



Name:..... Form:.....

Based on **pages 22 to 26** of *In the Queen's words*

Cost of the queen's servants

It was expensive to be queen. The cost of a queen's royal attendants is given below in both pre-decimal currency and decimal currency. To convert the decimal prices into their present day value, multiply them by 300.

Annual salary of each of the queen's ladies was £33. 7s. The queen had 2–5 ladies in attendance.

For two female servants and a groom, 13s. 4d, or 67p, per week

The queen's personal priest/vicar cost 10d, or 4p, per week.

The queen had her own Jester, or Fool, at a cost of 2 shillings a month, or 10p.

The master of her barge received 1s. 4d, or 7p, a day, and the rowers 8d, or 4p.

Breakfast for one of the ladies of the court cost 9d, or 4.5p.

The hire of a boat from Greenwich to London was 4d, or 2p, and from London to Westminster 2d, or 1p.

A surgeon's fee for going to visit the queen was 13s. 4d, or 68p.

The queen would have had three or four full time embroiderers. A male embroiderer was allowed £2 a year for his house rent, and 1s. 4d, or 7p, a week wages; women embroiderers were paid 3s, or 15p, a week.

A pair of single-soled shoes with Lanton buckles cost 1s, or 5p.

The wages of grooms of the chamber were 1s, or 5p, and of the pages 8d, or 4p, per day.

d stands for penny, s for shilling and p for pence

There were 12 pennies to the shilling and 20 shillings to the pound



Cost of the queen's servants

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet.

Using the worksheet

This exercise can also be used as a maths activity. You may like to use the information given here in a discussion of Britain's pre-decimal currency. Amounts are given in both pre-decimal currency and their equivalent in decimal, to make converting into today's values easier. You should explain to the students that the decimal numbers given are what the cost would have been in Tudor times – to find out what each salary would be today the students will need to multiply by 300. Of course, this is a rough estimate, but it will give students a good idea of the salary differences.

There are many ways that you may like to use the information given here. You can have the students calculate the present-day cost of the queen's household. Students may be interested to compare the cost of, for example, a surgeon with the present day cost. Or, you could give each student a 'budget' and have them decide which servants, and how many of each, they could afford.

You may also like to compare these salaries and costs with some real prices. For example, the annual salary of the ladies-in-waiting, in today's money, would be around £10,000. You can ask students if they think that is a fair salary for a full time job.

Younger students

You may want the students to do this activity as a class exercise and discussion. Students could pretend to be the queen and could decide who they wanted to hire (or what they wanted to buy, for example, how many shoes) and how much it would cost in today's money.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Calculate modern day costs for the Tudor salaries and costs.
- Understand some of the costs involved in being queen in Tudor times.
- Compare costs in Tudor times with costs today.

Older students

The students can work on their own, or you may want to do this as a class exercise. Students might want to compare the costs of some things in Tudor times, or salaries, with costs and salaries today.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Appreciate that accounts and lists of costs can be used as historical evidence.
- Calculate modern day costs for the Tudor salaries and costs.
- Understand some of the costs involved in being queen in Tudor times.
- Compare costs in Tudor times with costs today.