

Henry VIII – A-level

Teacher notes

Session Overview

The reign of Henry VIII saw cataclysmic changes for both church and nation. As a palace, fortress and prison, students will examine the Tower buildings and documentary inscriptions to investigate how far the Tower of London played a crucial role in re-shaping Henry's England.

Key individuals and events:

- Anne Boleyn
- Margaret Pole
- Break with Rome
- Thomas Cromwell
- Religious and political prisoners
- Pilgrimage of Grace

Schedule

Your 90 minute session will consist of the following:

- 20 minute introduction to the development of the Tower and using it as a source when investigating Henry's reign;
- 60 minute subject specific tour, engaging students through investigation of the built environment and analysis of documentary sources;
- 10 minute plenary during which students draw upon what they have learnt to reach their own conclusions about the topic

Exam board links

This session has been designed to complement the study of Henry VIII's reign, and particularly the following exam boards:

- **AQA - 1C** The Tudors: England, 1485-1603
- **Edexcel - Paper 1, Option 1B:** England, 1509-1603: Authority, nation and religion and **Option 3, Paper 3:** Themes in breadth with aspects in depth **Option 3I:** Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603
- **OCR - Y106:** England 1485-1558: the Early Tudors
- **WJEC - Unit 1 (AS): Option 1:** Government, rebellion and society in Wales and England c.1485-1603 and **Unit 3 (A2):** Poverty, protest and rebellion in Wales and England, c.1485-1603

Session Objectives

- To explore, analyse, interpret and cross-reference different types of primary evidence (portraits/ buildings/ written evidence); evaluating the difficulties/limitations of available evidence.
- To explain the main functions of the Tower of London during Henry's reign.
- To use buildings as evidence to reach conclusions about the creation of Henry's England.

Meeting Points

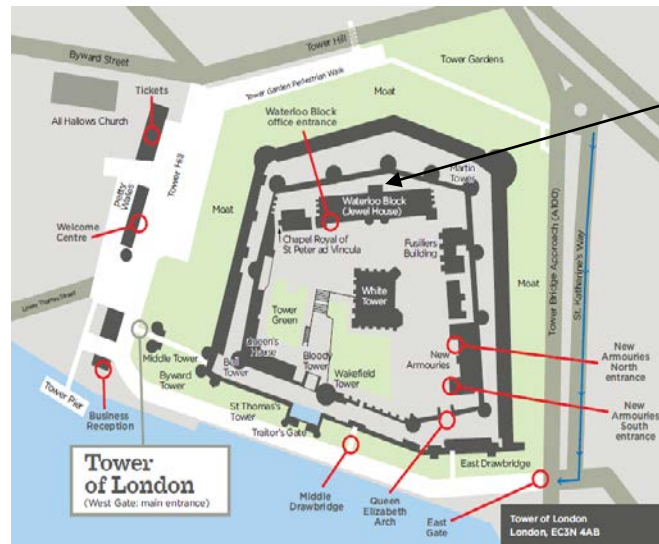
- Your presenter will meet you in the Learning Centre, Jewel House.
- Please refer to the map on the next page for details.



Directions to the Learning Centre in the Waterloo Block

Allow 15 minutes from the Welcome Centre to the Learning Centre.

1. Collect your admission wristbands from the [Welcome Centre](#).
2. Enter the Tower of London via [Middle Drawbridge](#) (*Groups Entrance*). After you have shown your wristband and had your bags checked, make your way to the Jewel House.
3. From the [Middle Drawbridge](#) turn right and walk towards then past the toilet block (on your right) and turn left through the [Queen Elizabeth Arch](#).
4. Keep walking straight ahead past the New Armouries restaurant (on your right) and the White Tower on your left towards the [Jewel House](#).
5. To access the [Learning Centre](#) you will need to go around the back of the Jewel House. Please do this using the **path between the Fusiliers Museum and the Jewel House**.
6. Once around the back of the building you will come across a **sign saying “No entry, except for booked school parties”**. **Pass by this** and the entrance to the [Learning Centre](#) will be on your left.
7. Your session presenter should be waiting here for you, but if not please use the buzzer on the wall to contact the [Learning Centre](#).



Please make your way to the entrance to the [Learning Centre](#) behind the [Jewel House](#)

