

KS2 History Curriculum -- The Tudors & The Stuarts (Autumn Term 2026)

Autumn Term 2026 | 7 weeks | 1 × 45-minute lesson per week

Mondays: 7 September – 19 October 2026

Week	Date	Topic	Learning objectives
1	7 Sept	Meet the Tudors: How did they come to power?	- Place the Tudor period on a timeline. - Understand the Wars of the Roses and the Battle of Bosworth. - Explain how Henry VII became the first Tudor monarch.
2	14 Sept	Henry VIII and his Six Wives	- Describe Henry VIII as a monarch. - Identify and sequence his six wives. - Understand reasons for his marriages, including his desire for a male heir.
3	21 Sept	Why did Henry VIII break with Rome?	- Understand why Henry VIII separated from the Roman Catholic Church. - Explore the creation of the Church of England. - Understand how religious changes affected Tudor England.
4	28 Sept	Life in Tudor England	- Explore Tudor homes, food, clothing, education, jobs and entertainment. - Compare the lives of rich and poor Tudors. - Identify similarities and differences between Tudor life and life today.
5	5 Oct	Edward VI and Mary I: Two Very Different Tudors	- Understand how Edward VI and Mary I came to the throne after Henry VIII. - Compare their reigns and their different religious beliefs. - Explore how changes of monarch affected religion and everyday life in Tudor England.
6	12 Oct	Elizabeth I: The Tudor Queen	- Understand how Elizabeth I became queen and why her reign was significant. - Explore challenges she faced as a female monarch. - Consider how Elizabeth presented herself as a powerful ruler.
7	19 Oct	The Spanish Armada	- Explain why Spain attempted to invade England in 1588. - Explore the events of the Spanish Armada. - Investigate reasons for the English victory and why the Armada became important to Elizabeth I's legacy.

Historical skills developed across the unit

Chronological understanding • Significant individuals • Cause and consequence • Similarity and difference • Historical enquiry • Considering different perspectives

KS2 History Curriculum - The Stuarts

Autumn Term 2026 | 7 weeks | 1 x 45-minute lesson per week

Mondays: 2 November – 14 December 2026

Week	Date	Topic	Learning objectives
1	2 Nov	Meet the Stuarts: James I and a New Royal Family	• Understand why the Tudor period ended and how James VI of Scotland became James I of England. • Place the Stuart period on a timeline. • Explore what changed and what stayed the same when the Stuarts came to power.
2	9 Nov	The Gunpowder Plot	• Understand why a group of Catholics plotted against James I in 1605. • Explore the roles of Guy Fawkes and Robert Catesby. • Sequence the events of the Gunpowder Plot and consider why it failed. • Explore how we know about the plot using historical evidence.
3	16 Nov	Charles I: King versus Parliament	• Understand why Charles I and Parliament repeatedly disagreed. • Explore ideas about the power of the monarch and Parliament. • Identify some of the main causes that eventually led to the English Civil War.
4	23 Nov	The English Civil War: Cavaliers vs Roundheads	• Understand who fought in the English Civil War and why. • Identify the Royalists and Parliamentarians. • Explore what life was like during the conflict. • Understand how Parliament eventually defeated the King.
5	30 Nov	The Execution of Charles I & Oliver Cromwell	• Understand why Charles I was put on trial and executed in 1649. • Explore why executing a king was such an extraordinary event. • Understand how England was ruled without a monarch and investigate Oliver Cromwell's role as Lord Protector.
6	7 Dec	The Great Plague of 1665	• Understand how the Great Plague affected Stuart Britain. • Explore beliefs about what caused the plague and compare them with what we know today. • Investigate how people attempted to prevent and treat the disease. • Use historical sources to explore everyday experiences of the plague.
7	14 Dec	The Great Fire of London	• Understand how and where the Great Fire of London began in 1666. • Explain why the fire spread so quickly. • Explore Samuel Pepys' eyewitness account as a historical source. • Understand how London changed and was rebuilt following the fire.

Historical skills developed across the unit

Chronological understanding • Cause and consequence • Significant individuals • Similarity and difference • Historical enquiry • Using and evaluating historical sources