

Sources



How do we find out about the Tudors?

We find out from sources, or evidence. A source is anything which tells us about the past.

Using sources

Those who study history use sources like detectives. Sources are clues or evidence about the past. We put together all the evidence to build up a picture of the past. Beware! Sources do not always agree with each other.

Types of source

There are two types of source in history:

- 1 Original sources – These come from the time we want to know about. They are the best way of finding out about the past.
- 2 Secondary sources – These are usually books written by people who have studied original sources. They are a quick and easy way of finding out about the past. Most of this pack is a secondary source.

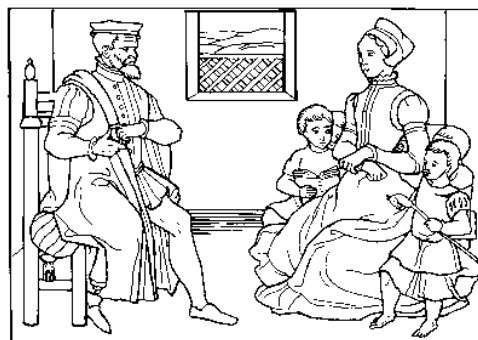
Something to do

Write in whether these are primary or secondary sources:

Queen Elizabeth's letters _____

A school history book _____

A Tudor sword _____



Family prayers, 1563. In Tudor times religion was much more important than it is for most people today

In the Tower

Most English people did not want the succession (the rules which laid down who became monarch) changed. They wanted Mary to be queen, whatever her religion, because she was the elder daughter of Henry VIII.

As a result, Jane was queen for only 10 days. When Mary came to London huge crowds turned out to greet her.

Poor Jane, who had never been very keen on being made queen in the first place, was locked in the Tower of London.

Rebellion and execution

Mary's popularity did not last.

The following year there was a rebellion against her, led by Sir Thomas Wyatt and Jane's father. They did not want England to be Roman Catholic and they said that Jane should be queen again.

Wyatt's forces reached London but could not cross the bridge into the city. Shortly afterwards Wyatt was captured by Queen Mary's soldiers.

The end came swiftly. Wyatt and 100 of his followers were executed. People dipped their handkerchiefs in his blood, believing he was a martyr.

The following day, 12 February 1554, Lady Jane Grey was also beheaded.

What can you remember?

Put a tick (✓) in the box if the sentence is correct:

- 1 Lady Jane Grey never became queen.
- 2 Edward VI and Mary I were children of Henry VIII.
- 3 Lady Jane Grey was related to Henry VII.
- 4 Lady Jane Grey was a Catholic and Mary Tudor was a Protestant.
- 5 Some people thought Sir Thomas Wyatt was a martyr.
- 6 Henry VII had three children.

Sir Francis Drake

The sailor boy

Francis Drake was born in Devonshire in about 1543. He went to sea at the age of 13. To begin with he stayed in the waters around Britain, learning all about sailing and navigation (how to guide a ship on long voyages.) He learned how to fight too.

When he was in his 20s went on ships sailing down the coast of Africa and over to the New World (America).



Sir Francis Drake

Plunder and fame

In 1567 Drake sailed to the New World as captain of his own ship, the *Judith*. They met a Spanish fleet and were lucky to escape with their lives.

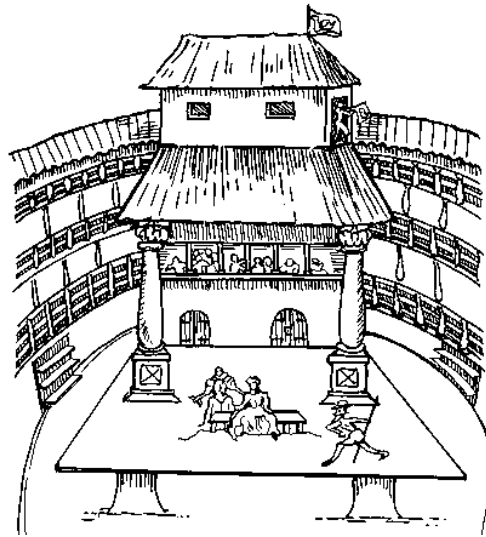
In those days the Spanish claimed to own most of America, and they disliked ships from other nations going there to trade.

Drake went back to America three more times. This time his voyages were more successful. He became rich on the plunder (stolen goods) which he brought home. As there was no war between England and Spain, the Spaniards called Drake a pirate. But the English thought he was a hero, so Queen Elizabeth did nothing about it.

Theatres

In Elizabethan times plays became longer and more complicated. They were not just about religious matters. They became more and more popular, too, especially in London.

Plays were performed in the courtyards of inns (pubs) or in the halls of the great houses. Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign the first theatres were built. They were all in London.



From an Elizabethan picture of the Swan Theatre, 1596

Theatres were large wooden buildings with many sides. The stage was in the middle, sheltered from the sun and rain by a cover known as the 'heavens'. The audience either stood or sat on the ground around the stage, or paid for seats around the side of the theatre.

Audiences were not as polite as they are today – if they did not like a play they shouted and booed, like a crowd at a football match!

What can you remember?

Put a tick (✓) in the box if the sentence is correct:

- 1 There were theatres in medieval times.
- 2 Elizabethan audiences were well behaved.
- 3 The Roman Catholic church used the Latin language.
- 4 Printing helped the English language settle down
- 5 Each town had its own theatre.