ANTONY WOODVILLE

Knight courtier and uncle to the Princes in the Tower

**Q:** Why do you think the Woodville family wanted to hold Edward V's coronation as soon as possible?

Can you suggest why Richard of Gloucester (later Richard III) saw Antony as a threat?

The plan was to crown young Edward quickly. However, they were **intercepted** by Richard, Duke of Gloucester and Richard took Edward to the Tower of London.

Anthony was suspected of planning to become **Lord Protector** and he was arrested.

He was beheaded at Pontefract Castle in 1483.



© Historic Royal Palaces

**Lived:** c.1431 - 1483  
**Birthplace:** Leicestershire

The image shows Tower Green today, with a memorial for those that lost their lives nearby.

Hastings was reported to be very well-liked at court, even by his rivals.

# WILLIAM HASTINGS

Close friend and advisor to Edward IV

William supported the **Yorkists**. He was knighted on the battlefield in 1461.

- Became Baron Hastings.
- Gained land and great **wealth**.
- Loyal to Edward IV even when Edward was briefly **deposed** in 1470.
- Greatly trusted and immensely powerful.

When Edward died, he supported Richard, Duke of Gloucester, in becoming **Lord Protector** for the young Edward V.

After the death of Edward IV in 1483, William Hastings attended what he thought was a normal meeting at the Tower of London. However, he was accused of **plotting** with the Woodville family to kill Richard. He was dragged onto Tower Green and beheaded without trial.

**Q:** The charges against Hastings were probably false. Why do you think he was executed?



© 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, in which Richard III was defeated.

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**.

- Strengthened the power of the monarchy.
- Reduced the power of **nobles**.
- Increased taxes.

During his reign, Henry VII Defeated two **rebellions** that were led by people stating they had a stronger claim to the throne than he did.

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



GL Archive / Alamy Stock Photo

# LAMBERT SIMNEL

The boy who claimed to be King of England

Not much is known about Lambert's early life and even his real name is not known.

In 1487, some adult rebels claimed he was Edward Plantagenet, son of George, Duke of Clarence.

He became a figurehead for **Yorkist** rebellions against Henry VII. Some people thought he should be king. He was crowned King Edward VI at Dublin Cathedral.

In response, Henry VII had the real Edward Plantagenet taken from Tower of London and paraded through streets. The **Yorkist rebellion** still grew but the royal army defeated them at battle. The **rebel** leaders were executed.

Lambert was **pardoned** and sent to work in the royal kitchens.

**Q:** Why do you think Henry VII **pardoned** Lambert Simnel?

**Lived:** c.1476 - 1534  
**Birthplace:** Oxford

After he was crowned, he was paraded through the streets of Dublin.



Courtesy of the British Library 9504ff.7

# PERKIN WARBECK

The man who claimed to be one of the Princes in the Tower

**Q:** Why do you think Perkin Warbeck was a greater threat to Henry VII than Lambert Simnel had been? What does this tell you about how the two princes' disappearance impacted the throne?

**Lived:** c.1474 - 1499  
**Birthplace:** Tournai, France

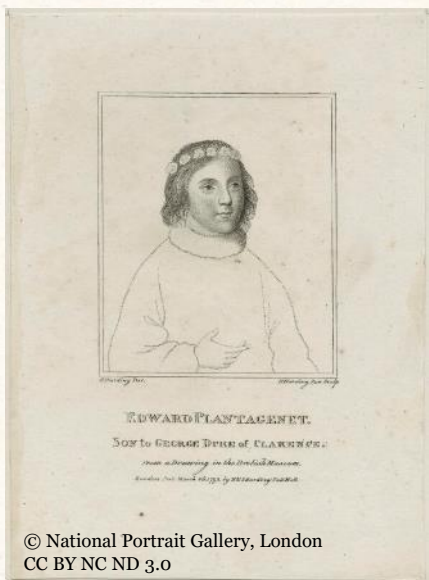
Perkin appeared at court in Burgundy in 1491. He claimed to be Richard of Shrewsbury, the younger of the two princes who went missing in 1483.

He said he had escaped and had been in hiding in Europe. He managed to convince several rulers, including the two princes' aunt, the Duchess of Burgundy, that he was indeed Richard.

Together, they attempted to invade England in 1497 but he was captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London. Perkin confessed he was not Richard after all.

He was released but kept under close watch at court. He tried to escape and was returned to the Tower of London. He was executed in 1499.

*Whilst claiming to be Richard, Perkin said the older prince (his 'brother') had been murdered but he had been spared because of his young age and innocence.*



**Lived:** 1475 - 1499  
**Birthplace:** Warwick

Edward was the son of George, Duke of Clarence, and a member of the House of **York**.

He was the nephew of Edward IV and Richard III.

- In 1476 his mother Isabel Neville died.
- In 1478 his father was executed at the Tower of London.
- In 1478 Edward became the Earl of Warwick.

# EDWARD PLANTAGENET

The last male member of the Plantagenet royal family

**Q:** How old was Edward when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London?

Why do you think Henry VII imprisoned then executed him?

Edward grew up in the household of Thomas Grey. Thomas was Elizabeth Woodville's son, from her first marriage.

In 1485, Henry Tudor defeated Richard III and became King Henry VII.

Not long after this, Edward was **imprisoned** in the Tower of London by Henry VII.

He tried to escape in 1499 and was executed on Tower Hill.

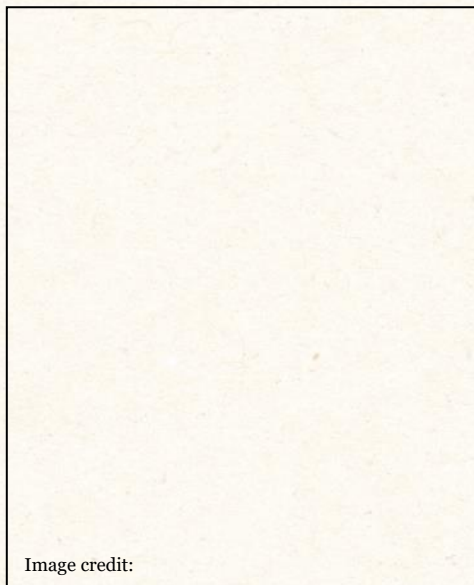
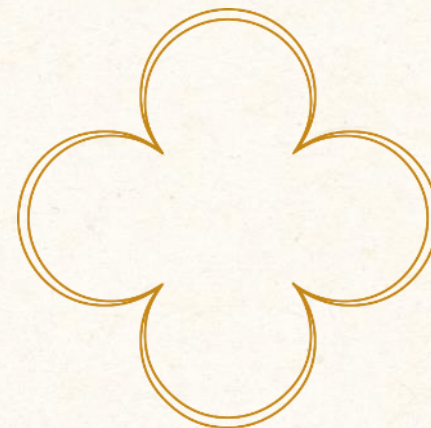
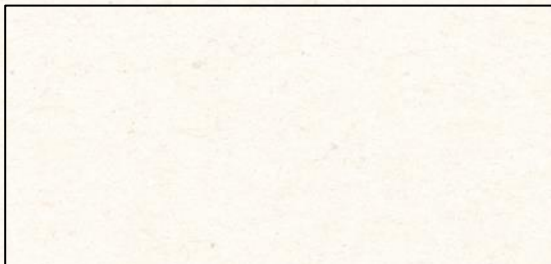


Image credit:

**Lived:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthplace:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Q:**



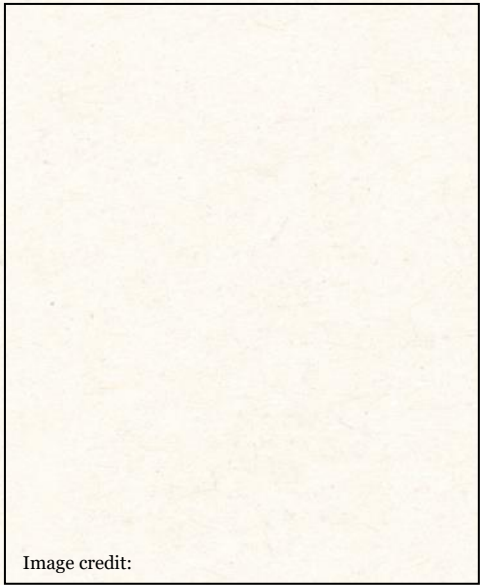
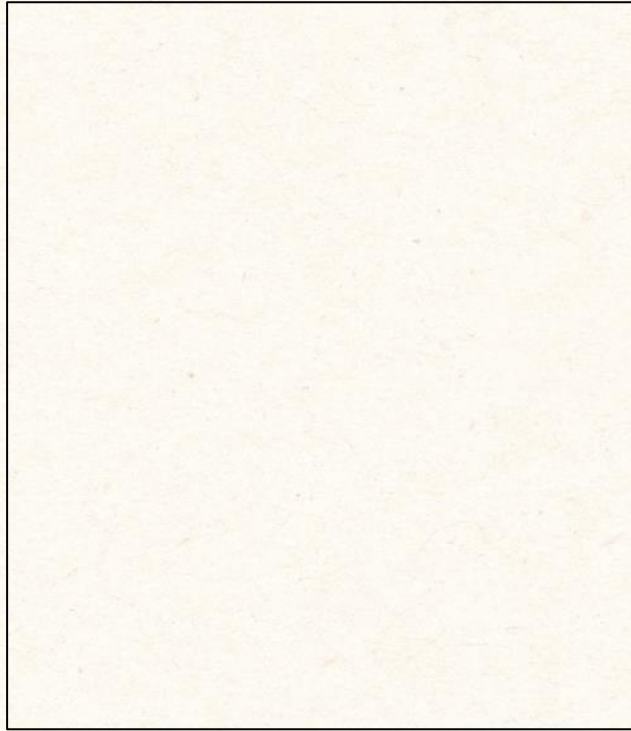
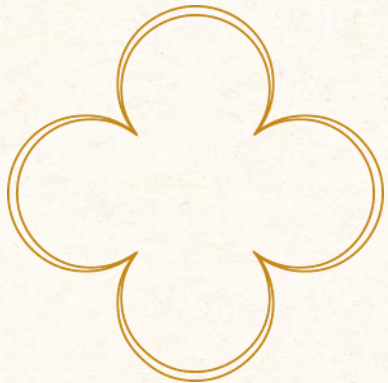
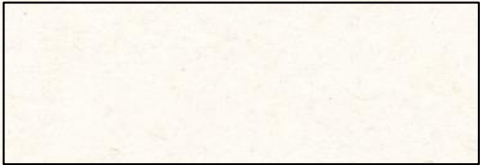


Image credit:

**Lived:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthplace:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Q:**

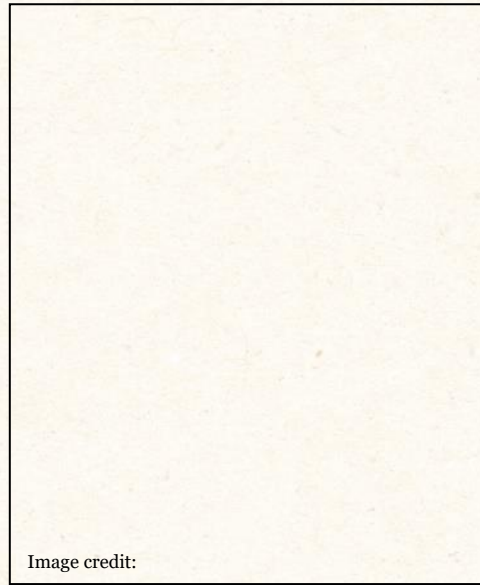
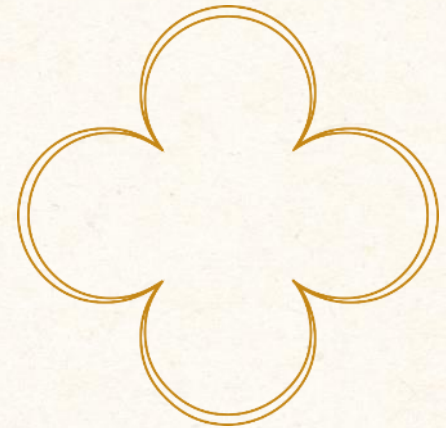


Image credit:

**Lived:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthplace:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Q:**



# VOCABULARY LIST



**depose** | remove someone from power

**courtier** | nobleman or noblewoman who spends a lot of time at the royal court

**dynasty** | series of leaders from the same family

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

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

**imposter** | person who pretends to be someone else

**invalid** | not legal

**intercept** | stop or catch someone before they are able to reach a particular place

**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 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

**pardoned** | officially forgiven for an offence or crime

**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

**rebel** | person who joins a rebellion

**rebellion** | a fight by a large group of people against the government or ruler

**Royal Apartments** | the king or queen's private rooms

**sanctuary** | place of safety; in the past, Christian churches were places of safety and people could not be arrested or harmed in them

**scandal** | action or event that shocks people

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

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

**wealth** | large amount of money, property, land or valuable possessions

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

**Yorkist** | supporters of the York side in the Wars of the Roses

