

Watch the documentary, make notes, and complete the questions that follow. Key quotes have been included; annotate these, explaining their meaning.

'Sailing from France, an invading army is about to land in Wales. The leader of this army was a refugee, a fugitive, a man who had spent half of his 28 years on the run and who had barely a claim to the throne of England. His name was Henry Tudor.'

Yet Henry remains eclipsed by the monarchs that precede and succeed him...

Task – Who were the monarchs who preceded and succeeded Henry, and how was Henry VII related to them?

1. R
2. H
3. E

Task – The presenter, Thomas Penn will use the following terms to describe Henry VII at different times in his reign. As you watch, what evidence can you find to support these descriptions of Henry VII:

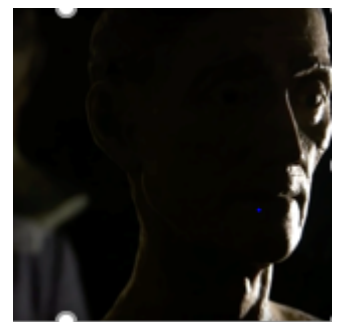
Adjective	Evidence
<i>Paranoid/suspicious</i>	
<i>Manipulative</i>	
<i>Magnificent</i>	
<i>Oppressive</i>	
<i>Terrifying</i>	

'This is Henry. It's what remains of his funeral effigy ... We can see his fine boned features. But this is also a face emaciated and ravished by illness and stress. It's the face of a man who's never known a moment's peace.'

Sunday 7 August 1485

Returning from exile in France, Henry Tudor, leader of the surviving Lancastrian branch of the Royal Family returns to the British Isles

Q. Where did Henry land?



"Judge me, oh, Lord, and favour my cause."

Q. Why did he chose to land in Wales?

'It had come down to this - tomorrow he would claim the throne of England, or he would die trying.'

22 August 1485

Q. Why was Lord Stanley the key player in the Battle of Bosworth Field?

*'The battle of Bosworth may have been over, but the real struggle was about to begin. For over half a century, no monarch had successfully passed on the crown without turmoil.
Building a dynasty would be a battle that Henry would fight for the rest of his life.'
'He knew that what had happened to Richard III could also happen to him.'*

Q. Why was Henry 'not exactly the ideal pedigree for a king?' Comment on both sides of his family

Beaufort's	Tudors

'For England to believe that Henry was the rightful king, he would need to behave like one.'

Q. How would he use Parliament to tackle 'the inconvenient truth of Richard III's reign and to re-work recent events to suit himself'?

Q. What was the significance of backdating the date of his reign by one day?

'With Parliament sewn up, Henry's next move would bolster his position further... A marriage to cement all his dynastic ambitions. It would be a union that promised to reconcile a divided England.'

Q. How did his marriage reconcile the two sides of the English Royal Family?



'The most potent and enduring emblem in English royal history'

'What we have here is a genealogical roll....which tells us why Henry was so very afraid, and what he was afraid of.'

Q. Why did Henry have reason to be afraid?



'In this glorious vision of English kingship, Henry VII doesn't fit at all.'

Q. Which family held such a dim view of Henry's claim to the throne?

In 1487, their rebellion would be destroyed. With his position further cemented he would then further consolidate his power and legitimacy through:

Architecture – Evidence	Money - Evidence
<p>'It was important because</p>	<p>How did Henry's coin reinforce his authority and power?</p> <p>'It was important because</p>

1493

'But while Henry was starting to convince the international community that he was here to stay, at home, old rivalries simmered. In early 1493, Henry got wind of another plot. Yorkist exiles in Europe were grooming a young man named Perkin Warbeck to impersonate one of the princes in the Tower'

Q. Why was this a disaster for Henry?

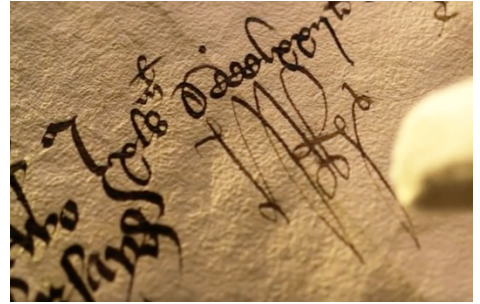
'this was a threat that Henry had to defuse.'

Q. How close did the plot come to Henry himself?

Henry became more secret and hidden away from the people. Yet, his level of control, particularly financial increased.

Q. What does Henry's signature show?

*'There's thousands of pounds' worth of bullion going through the king's...
literally, through the king's hands.'*



Q. How did money equal security and control?

'In 1497, Warbeck, the Yorkist pretender who had caused Henry such anxiety over the years, was captured and eventually executed.'

'The stage was now set for the most significant moment of Henry's reign so far, a royal marriage that had taken a decade to broker. His eldest son, Prince Arthur, was to marry a great Spanish princess, Catherine of Aragon. For Henry, it would be the culmination of everything he had fought for, setting the seal on his dynastic ambitions.'

'The wedding was a triumph. The Tudor myth was turning into reality.'

Q. What happened to Arthur soon after his marriage?

'The political impact of Arthur's death was immense. The Tudor dynasty now hung by a thread. The dynasty's future now rested on the shoulders of Arthur's younger brother, Prince Henry, the king's only surviving son.'

Q. What happened to Elizabeth, Henry's Queen during her next pregnancy?

'Usually so inscrutable, Henry's reaction to Elizabeth's death was one of complete physical collapse. But when he emerged six weeks later, the mask was back in place, and his drive for control was even more remorseless. The cornerstones of his reign - his wife and heir - were gone'

'Henry saw conspiracy at every turn. But his resolve was unshakeable. He would hang on to the crown, whatever the cost.'

Q. How did Henry use extortion to guarantee good behaviour?

Q. Why was it like being 'on permanent bail'?

Q. Who were the 'Council Learned in the Law'? What did Henry use them for?

Q. What was the role of Edmund Dudley, the man most closely associated with Henry's financial terrorism?



'What Dudley was doing was technically legal, but it was stretching the law to its absolute limits. It was, he said, extraordinary justice.'

"Henry", he said, "wanted many persons in danger at his pleasure, "bound to His Grace for great sums of money."

Q. How did Phillip of Burgundy's shipwrecking in England help Henry consolidate his throne further?

However, by this stage of his rule, Henry had become stuck in his ways. England was not a happy place and people were increasingly resentful of his despotic and tyrannical rule. Attention now began to turn to his son. The place Henry showed off his son was the tournament.

Q. How did tournaments and jousting show the differences between Henry VII and his son?

'So people started to see Prince Henry, even at the tender age of 15, as someone who would be a return to a traditional kind of king, valuing honour and glory over money. Imperceptibly, allegiances were starting to shift.'

'In January 1509, Henry VII shut himself away at Richmond. His health was failing yet again, only this time, there would be no recovering. At 11 o'clock at night, on Saturday the 21st of April 1509, Henry VII died.'



Q. Why was Henry's death kept quiet for two days?

Task – Complete the table identifying the strengths and weaknesses of Henry's reign. You may find colour coding your worksheet a good way to start.

Strengths	Weaknesses

Overall, what is your opinion of Henry VII Medieval King based on this documentary?

Henry VII – Great Lives Podcast - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00d6zwt>

1. Listen to the biographical discussions with Matthew Parris and Former Chancellor George Osborne.
2. Make detailed bullet point list of notes outlining key points, events, problems, strengths etc