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The Wars of the Roses 1455-1487

This timeline gives you an introductory layer of information about the Wars of the Roses so you can see:

a) the pattern of fighting

b) how often the kings changed

You will remember some of this for your next lesson but you won't remember all of the detail. That's OK! The work you will do in later lessons will build on this first layer and your understanding of the Wars of the Roses will improve a lot.

The Pattern of the Wars

1. a) When were the first and last battles?

   b) How many years were there between the first and last battles?

2. Which 3 year period saw the most battles?

3. Identify three periods of at least 3 years when there were no battles.

4. How long was the longest period without a battle?

5. Did the battles happen regularly or in fits and starts? Explain the reasons for your answer.

6. If you were 11 when the wars began, you'd be 43 by the last battle. How do you think people felt about wars that lasted so long?

Kings and Dynasties

7. Which king was deposed as a result of the Battle of Towton and who replaced him as king?

8. Why do you think many people found the events of 1469-71 confusing?

9. a) How many kings were there in 1483?

   b) Which dynasty did they belong to?

10. Which dynasty had a red rose as one of its badges?

Asking your own questions

What questions do you want to ask about these wars?

Dynasty

A dynasty is a family of monarchs

House of Lancaster: the family of Henry VI whose ancestors had been Dukes of Lancaster. One of the badges of the Lancastrians was the Red Rose.

House of York: the family of Richard, Duke of York who began the fight to replace Henry VI as king. One of the badges of the Yorkists was the White Rose.

The Tudors: the first Tudor king was Henry Tudor, earl of Richmond. He became Henry VII. One of the badges of the Tudor dynasty was a Red and White Rose.

Henry VI

Henry had been king since 1422 when he was 9 months old. The nobles worked together to run the country peacefully while Henry was growing up. He took over as king after 1437 but he was not a successful king. He was deposed in 1461 by Edward of York who was much younger and a great soldier.





HENRY VI — EDWARD IV

1453	1454	1455	1456	1457	1458	1459	1460	1461	1462	1463	1464

Battles are marked by •

- *St. Albans*
- *Blore Heath*
- *Ludford*
- *N'hampton*
- *Wakefield*
- *Mortimers Cross*
- *St. Albans*
- *Towton*
- *Hedgeley Moor*
- *Hexham*

EDWARD IV — HENRY VI — EDWARD IV



1465	1466	1467	1468	1469	1470	1471	1472	1473	1474	1475	1476

Battles are marked by •

- *Edgecote*
- *Barnet*
- *Tewkesbury*

What happened in 1469-1471?

The earl of Warwick rebelled against Edward IV and forced him to escape abroad. Warwick then made Henry VI king again until Edward returned and killed Warwick in battle in 1471. Henry VI was then murdered in the Tower of London.







EDWARD IV — EDWARD V — RICHARD III — HENRY VII

1477	1478	1479	1480	1481	1482	1483	1484	1485	1486	1487	1488

Battles are marked by •

- *Bosworth*
- *Stoke*

What happened in 1483?

Edward IV died. His 12 year old son became Edward V but was only king for three months. Then his uncle Richard took the crown and young Edward and his brother disappeared. They are known as the 'Princes in the Tower'. Henry Tudor defeated and killed Richard III in battle in 1485.

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