

Wars of the Roses – A-level

Teacher notes

Session Overview

The Wars of the Roses tore England apart and some momentous, game changing, events took place within the walls of the Tower of London. With these events in mind students will examine both the buildings and documentary evidence to answer the question 'How reliable is the Tower of London as a source for investigating the Wars of the Roses?'

Key individuals and events:

- Death of Henry VI
- Margaret of Anjou
- Death of George Duke of Clarence
- Edward IV
- Richard Earl of Warwick
- Richard III
- The Princes in the Tower
- William Hastings
- Henry VII
- Elizabeth of York
- Edward V

Schedule

Your 90 minute session will consist of the following:

- 15 minute introduction to the Wars of the Roses and the Tower as a source;
- 60 minute subject specific tour, engaging students through investigation of the built environment and analysis of documentary sources;
- 15 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 the Wars of the Roses, and particularly the following exam boards:

- **AQA- 2B:** 'The Wars of the Roses, 1450-1499'
- **Edexcel - Paper 3:Option 30:** Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509
- **OCR - Y105:** England 1445-1509: Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII (Enquiry topic: Wars of the Roses 1445-1461)

Session Objectives

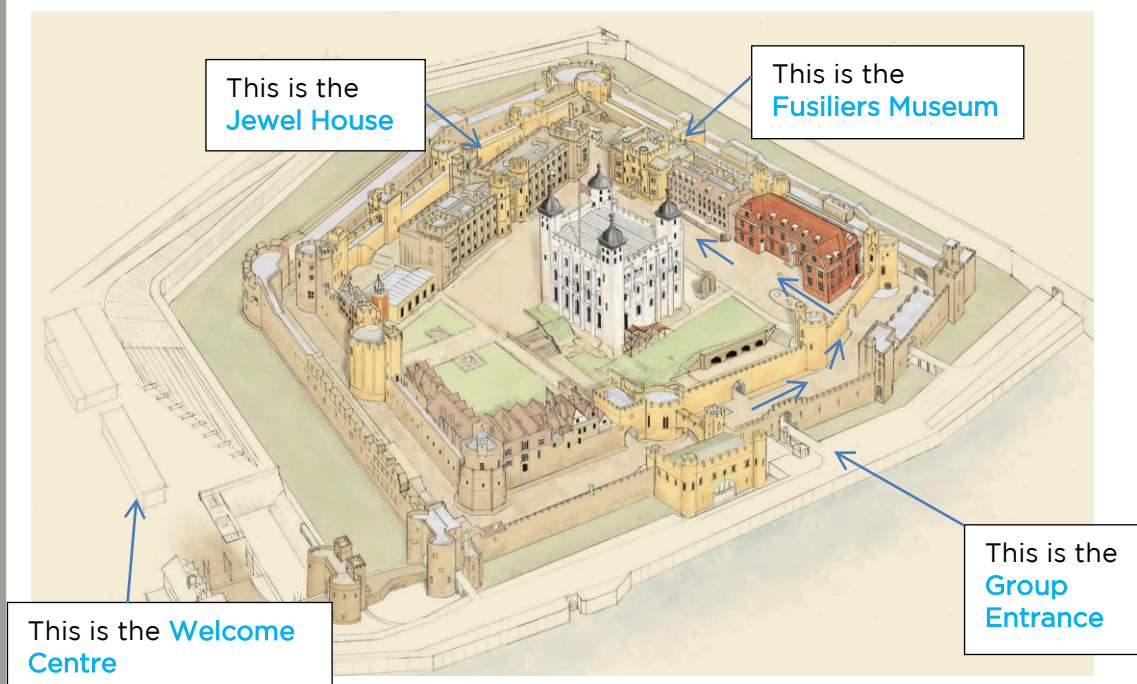
- To explore, analyse, interpret and cross-reference different types of primary evidence (images/ buildings/ written evidence); evaluating the difficulties/ limitations of available evidence.
- To explain how some of the key events of the Wars of the Roses occurred here at the Tower and why that was the case.
- To apply methods of inquiry and analysis to historically based myths as historical evidence and questioning the reliability of the Tower of London when investigating the Wars of the Roses.

Meeting Points

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



Directions to the Learning Centre behind the Jewel House:



1. Collect your admission wristbands from the [Welcome Centre](#). Allow 15 minutes from the Welcome Centre to the Learning Centre.
2. Enter the Tower of London via the [Group Entrance](#). After you have shown your wristband and had your bags checked, make your way to the [Jewel House](#).
3. From the [Groups Entrance](#) turn right and walk past the toilet block and turn left through the archway.
4. Keep walking straight ahead past the [New Armouries](#) restaurant (on your right) and with 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](#).

