

## Organising a Tudor day

A Tudor day at school can be an enjoyable, memorable and educational experience for the students (and teachers and support staff!). It needs plenty of planning to run smoothly so if you are considering having a Tudor Day as part of your coverage of teaching 'Rich and poor in Tudor times' we hope that these notes and pictures will help you have a successful day.

## Support from home

You will need support from home for the making of costumes and the making of a Tudor meal so a pleasant letter to homes explaining your plans will help start the project moving. You may find that some parents and carers are very enthusiastic and may volunteer ideas and resources.



▲▼ Looking forward to the day's activities.



► Rich Tudors...



▲ Dressing up for the day.

► Poor Tudors...

## Costumes

Tudor costumes ranged from rags to royal clothes. You may like to show the students a range of clothes as illustrated in the student book and let them work with their parents or carers on making a suitable costume. You will find that on the day the students will present a range of costumes from simple citizen to Henry VIII or Elizabeth I. It would be useful to have two or three basic costumes made by you or the school staff for students who for any reason do not have a costume on the day. One way to make sure that everyone feels like a rich Tudor is to make a simple ruff as shown in activity **2B** page 28 (and pictured on page 15).



You will also need to consider when the costumes are worn. Do you want them to wear the costumes all day and go out at breaks and lunch-times in them? Do you want them to be worn after morning break, through lunch-time to afternoon break or do you just want them to be worn in the afternoon?



► Bringing in a 'Tudor' lunch  
(link to science 'food, teeth  
and eating').



## Food

The students could make up a Tudor lunchbox and bring it to school. A selection of Tudor food is given in activity **16B** page 110. You may like to use this as a basis for planning meals.

Rich Tudors loved marzipan, and activity **16A** page 108 gives a recipe on how to make it. You may like the students to make marzipan at home and bring it with them for the Tudor meal.

Rich Tudors drank wine; the students could drink fruit juice.

## Setting the scene

▼ Talking about Tudor writing.



A little while before the Tudor day you may like to try two scene setting activities. Activity **2C** page 30 'Make your own coat of arms', allows the students to make coats of arms which can be hung around the classroom to make it appear like a hall in a Tudor mansion. Activity **8** page 66 'Make a pomander' needs to be done two weeks before the Tudor day and the pomanders set up in the classroom the night before to give off an authentic Tudor smell.

## Activities on the day

### First session

You could begin by writing the date on the blackboard in Tudor style as shown in activity **6C** page 56 'Spell as you like'.

The role play featured in activity **1A** page 20 'Going back in time' may help the students to appreciate how long ago the Tudors lived.

Groups of students may be engaged in the following activities and at the end they can pool their work to show a little of what life was like in a Tudor school:

Make a horn book (activity **19A** page 122).

Make a pen (activity **19C** page 126).

Black lettering (activity **19B** page 124).

Spell as you like (activity **6C** page 56).

Alternatively the students could try

Beggars and thieves (activity **6A** page 52).

Can you understand these rogues?

(activity **7** page 62).



▲► Making ruffs.



▲► Making a horn book.

