The Tudors

Learning Objective:
To be able to experiment with materials and techniques to create a crown.

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Hello! I run the Royal Museum of the Tudors. I want to have some Tudor crowns made for a special display about Henry VIII. Can you help?



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Henry VIII and the rest of the Tudor monarchs would have worn crowns like this. How do you think you could make a crown like this using materials you have in the classroom?



Think, pair, share your ideas.

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The first thing you need to make is the basic band for the crown. It's important to measure this carefully so that it fits the person it's intended for.



You can use a tape measure to measure the circumference of your head so that you know how big your crown needs to be.

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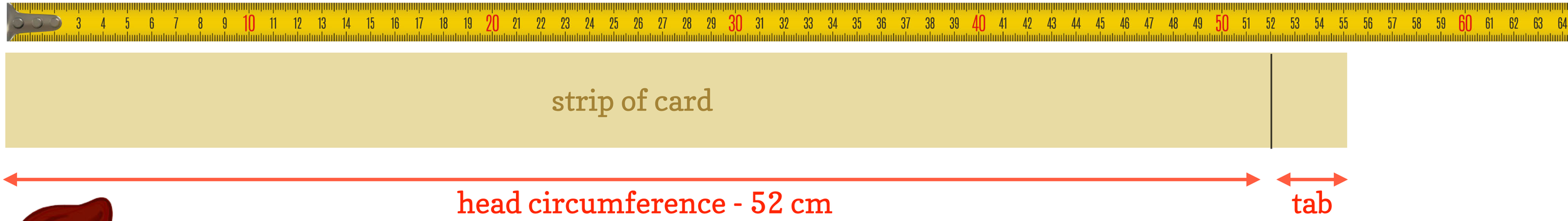
Let's say the crown you were making needed to fit a head with a circumference of 52 cm. You can measure a strip of card 52 cm long, then add a few centimetres on the end. This will be used as a tab to stick one end of the card to the other to make the basic crown shape.





It's a good idea to mark the line to show the circumference so you know exactly where to stick your tab. This will make sure that the crown is exactly the right size.

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How could you attach these crosses and trefoils to the main band of the crown?



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How could you make these strips so that they are not wobbly? What materials could you use?

And what about the fabric underneath?



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How could you make these adornments for the top of your crown?

How would you make sure that the rest of the crown was sturdy enough to hold this up?



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There are lots of different ways you can make card stronger and more stable:

- You can stick several sheets of paper or card together.
- You can attach pipe cleaners or modelling wire to the card. This will make it still able to bend but better able to keep its shape.
- Try twisting paper, and even plaiting the twists together.

Can you think of other ways of strengthening card or paper?



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Finally, how will you make the fur trim at the bottom of the crown? This makes it more comfortable for the wearer.



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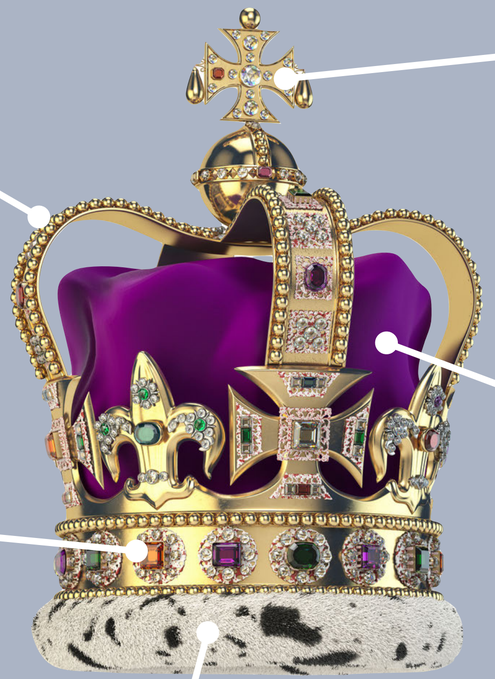
Helpful Hints!

Try threading beads onto pipe cleaners for rows of pearls or jewels.

Make sure both the front and back of parts that can be seen on both sides are gold. You can use paint or gold spray if you do not have gold card.



You could use sequins, stick-on gems or even cut out gem shapes from shiny paper or card for the jewels in the crown.

Henry's original crown would have had velvet in the middle. You could use tissue paper for this if you don't have any fabric.

For the fur trim, you could thread cotton wool balls onto wire or pipe cleaners.



Let’s have a look at a few more examples of crowns. For each one, discuss how you could make each of the different features.

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Are you ready to go and make a crown for my museum display?

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