KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY YEAR 5

What was life like in Tudor England?

MY LEARNING JOURNEY

1	2	3	4	5	6
Henry VIII: fair ruler or tyrant?	Why did Henry VIII have so many wives?	Why was Anne Boleyn executed?	How did Elizabeth I use a royal progress?	What can inventories reveal about Tudor life?	What might John Blanke have owned?

Previously, I learnt to…

- Support inferences with Viking evidence.
- Explain why sagas give different accounts.
- Consider viewpoints and significance.
- Justify conclusions using sources.

In this unit, I am learning…

- ❑ Justify an interpretation of Henry VIII.
- ❑ Explain Tudor marriage choices in context.
- ❑ Explain royal power and Anne's downfall.
- ❑ Evaluate progress accounts and propaganda.
- ❑ Write an eyewitness account of the Worcester visit.
- ❑ Interpret inventories and create one for John Blanke.

Looking ahead: In Years 5 and 6, I will learn…

- Later in Year 5, compare Greek government.
- In Year 6, investigate lives using census records.
- Evaluate sources and justify interpretations.

VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
absolute power	Authority claimed by a ruler to make decisions without challenge.
annulment	A legal decision that a marriage was not valid.
bias	An unfair preference that can affect an account or judgement.
democracy	A system in which people have a say in how they are governed.
heir	A person expected to inherit a title, property or throne.
inventory	A list of belongings, often with their values.
merchant	A person who buys and sells goods to make money.
parliament	An assembly involved in making laws and examining government.
perspective	A person's view, shaped by their knowledge and experiences.
propaganda	Messages designed to influence people's beliefs or views.
royal progress	A monarch's journey around the country with their court.
state	A country or its government.
treason	An offence against the monarch or state.
tyrant	A ruler who uses power cruelly or unfairly.

Life in Tudor England · Year 5

Tudor monarchs: reigns in order (not to scale)

Henry VII	Henry VIII	Edward VI	Mary I	Elizabeth I
1485–1509	1509–1547	1547–1553	1553–1558	1558–1603

Henry VIII and his image

Henry's portraits projected power. Hans Holbein the Younger, a German artist at his court, painted famous images of him. Compare portraits with letters and actions before judging Henry as a fair ruler or tyrant.



Henry VIII



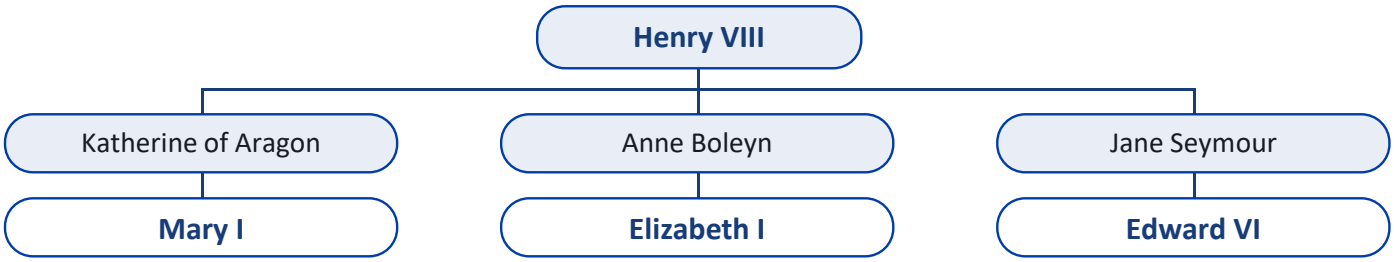
Hans Holbein

Marriage and Anne Boleyn

Henry's six marriages involved hopes for a male heir, religion and alliances. Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth's mother, supported Protestant ideas. She was executed in 1536 on treason charges that historians question.



Henry VIII: three wives and their children



Elizabeth I: power and progress

Elizabeth ruled from 1558 to 1603. Portraits, coins and royal progresses projected her authority as propaganda. She visited Worcester in 1575. Compare sources and their perspectives, then write an evidence-based eyewitness account.

Inventories as evidence

Inventories list belongings and values, often after a death. They can suggest work and wealth, including a merchant's goods. They rarely reveal feelings or every possession. Compare inventories before making a judgement.

John Blanke: evidence and possibility

John Blanke was a Black royal trumpeter at Henry VII's and Henry VIII's courts. Pay records and the 1511 Westminster Tournament Roll provide evidence about him. Use sources to suggest a plausible inventory. Label suggested possessions as possibilities, rather than a surviving list of his belongings.