

## Tudor Tatton - Henry VIII



Tatton Park's impressive Old Hall was built during the early Tudor times. It was first constructed around 1486, over 500 years ago! The Tudor King, Henry VIII, is one of our best known monarchs. He was very strong willed and liked to get his own way!

**Here are a few fun activities for you to try in the classroom or at home.**

### **Activity 1: Joust!**

Henry VIII loved jousting, which often took place during exciting tournaments. Noblemen would compete to prove their worth and impress their King. Competitors would ride on horseback in armour towards their opponents, and try to strike them with lances to win points. They used heraldry to identify themselves. Different symbols, colours and images were used to create their unique coats of arms, with which they decorated their armour and shields.

**Can you design your own coat of arms and shield? Pictures of animals were often used to show what the knights were like. For example, a lion meant courage or a hare meant speed. Which animal would you use?**

English Heritage have a fantastic guide to heraldry - [English Heritage - a guide to Heraldry](#)

You can also find out more about the rules of the joust in this clip by the Royal Armouries –

[Rules on jousting video - Royal Armouries](#)





**Above are some jousting shields we created at Tatton for our school groups to use!**

### **Activity 2: Feast like a King**

Henry really enjoyed his food and had a large appetite! For the majority of people, the most common kind of food was bread and pottage (stew cooked in a pot). Royalty and the rich however, could eat at great feasts, where an eye watering range of food was served, such as, roasted meats like beef, pork and deer meat, called venison. More extravagant meats included peacock, swan and even whale! Some vegetables were also served, but they were not Henry's favourites. Tudor chefs would also show off their skill by producing amazing sculptures out of sugar and 'marchpane' - marzipan.

**Imagine you run the King's kitchens. Put on your chef's hat and create a menu fit for a king! Think about how you would serve the food to make it look impressive at the centre of the table. Perhaps you could decorate your menu with some pictures of the dishes?**

**Have a look at this BBC bitesize website to find out more - [BBC Bitesize website](#)**

### **Activity 3: Behind the Masque...**

The King also loved being entertained by actors and dancers. Such performances were called masques, and were sometimes acted out by members of the Court. Masked actors would dress in amazing costumes, pretending to be such things as gods and goddesses or mythological creatures. Henry sometimes took part in disguise and would reveal his identity when he removed his mask!

**Pretend you are part of such a performance. Can you design yourself a mask? What character would you be? Can you perform a short play as your masked character for your family or friends?**

**You can find some useful templates for your mask on the website below -**

**[Firstpalette - Printable mask templates](#)**

### **Activity 4: A Royal Visit**

King and queens didn't just stay at one palace. They would travel around the country, staying with their nobles at their houses. This was a great honour! Maybe the Lord at Tatton might have wished for such a visit. This journey was known as the royal progress.

**Imagine you would like the King to stay at your home. Can you write him a letter inviting him?**

**Remember you are addressing royalty! How would you prepare your home?**

