

# Upstairs, Downstairs

## Teacher Notes

**Length:** 60 minutes

### Meeting point:

Your presenter will meet you beside the **Tudor Kitchens sign in Base Court**. Please arrive at least 5 minutes before your session is due to begin.

### About the session:

Led by a costumed presenter, this session uses the palace as a primary source to understand hierarchy at the Tudor court and how individuals progressed within their particular social strata. Pupils will understand how the court functioned and how it was supported by a raft of servants. The session will also touch on the implications of individuals moving between these two distinct spheres.

Learning objectives:

- To understand hierarchy and status within the Tudor court and how these are reflected in the buildings of the Tudor Palace;
- To understand the function and roles in a Tudor household;
- To develop methods of enquiry through using the palace as source material to understand how evidence is used to make historical claims.

Key learning points:

- Servants and courtiers used the Tudor rooms in different ways, there was an 'upstairs' and a 'downstairs', most people didn't move between the two;
- That we can use architectural features and furnishings to understand the past;
- That Tudor society was governed by the idea of the Great Chain of Being;
- Rich and poor people had different levels of access to the king, some transcended their original status.

### New National Curriculum links at KS2:

**History:**

- Develop the appropriate use of historical terms;
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry,
- Understand how evidence is used to make historical claims; a theme in British history that extends chronological knowledge beyond 1066.

**English (spoken language):**

- Articulate and justify answers, arguments, and opinions;
- Use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining, and exploring ideas.



## Preparation for your session:

In order to help your pupils enjoy this session, we would request that, where possible, they are aware of the following subjects and concepts prior to their visit:

- The changing role of the monarch over time, particularly focusing on the reign of Henry VIII within this context;
- Key people and events from the reign of Henry VIII;
- Aspects of social history through time, particularly focusing on 16th century as a backdrop for the reign of Henry VIII;
- Understanding how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources, with different types of historical evidence surviving from the Tudor period;

## During your session:

Please note that the 1:10 staff to pupil ratio which we ask for throughout your visit to Hampton Court Palace still applies during your teaching session. We ask that sufficient adults remain with the group as they will be encouraged to join in with the session activities. Our workshops are designed for a health and safety maximum of x35 pupils per session. For your information this session will take in one of our classroom spaces in the Clore Learning Centre.

