

Student Trail Map:
Henry VIII's Apartments

Key Stage

2

Self-led Resources Teacher Guide

Please read this information page carefully before beginning the trail with children.

Where to begin

This trail map follows Henry VIII's Apartments and begins at Anne Boleyn's Gateway. To get here from the Clore Learning Centre walk towards the palace and enter through the Main Entrance. Walk through the large courtyard called Base Court and look for an archway with some stone steps leading up inside. The trail starts at the bottom of these steps. Please see the map to locate the Gateway.

Just before you enter Anne Boleyn's Gateway, please ask children to gather in Base Court, to the side of the archway where you should brief them. (If it is raining you can gather them under the archway. Please make sure they are standing with their backs to the wall, away from the bottom of the steps, as it can get very busy with other visitors here.)









What to tell children


Ask children to unfold the trail sheet and read the welcome panel (or you read to them), introduced by an historical character called Elizabeth Cheyne, also known as Lady Vaux. Hampton Court Palace has many stories of people who lived in the palace and Lady Vaux was the cousin of Kateryn Parr, Henry VIII's sixth wife. The character will be the voice of the guide as they go through the rooms, giving them information as they go.


There are a range of different activities to help focus childrens' exploration.


The different types of activities are:

 **I spy:** looking for key objects in the rooms. There is a photograph or illustration to help with this.

 **Challenge:** using discussion and problem solving skills to answer questions.

 **Have a go:** being interactive in the space.

 **What do you think?** encouraging children to make choices and personal responses to objects and paintings.

Please also ensure the children and all adults also read the 'Top Tips' section on the back panel of the trail. This will give them guidance on the best ways to see things and keep safe as they look around. As there are a number of old and fragile objects on the Tudor route, please remind children to only touch objects with a Have a go icon. 

The trail will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

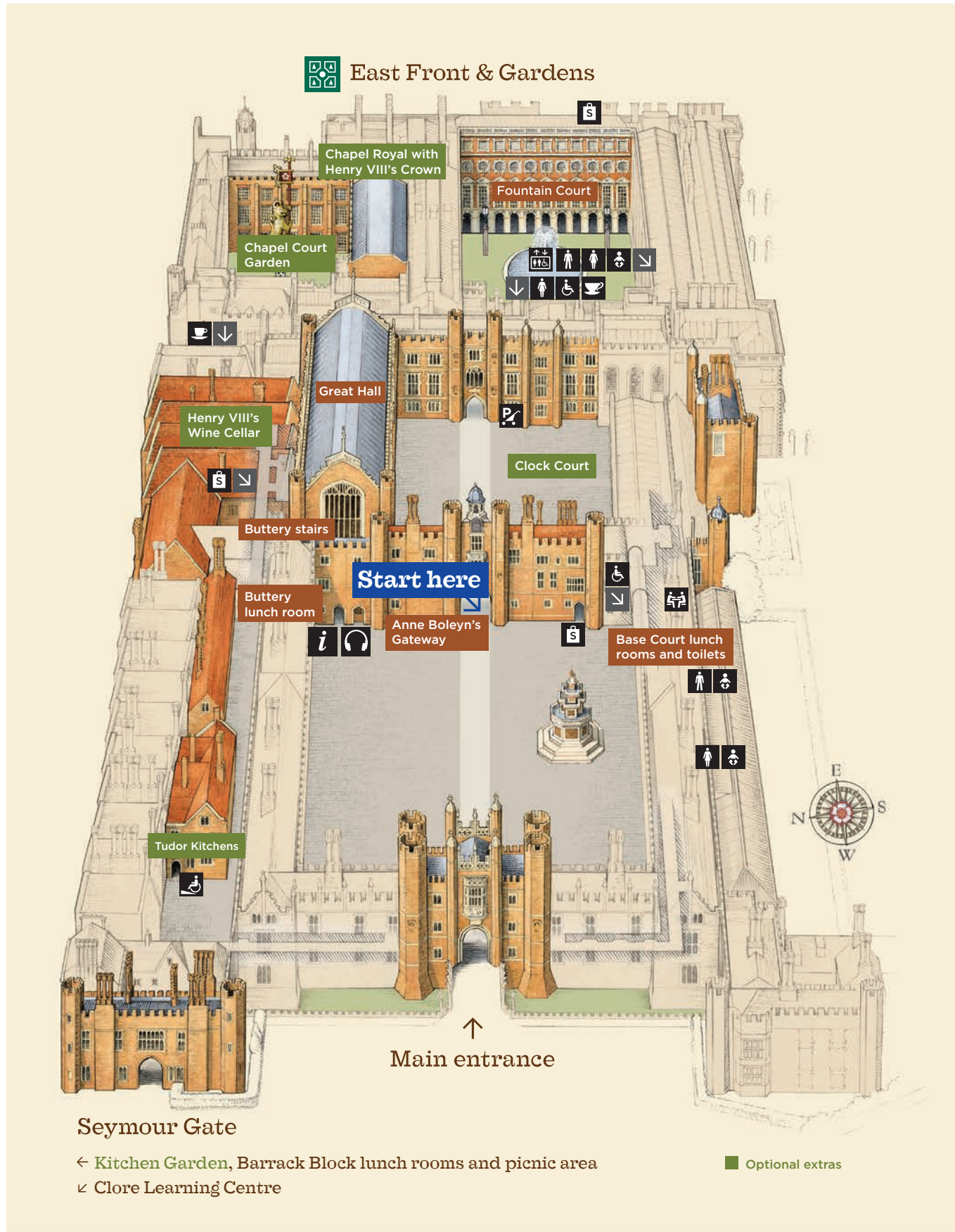
Supporting children with the trail

This is a discussion based trail. No pencils are needed! Elizabeth Cheyne will give children a 'call to action' in the welcome. Their task will be to explore the rooms and find out as much as they can about the people in the King's Court. When they have finished the trail they can decide what role they would have liked to do.

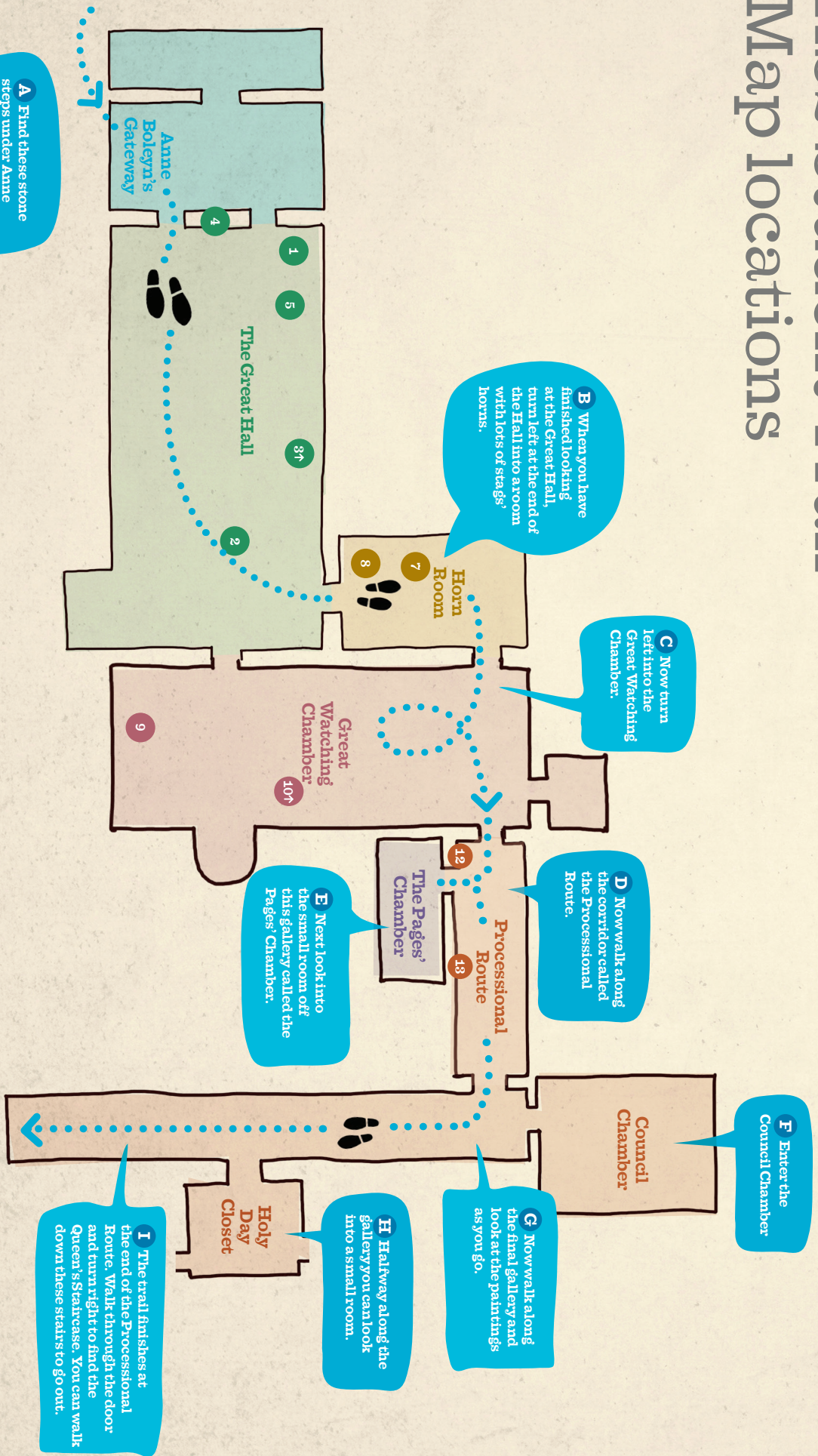
Please organise children into equal sized smaller groups and ask them to stay with their designated adult as they explore the route. The role of the adult is to help pace children as they go round and facilitate discussion around the focus objects and activities. This Teacher Guide includes a copy of the Student Trail Map, enabling you to see the same map and activities as the children, whilst also giving you some additional information. Each space on the trail is shown by a different colour on the map. The additional information is represented in this colour.



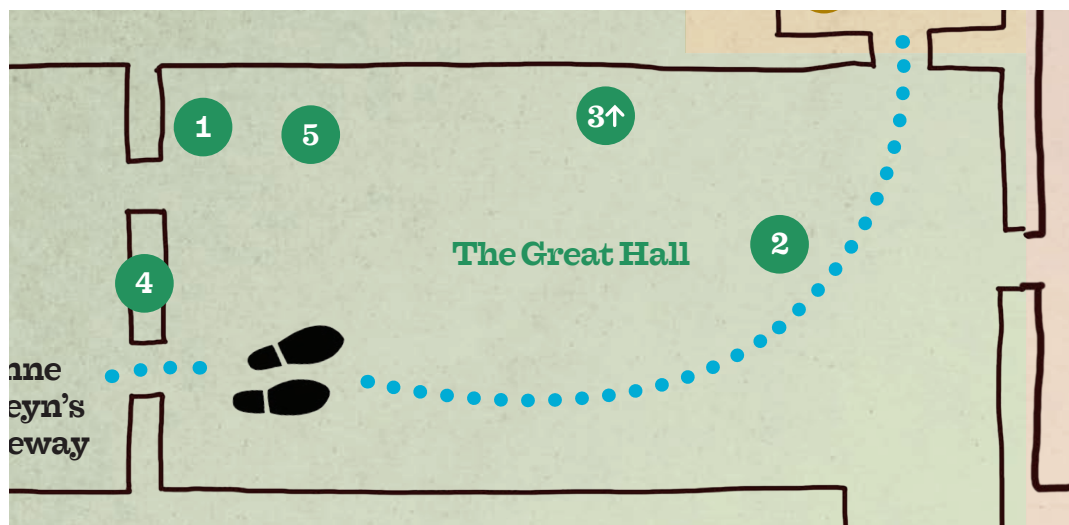
Palace Map



KS2 Student Trail Map Locations



The Great Hall



The Great Hall was built by Henry VIII for his second wife Anne Boleyn. Look out for things which make the Hall look grand.

Practical information

The Great Hall can get very busy at times. As it is the largest room in the palace and has a lot in it you and children will probably want to spend some time in here. The top table is popular with other visitors so you may have to look at other objects in the room first. If it is busy you can gather children at the far end in the alcove by the stained glass window. If they want to sit down they can sit on the wooden benches by the tables.

1 H and A entwined letters



Look for these letters on the wooden screen just inside the Great Hall. You might have to look very closely to find them!

Why do you think these letters were used in the design of the Hall?

Key object: *These letters were missed when Anne Boleyn fell from Henry's favour and he ordered any trace of her to be removed from the room. The letters can be tricky to find as it is dark in the corners of the Great Hall. Ask children to stand in front of the screen and look for the entwined letters on the third panel from the right at the top of the screen. They can ask the State Apartment Warden, dressed in red, for help if necessary.*

2 Top Table

The Great Hall is where 600 of Henry's less important courtiers eat their meals twice a day. They usually eat salted meats, local vegetables and fresh fish and bread.

The nearer you sit to the top table the more important you are! Henry himself rarely eats in the Great Hall. He prefers to eat in his private rooms away from the bustling Court!



Have a go at sitting in one of the large chairs and look out down the length of the Great Hall.

How do you feel sitting at this table?

3 Eavesdroppers

Look up and spot the painted carved faces in the ceiling. These are called the 'Eavesdroppers.'

They are here to remind the servants that they are being watched and people are listening to their conversations. At night, the servants lie down on the floor and sleep in here.

What do you think it would be like to sleep in this room? I would not like to sleep in here!

4 Minstrel's Gallery

Look up at the Minstrel's Gallery. An important aspect of court life is entertainment. Music and dancing are very popular in the Tudor court. A popular instrument played by Court musicians is the lute.

Can you hear any music playing? What does it sound like?

5 Abraham Tapestries



Have a look at the tapestries hanging up around the room. These tapestries are made using gold and silver thread and are very expensive! They cost £2000 - the cost of two battleships! They show us the biblical story of Abraham and Isaac and remind us that Henry is very religious.

What might important visitors think when they see these tapestries?

Key object: *The Abraham Tapestries have faded over time. Now they look mostly brown, grey and blue in colour.*

In Tudor times they would have had bright colours such as reds, yellow and pinks. The tapestries were designed by leading artists and then richly woven over many months with gold and silk.

6 Your Choice

Can you find your favourite object in this room? Why do you like it best? Why do you think it is in this room?

Key object: *Ask children to discuss with a partner which is their favourite object in the room. If there is time they can share their idea with the rest of the group and talk about why they think it is in the room.*



Horn Room & The Great Watching Chamber

Horn Room

Practical information

Horn Place can be a quiet space to rest if children need to sit down for a few minutes. There are some wooden benches by the wall.

The servants bring the food up these stairs from the kitchens to the courtiers in the Great Hall.

The king has special priests called Almoners. Their job is to collect food from each meal and give it to people who need it.

? What do you think it would be like carrying things up this staircase?

7 8 Staircase and table

Key object: Over 1,200 meals a day were served in Henry's palace. Every year 8,200 sheep, 2,330 and 53 wild boar and lots of little birds such as chicken were consumed in the Tudor Court. It was considered bad table manners to finish everything at the table. One of the reasons for this was that others depended on the leftovers from each meal.

It was the job of the Almoners to make sure no food was wasted. There were strict rules which meant that they were not allowed to eat the food themselves. They collected left over food from each meal and left it for the 'deserving poor' at the palace gates.

🔍 Look for the staircase in the far corner and the table at the bottom.

The Great Watching Chamber

This room is where senior courtiers and important visitors to Court wait to receive news from the king. The King's Guards also sleep in here to protect the king!

Practical information

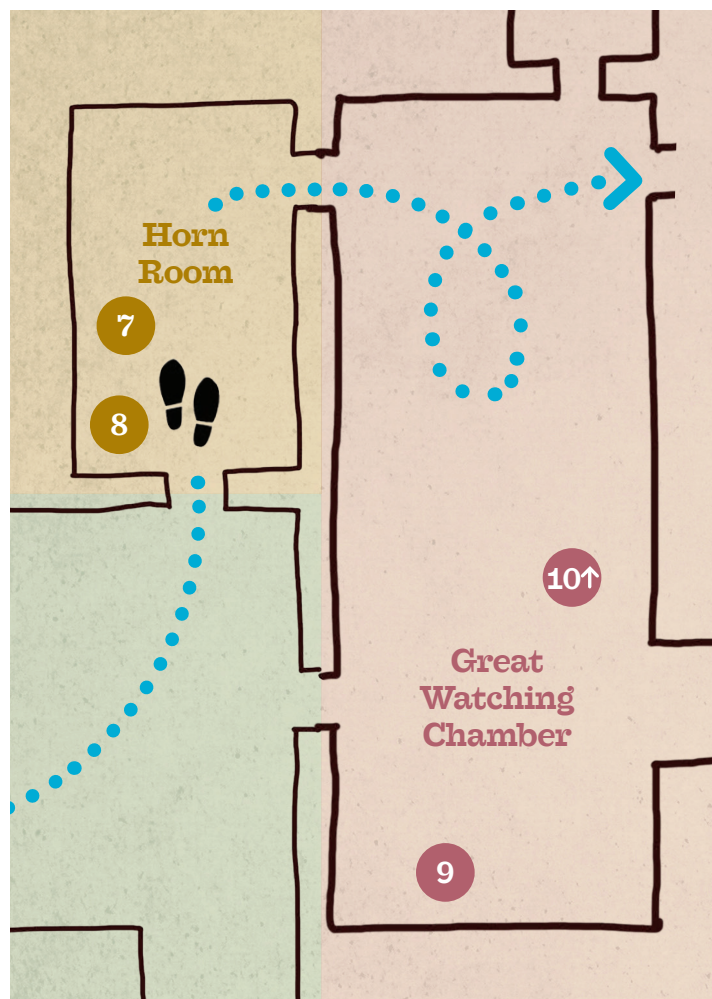
The Great Watching Chamber has some large cushions on the floor which children can sit on if they wish. There are also some chairs and tables with Tudor games they can try if it not busy with other visitors. Encourage them to look up in this room. The ceiling is very striking and they can use the rectangular mirror to look up at the ceiling.

9 Large door

🔍 Look for the large wooden door at the far end of the room. Beyond here is where the king has his private rooms. Only the most important servants are allowed in there!

You may see the king as he passes through here on his way to chapel.

💡 Can you think of a question to ask him?



10 The ceiling

🔍 Look up at the beautiful gold ceiling. This room was built in honour of Henry's third wife Jane Seymour. Her special badge is a phoenix rising from a castle. **Can you find her badge in the ceiling?**

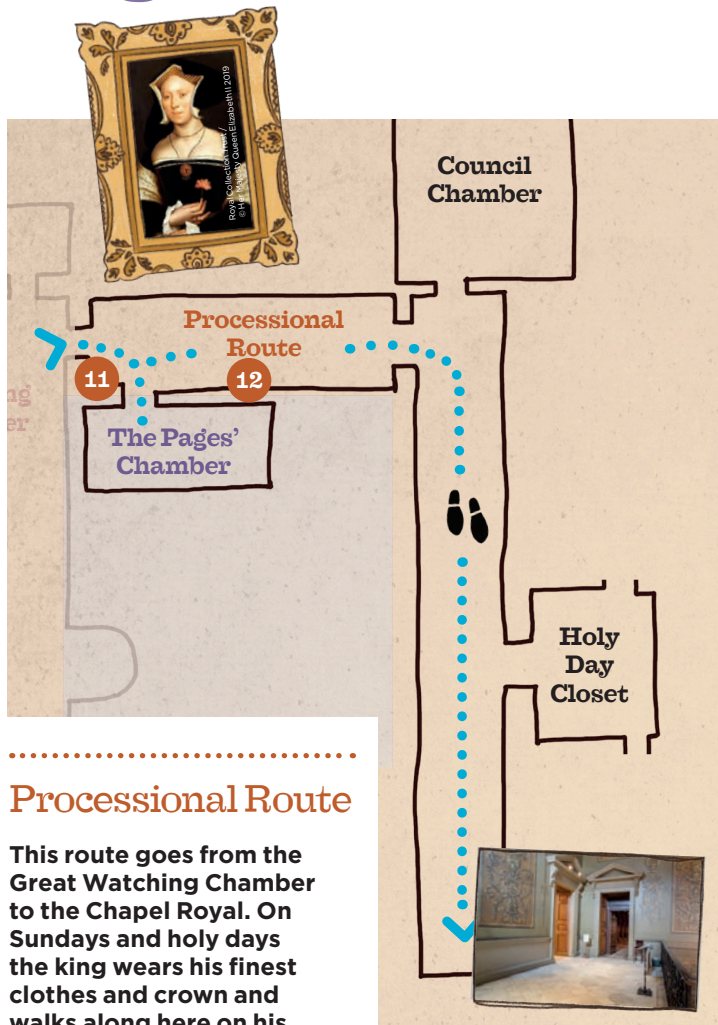
? Have a look at the other badges on the ceiling. **Can you find the Tudor Rose?**

It is made up of white petals, for the House of York and red petals for the House of Lancaster. Henry's family the Tudors united the two families. **What badge would you choose to represent your family? Can you find the Tudor Rose anywhere else in this room?**



Key object: This room was built in honour of Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour. Her special badge is a phoenix rising from a castle. Jane had an important role in the palace as she was able to give Henry VIII his son and heir, Edward VI.

Processional Route, Page's Chamber & Council Chamber



Processional Route

This route goes from the Great Watching Chamber to the Chapel Royal. On Sundays and holy days the king wears his finest clothes and crown and walks along here on his way to the chapel. Many of the paintings show members of Henry's family. Henry likes portraits of his family as it reflects his importance as the monarch.

Practical information

The Processional Route can get very busy as other visitors may stop for a time when they are looking at the portraits. Ask children to stand together as close as possible when you are looking at a painting and make sure there is space for other visitors to pass behind them. There are some wooden benches by the wall which they might like to sit on if it is busy or to talk to them about the painting first. You may have to do the activities in a different order for this part of the trail map if it is particularly busy in one place.

11 Portrait of Elizabeth Cheyne

Now find the portrait of me Elizabeth Cheyne. I am also known as Lady Vaux. You might have heard of my cousin Katheryn Parr?

As I am a rich lady I am wearing a dress decorated with expensive fur called ermine. King Henry likes his more important courtiers to be well dressed!

What am I holding in my right hand? What is it a symbol of?

Key object: This is a portrait of the character who is the voice of the trail map - Elizabeth Cheyne. Ask children to describe what she is wearing. You can discuss details such as how she is wearing an English hood, which frames

her face in a triangular shape. Her brown dress is decorated with ermine, an expensive fur. There is an expensive jewel on her dress. She is holding a pink flower, a carnation in her right hand. The flower is a symbol of love. In her left hand she is holding a cherry. Discuss whether they think Elizabeth was an important member of the Tudor Court and why?

The Pages' Chamber

This is where the Pages spend time and sleep when they are not looking after the Courtiers in the Great Watching Chamber.

Can you find what the Pages use to sleep on in this room?

Processional Route

12 Portrait of Henry VIII

Stand in front of the portrait of King Henry.

How does Henry look in this painting? It is important to the king that his courtiers and servants respect and fear him.

Henry employs artists to paint portraits of himself and his family. This painting has been created to look like the work of one of Henry's favourite artists Hans Holbein.

Why do you think lots of copies are made of Henry's portraits?

Can you strike a pose like King Henry?



Key object: This painting was painted by an artist following the style of the great artist Hans Holbein. Holbein was known for his portraits of nobility in the Tudor Court. His portraits of Henry VIII shaped public image in Tudor times.

Ask children to think about the different ways we can communicate information today, compared with in Tudor times. You might like to remind them that at this time most people in Tudor England could not read or write. Why do they think it was important for artists like Holbein and others to paint portraits of Henry VIII?

13 Your Choice

Which painting would you choose to give to the king as a gift? Why?

Key object: Ask children to look at the remaining portraits in the Processional Route. Ask them to think about what they learnt about Henry VIII and discuss in pairs which painting they would give to the king. Who is the main person/people in the painting? Why are they there? What are they doing? What are they wearing? Why might the king like this painting?

Council Chamber

This is where Henry and his Privy Council meet to discuss important issues. It is located here close to the chapel so Henry can easily visit it. Henry likes to know about everything being discussed at Court!

Holy Day Closet

This is called the Holy Day Closet. This is where the king worships when he goes to chapel.



Additional Spaces to visit/or explore

If you have time you might like to visit some of these additional spaces with children. There are focus questions for each one. They all link to themes on the Student Trail map.

Tudor kitchens

One of the key things to look out for in the Tudor kitchens is the fire in the Great Kitchen. One important job in here was being a spit-boy. This job would involve standing next to the hot fire for several hours and turning the meat on the spit to make sure it was cooked evenly. Discuss with children what it might have been like and how it might compare to some of the other jobs they found out about on the Tudor Route, e.g. Gong-Scourer. When the meat was cooked, it would be placed onto large pewter plates, decorated and carried from the kitchens to the Great Hall and Great Watching Chamber.



Henry's Wine Cellar

One of the most popular drinks in the Tudor Court was wine! The wine in the Cellar was poured from the barrels into jugs which were served on the table. Ask the children to recall the wine flagons they saw in the Great Hall and on the table in Horn Place. Remind them that the wine had to be carried all the way from the Cellar up the stairs to the Great Hall and Great Watching Chamber! Ask children what it might have been like to work in the wine cellar?



Kitchen Garden

The Kitchen Garden produced fruit, vegetables and herbs for meals in the palace. One of Henry VIII favourite fruits were strawberries! He also liked an herb called rosemary on his lamb. Ask the children if they can find either of these things in the garden. Can they find another fruit or vegetable which they like to eat?

Chapel Royal

The Royal Pew on the first floor was where Henry VIII sat when he worshipped in the chapel. In 1535 the ceiling was installed and it still survives today. Ask children to 'look up' at the ceiling. Does it remind them of any other rooms they have been in during their visit? The Great Hall roof is thought to have once been the same colour blue as the chapel ceiling. Craftsmen have added gilding, the process of applying gold leaf or paint. Men should remove their hats when entering and please note that photography is not allowed.

Clock Court and the Astronomical Clock

Ask children to 'look up' at the clock. It was very high up so Henry VIII could see it clearly from his private apartments. It had information on it which was important for people living in the palace. There were no mobile phones or computers then so people had to use other ways to find out information. The clock told people the time, day and month of the year. It also had information about the times of the tide on the River Thames, for people who wanted to travel to London.

Ask children what people would have used to have travelled on the river - boats. There were no cars, buses or trains in Tudor times! Also, much of the produce being brought to the palace was transported by boat. Can children think of other ways produce might have been brought here? By horse and cart. Children might like to see the cart in Master Carpenter's Court.





Back at School

Great Hall

Useful to Know

The Great Hall is the largest room at Hampton Court Palace. The length of the hall is around 32m (approximately the length of three double decker buses!) A huge team of staff built this room for Henry VIII, including carpenters, bricklayers and stonemasons.

The Great Hall is a sign of Henry VIII's power and wealth and was an impressive space for visitors to Court to walk through to pass into the inner rooms of the palace. It is important to understand that in Tudor Times the Great Hall would not have looked exactly as it does now. The hammer beam roof would have once been a bright blue colour. It has been repaired several times as it was destroyed by the death watch beetle! The stained glass windows are Victorian and were therefore not there in Henry VIII's time.

The Great Hall was used as the staff canteen for 600 of Henry VIII's lesser ranking courtiers, twice a day. Each meal had two courses served in messes. These were portions that were shared between four people.

Post-visit Student Discussion

Ask children to recall being in the Great Hall. What features can they remember from the space. The Great Hall was like a staff canteen or dining room for Henry VIII's servants. Ask them to compare it to their school dining room. How does it look similar or different? Which one would they prefer to eat in and why?

Horn Room

Useful to Know

Horn Place was built as a waiting place for servants to serve food directly from the kitchens to courtiers in the Great Hall and the Great Watching Chamber.

Post-visit Student Discussion

Ask children to recall the table they saw at the bottom of the stairs and the things on the table. What might it have been like to have carried all these things from the kitchens and up the stairs to the Great Hall?

Great Watching Chamber

Useful to Know

The Great Watching Chamber was where the Yeomen of the Guard were stationed to 'watch' and control access to the King's State Apartments beyond the Great Hall. The large wooden door in the corner of the room once led to Henry's private chambers where he ate, read, slept and entertained guests. Only high ranking courtiers were allowed into the Great Watching Chamber. It was important to be well dressed in the most expensive clothes you could afford.

People who were appointed to the high positions in the royal household were men. Female courtiers worked in the queen's household as ladies-in-waiting or women of the bedchamber, depending on their social status. For women like Lady Vaux it was important to have excellent social skills so they could perform at court entertainments such as dances.

Post-visit Student Discussion

Courtiers would often spend hours waiting for Henry VIII to pass through the Great Watching Chamber on his way to chapel.

Ask children to discuss what they think courtiers did in here to pass the time? Can they recall any activities they saw in the room? Some of the activities include: eating, drinking, talking to others, playing games, sleeping, playing music, writing petitions for the king, being seen by others at Court, waiting for news from the king and meeting with visitors to Court. Which of these activities would they have preferred to do and why?

Garderobe

Useful to Know

This toilet was used by courtiers waiting in the Great Watching Chamber. Lower members of the Court used a communal 14 seater toilet called the Great House of Easement. This was positioned at the front of the palace, over the moat. The lavatories around the palace were discharged into brick latrines known as gongs. It was the job of the 'gong-scourers' to climb into these pits at night and scrub them!



Back at School continued

Processional Route

Useful to Know

The Processional Route leads from the Great Watching Chamber to the Chapel Royal. Henry's courtiers would wait in line along the Route to see the king. He would walk this route on Sundays and special holy days and it would be the main occasion when Henry would be visible to his wider court.

Post-visit Student Discussion

In the Tudor Court there was a belief in a hierarchical structure which was known as the Great Chain of Being. God and the angels were at the top of the structure with the monarch underneath, followed by other humans, animals and plants and rocks and minerals at the bottom. Everyone in the Tudor Court had a place in the structure and as God had created the social order he chose where you belonged. The king or queen were in charge as they believed God had put them there. They were answerable to God. This also meant that disobeying the monarch was not allowed! Discuss with children why the Great Chain of Being structure would have been important to a monarch such as Henry VIII.

Page's Chamber

Useful to Know

The pages were essential in the daily running of Court life. They spend time in this room eating and sleeping, when they were not assisting the courtiers in the Great Watching Chamber. One of their important duties was to make the fire each morning.

Post-visit Student Discussion

Ask children to recall what it was like inside the Page's Chamber.

What might it have been like to have spent time in this room? They could make a comparison with the Great Hall or Great Watching Chamber.

What similarities and differences are there?

Council Chamber

Useful to Know

The Council Chamber was one of the first rooms that Henry VIII added to Hampton Court Palace after he took over the palace. This room was where the king's advisers called the Privy Council met every day to discuss important matters and advise the king. They discussed lots of different things to do with the Tudor Court and things happening in other countries. Henry met with his advisers but he always liked to have the final say!

Post-visit Student Discussion

Ask children what they think it would have been like to have been one of the king's advisers?

What skills would you have needed to do this job?

Do you have a school council?
What sorts of things do you discuss?

Ask children to think about all the different roles they have found about in the Tudor Court, during their visit to the Tudor Route.

In pairs ask them to discuss how many different jobs they can think of. Which role would they prefer to do and why?

