

Execution memorial site

Leave the White Tower and go over to the execution memorial on Tower Green.



Look for:

A glass cushion

The names of **two** of Henry VIII's wives

The name of a girl who was **queen for only nine days**



Think about:

Why were Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard executed? How many other wives did Henry VIII have? What were their names? What happened to them?

The Tower of London was not usually used for executions. Why do you think the three queens were executed here? How were they executed?

Where do you think they are buried? (Clue: important Tudors were usually buried inside cathedrals, churches or chapels.)



Imagine:

You are a foreign sailor sailing into the port of London in Tudor times. Imagine the great walls of the Tower of London looming up ahead of you. Can you see the White Tower? What impresses you about it? What noises can you hear around you? What can you smell?

Historic Royal Palaces Tower of London



School Resource

Henry VIII at the Tower Trail

Key Stage

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The Tower of London was already 400 years old when Henry VIII was born. He made various changes including repairing the walls and towers of the castle, and modernising and refurbishing the medieval palace. The Tower is closely linked with the fate of two of his queens, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard.



This trail gives suggestions of things to look for, things to think about and things to imagine. The things to think about are intended to be prompts for discussion – there are not necessarily any right or wrong answers.

If you want any more information, the Yeoman Warders or the White Tower Warders will be pleased to help you. The more you can encourage your students to imagine, the more the Tower of London will come to life.

Make your way from the Middle Drawbridge, past the Medieval Palace shop to the Lanthorn Tower, where your trail begins.

The Royal Palace

Start by going up the steps by the side of the Lanthorn Tower. Stand on the Wall Walk (making sure you don't block the stairway) and look in the direction of the White Tower.



Look for:

A **ruined wall** to your left (Clue: it has slits for archers to fire through.)

The **remains of a tower** to the right of the White Tower.



Think about:

A royal palace once stood inside the rectangular area between the Lanthorn Tower, the ruined wall on your left and the White Tower.

Why do you think a royal palace was built inside the walls of the Tower of London? What materials would it have been made out of?

The royal palace was made up of several different buildings. What do you think the different buildings were used for?



Imagine:

The Queen's apartments (rooms) ran from the Lanthorn Tower up towards the White Tower. Anne Boleyn stayed here before her coronation and later before her trial. How do you think she felt on the night before her coronation? How do you think she felt when she came back three years later as a prisoner?

White Tower

Go through to the room next to the chapel and find the model of the Tower in 1547, the year Henry VIII died.



Look for:

The **White Tower**

The **old palace** buildings

The **moat**

What else can you see in the model?



Think about:

What parts of the Tower of London have stayed the same since Henry VIII's time?

What parts have changed?



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White Tower

Go up to the first floor and into the Chapel of St John the Evangelist.



Look for:

12 large **pillars**

A **gold crown**, a **red lion**, three **golden lions**, a **knight** in armour, a **red rose**

A **cross** on an altar (holy table)



Think about:

What is a chapel used for? Why do you think kings always had chapels in their palaces and castles?

As well as going to church services, what other things do you think Henry VIII did every day?

In Henry VIII's time, this chapel was mainly used to store royal documents. Why was it such good place to store important papers?



Imagine:

Henry VIII's mother, Elizabeth of York, died in the royal palace at the Tower of London soon after giving birth to a baby girl. Her coffin was placed in this chapel before she was buried so that important people could come and pay their respects to her. How would they have felt? Imagine her lying at peace.

Wardrobe Tower

Go back down the steps and walk across to the ruined tower on the right of the White Tower.



Look for:

Rows of **stone**

Rows of **red brick**



Think about:

These are the remains of the Wardrobe Tower. Henry VIII kept jewellery and other valuable items here.

Why do you think Henry kept precious jewels at the Tower? What else might he have kept here?

What sort of jewellery do you think he wore? What do you think his queens wore? What would they have carried at their coronations?



Imagine:

Looking after the royal jewels in Tudor times. What colours are the different stones? How do you clean them to make them sparkle?

White Tower

Go up the wooden staircase and enter the White Tower on the first floor.



Look for:

A set of **armour** for a man and a horse

Patterns and **pictures** on the armour

The initials **H and K** (Clue: look closely at the base of the man's skirt.)



Think about:

What is armour used for? Who do you think this armour belonged to? (Clue: the initials H and K.)

You might be able to see the Tudor rose on the armour. What does it look like? Why did the Tudors use this as one of their badges?

Henry wore this armour when he was a young man married to Katherine of Aragon. What does it tell you about what Henry was like as a young man?



Imagine:

Henry VIII taking part in a jousting tournament wearing this armour. He and another knight gallop towards each other holding a long lance (a bit like a javelin). They score points by hitting each other's armour with their lances. What noises do you hear? What do you think of the king?

White Tower

Find the large suit of armour made for Henry VIII in 1540.



Look for:

The **breastplate** (to protect the chest)

The **armet** (a helmet that completely encases the head)

The **gauntlets** (to protect the hands)

The **sabatons** (to protect the feet)



Think about:

Henry VIII was born in 1491. How old was he when he had this armour made? (Clue: count on from 1491 to 1540.)

How had he changed from when he wore the armour for man and horse? Why do you think this was?

When this suit of armour was made Henry no longer took part in tournaments. He was overweight and had badly injured legs. Why, then, do you think he had it made?



Imagine:

Henry VIII was married to Catherine Howard when this suit of armour was made. She was a very young girl. How do you think she felt about being married to Henry? Why do you think she agreed to marry him?

