The Tudors

Learning Objective:
To find out what people wore in Tudor times.

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What is your favourite piece of clothing and why?

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What do you think people liked to wear in Tudor times?

Think, pair, share your ideas.

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Fashion in Tudor times was very different to fashion today. Have a look at what the people on the next slides are wearing. As you look through each picture, think about these questions...

What different items of clothing can you see?

What colours are used in the clothes?



How are the clothes different from those we wear today?

Do you think the person is rich or poor? Why?

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There was a big difference in Tudor times between what the rich wore and what the poor wore. For rich people, clothes were a way of showing how rich and important you were. Rich Tudors loved to make their clothes as fancy as possible. For poorer Tudors, clothes had to be practical and hard-wearing.



How many differences can you spot between these two outfits?





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Dressing was a complicated business for Tudor women! They wore a chemise (a long piece of underwear like a dress) under a petticoat. A farthingale was worn over the petticoat which was a skirt with hoops to give the skirt its shape. Over the farthingale was the main skirt called a kirtle. Tudor women wore corsets stiffened with willow or whale bone to bring their waists in. They would then have the main gown over the top of all this. The gown was split in the centre to show the kirtle underneath.



headdress

corset

gown

kirtle (with petticoat and farthingale underneath)

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The main parts of a Tudor man's outfit were the doublet and hose. A doublet was a padded jacket with tight sleeves that came down to the waist, hips or, in the Tudor times, the knee. Hose were like stockings and were held up by garters. Men would often wear a gown or mantle (a sleeveless cloak) over their doublet. It became fashionable in Tudor times to slash the doublet so you could show off the rich fabric of a shirt underneath. Flat caps also became popular and were often decorated with feathers.



By the time Elizabeth I came to the throne, there had been some changes in what was fashionable. The ruff was made of a stiff fabric that ruffled at the neck. Both men and women wore ruffs. Women also started wearing bumrolls, which were tubes of fabric under the gown placed over the hips to make the waist appear smaller. Breeches or upper hose became fashionable for men. These were like puffed shorts that were worn with a shorter doublet.



ruff

bumroll



breeches



What do you think of Tudor fashion?

Do you like it? Why or why not?

What do you think it would be like to wear Tudor clothes?



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Plenary:



What is your favourite thing about Tudor fashion that you have found out today?

Do you think fashion is more or less important now than it was in Tudor times? Why?

Discuss your ideas.

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