

# Tudor Kings and Queens: Henry VII

Henry VII

Henry VIII

Edward VI

Mary I

Elizabeth I



# A New King

Henry VII is also known as Henry Tudor. He was the first Tudor king after defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in August 1485.



*The New King*

This battle saw the end of the Wars of the Roses. Henry VII was king of England from 1485 to 1509. His second son, also called Henry, inherited the throne and became Henry VIII.



## The Wars of the Roses

The Wars of the Roses was a battle between two of England's most powerful families - the families of York and Lancaster. Henry was a member of the Lancaster family. He brought the families closer together by marrying Elizabeth of York soon after being crowned king.





# Problems with Barons



Henry was a clever man. He was determined not to lose his throne. He knew he had a problem - the powerful barons of England.

They were rich and they had their own private armies. They worked for whoever paid them the most money. Henry had to control them.



## Taming the Barons

Henry had a plan to bring the barons under his control. First, he banned all private armies. Any baron who disobeyed this royal command would be committing treason which carried the death penalty.

Secondly, he heavily taxed the barons to reduce their wealth. The money raised could be used by Henry to develop his own royal army. A powerful royal army was an obvious threat to the barons.





# The Importance of Money

Unlike many kings before him, Henry took a keen interest in money as he knew that a wealthy king was a strong king and a poor king was a weak one. He also knew that money would expand his army and the larger his army was, the more powerful he was.





# Entertainment

Though he was very careful with money, he also enjoyed himself. He was keen on playing cards. He regularly tipped those who entertained him, especially musicians. He was also very keen on playing Real Tennis.



*Tudor Musicians*



# Marriage

Henry wanted to build up ties with Spain. He arranged for his son Arthur to marry a Spanish princess called Catherine of Aragon.



*Henry's son, Arthur*

Arranged marriages were common with the children of royal families. Neither Arthur nor Catherine would have had the opportunity to say no to the marriage.



The marriage lasted only five months as Arthur died. To maintain a friendship with Spain, Henry arranged for Catherine to marry his second son, Henry, the future king of England.



*Henry arranges his second son to marry Catherine of Aragon*

Henry VII died before the marriage took place.



# The Next King

When he died in 1509, the country was wealthy and the position of the king was more powerful than ever. Many barons believed that it was better to work with the king than against such a powerful man. The country was in a great shape for Henry VIII to take over.



*Henry VIII - The Next King*