



# Work and School

Few people went to school, those that did were the sons of the wealthy (but not the daughters), although nobles employed private tutors at home for their children. The boys would go to their grammar school everyday but Sunday where they would learn Latin, religious studies, Greek, arithmetic and music. The school master was strict and naughty pupils were beaten with a birch cane.

Most children and adults worked each day tending their crops and animals. Most men and boys worked in the fields, growing the various crops for food, and would hunt and keep animals to provide their meat. Some men had special jobs such as blacksmiths making tools. Women and girls looked after the home, cooking, washing, making clothes and candles, keeping bees for honey, milking the cows and growing herbs for medicines and cooking

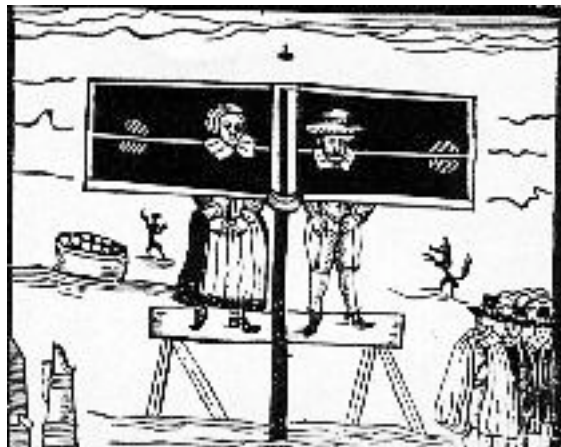




# Crime and Punishment

There was a lot of crime during Tudor times, but being a beggar or being homeless then was illegal. Each county had an elected sheriff who was not paid in his duties as a policeman. Often the sheriff was too scared to catch the violent criminals so people generally carried a sword or dagger for their own protection.

Beggars when caught were whipped or put into stocks. Many people suffered at the hands of pick pockets and cheats at card games. Thieves were branded with an F on their cheek, and they might have had their ears and hands cut off. Murderers were hanged, although if you had poisoned someone you were boiled in water.



# Clothing and Health



Men wore a shirt and doublet (a bit like a jacket), and padded hose, like thick tights. While women wore long sleeved dresses with skirts to the floor. It was fashionable to make the skirt stick out using a cage or bumroll (padded material tied around the hips). During Elizabeth I reign ruffs around the neck became popular for men and women, (the lady in the picture above is wearing one) and both would wear hoods and hats. The rich wore expensive clothing of velvet and silk, whilst the lower classes wore linen or wool.

The Tudors did not wash as often as we do, Elizabeth I was said to bathe once a year, and that was more often than most! Few people had a change of clothes so they wore the same clothes all the time, even at night. This led to problems with lice, fleas and illnesses. Herbs were used to perfume the air against the unpleasant odours, and were used in cures for illness. If you had tummy ache one cure was that you should eat live spiders to make you better!!



# Games and Entertainment



Although people worked hard, they had various entertainments and games to play, many that we still have today. Football was played using a stuffed pig's bladder between villages or in the streets, but players became so unruly that Henry VIII banned it for a while! Card and board games were popular, as was skittles, archery and fishing.

Evening entertainments often included singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and smoking became a common pastime. The wealthy would be able to employ professional jugglers and wrestlers to watch, but others could see these entertainments in the streets of the towns. Plays were performed in the street and in early theatres.

As few people could read, and books were very expensive, not many Tudors would read for fun. However embroidery and knitting were useful hobbies.



# Houses and Furniture

As wood was plentiful most houses and furniture were wooden, oak was particularly popular as it does not rot so easily. Typical Tudor houses were timber framed like Selly Manor. The wooden beams were joined using pegs and each wall was pulled into place by teams of men with ropes. Once the frame was erected, the gaps were filled with wattle and daub (twigs covered in a mud and dung plaster) or bricks for those who could afford it. The roof would have been thatched with straw. Selly Manor would have belonged to a wealthy family, sadly the poorer dwellings do not survive, but would have been smaller and simpler.

The amount of furniture you had depended on your wealth. Many would probably just have had a straw mattress to sleep on and a pot to cook their meals in. Richer households like Selly Manor would have had stools, a table and possibly an armchair for the master, and the very lucky would have a tester bed to sleep in. Often people would have their names and initials carved into their furniture so others knew they could afford such luxuries!





# Food and Cooking

The richer you were, the more variety of food you had, but it was very dependent on what foods were in season. There were no fridges so food was salted or smoked to preserve it, and often spices were added to hide the taste of rotten food. Meat, fish, bread and cheese were popular, vegetables and fruit were not as favoured as it was thought they were not good for you. Ale and cider were common drinks, even for the children, as the water was dirty.

The cooking was done in the fireplace, using a pot hanging over the fire, and the wealthy may have used a spit to turn and roast the meat. Ovens were built into the fireplaces to bake the bread and pies.

Most households had two meals a day, one at about 11am - Noon, the other about 6-7pm. The table would be laid with all the food, and people would help themselves to a little of everything. Rich people used metal plates of silver or pewter. Most people had wooden trenchers, while the poor ate their meals off a plate of dried bread.



# Tudor Kings & Queens

The Tudors ruled for over 100 years from 1485 to 1603. It was a time of great changes with increased trade and exploration, the reformation and the split from the Catholic Church, as well as a time of great writers such as Shakespeare.

Here is a quick guide to the Tudors:

## Henry VII ~ 1485 to 1509

Won the Battle of Bosworth by beating Richard III  
Became the first Tudor king & brought peace to England.

## Henry VIII ~ 1509 to 1547

Had loads of wives, changed the country's religion from Catholic to Protestant & started lots of fights/wars!

## Edward VI ~ 1547 to 1553

Only 9 years old when he became king. He was a sickly child and died aged just 16.

## Mary I ~ 1553 to 1558

She was married to the king of Spain, changed the religion back to Catholicism and executed lots of Protestants.

## Elizabeth I ~ 1558 - 1603

Turned England Protestant again, beat the Spanish Armada, ruled for 45 years and was very popular!

Henry VII   Henry VIII   Edward VI   Mary I   Elizabeth I



# The Age of Discovery



*During the Tudor period many areas of the world were discovered for the first time by Europeans but why were the explorers so keen to sail the unknown oceans?*

At first the explorers were not looking for new countries but new routes to countries that were already being visited.

There was a massive market for spices in Europe but not the climate to acquire them. Pepper, cloves, cinnamon, mace and ginger were wanted to enrich the bland and boring food. So, Europeans had to travel across the world to get them.

There was also the legend of Prester John. He was thought to be the ruler of a mysterious kingdom in the east. Generations of European explorers tried to find him.

Stories of Marco Polo's adventures in the Far East were extremely popular. Many sought the exotic kingdoms and riches that he had described from his own travels.

Life was hard and most people were poor. Many men looked for a way out by gaining fabulous wealth on a successful expedition.

