

# History Transition Tasks



Welcome to A level history! Below are tasks to prepare you for two of our units; Russia 1917 - 1991: From Lenin to Yeltsin, and Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509.

## Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509

**Read through the following introduction then complete the tasks below.**

In 2012, archaeologists from the University of Leicester excavated a car park and discovered a male skeleton showing ten injuries, demonstrating that he had died as a result of being stabbed in the face and side of the head. There was also evidence of injuries apparently designed to humiliate the victim, including a pelvic wound which was likely to have been caused by a weapon thrust upwards through the buttock, although it was undoubtedly the head wounds which proved fatal. The corpse was then thrown into a hastily dug grave below a church, probably with the hands still bound. Once the corpse had been removed, the bones were DNA tested and the body was proved to be that of Richard III, perhaps England's most controversial medieval king.

This archaeological find caused a media frenzy that indicated the ongoing public's fascination with 15<sup>th</sup>-century English history. At the heart of this period was the 'Wars of the Roses', a name given to a civil war that took place from 1450 to 1485 between two rival families claiming the throne- the Yorkists and the Lancastrians. It was this war that ended with Richard's brutal death on the battlefield and the rise of the Tudor dynasty to the throne. The period involves political intrigue, noble rivalries, child killing, battles, murder, accusations of witchcraft and one of the great royal romances of history- the marriage of Edward IV to Elizabeth Woodville. It is not difficult to understand why this period continues to grip the 21<sup>st</sup> Century imagination and has been the subject of numerous television documentaries and books. Dramatists and novelists have found the topic appealing, most famously William Shakespeare, who wrote eight plays on the subject. Some of England's most famous historical characters date from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Henry V was the famous hero of Agincourt in 1415, when English archers defeated the French with spectacular success. His son, Henry VI, was noted for his periods of insanity, as England fell into the grip of civil war while different noble factions sought to control the throne. Edward IV, the first Yorkist king, was noted for his womanising and, aside from his controversial marriage to Elizabeth Woodville (a relatively poor widow), seduced merchants' wives in London to obtain cash for his military campaigns. None of these colourful individuals compare to the two kings who ended the Wars of the Roses however: Richard III and Henry VII. Richard II has long been suspected of ordering the killing of his two nephews, the 'Princes in the Tower', who were aged ten and twelve at the time of their mysterious disappearance. The evidence against him, however, is inconclusive and the fate of the two boys has remained a hotly contested mystery, with the Richard III society being formed in the 1920s to try and clear his name. Meanwhile, Henry VII (Richard's successor) has been credited by some as being the first 'modern' ruler, using tighter financial controls and much higher levels of spy surveillance to control his nobility. While such claims may well be exaggerated, there can be little doubt that the Tudor dynasty which Henry VII brought to the throne has remained a potent image of government stability after civil war.

## Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509

### TASK:

You are going to research the following medieval monarchs in preparation for Y12.

- Richard II
- Henry IV
- Henry V
- Henry VI
- Edward IV
- Richard III
- Henry VII

For each of these monarchs you need notes under the following headings [use the template sheet to structure your notes]:

1. How did they come to power?
2. Which House (Plantagenet, Yorkist, Lancastrian, Tudor) did they represent?
3. What challenges did they face during their reign?
4. How successful was their reign? Create a table of successes and failures.
5. Medieval monarch score /10 [1 – not very successful 10 = amazingly successful] Give a short explanation to justify your score

The websites below will offer good starting points to begin your research into each monarch.

- [www.britannica.com/biography](http://www.britannica.com/biography)
- [www.bbc.co.uk/history](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history)
- <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/>
- [www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/](http://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/)

**\* You need to bring this work with you to your first history lesson in Y12 to be submitted to your teacher.**

### RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING:

- Dan Jones (2014) *The Hollow Crown*
- Dan Jones (2012) *The Plantagenets*
- Ian Dawson (2012) *The Wars of the Roses*
- Roger Turvey (2015) *Lancastrians, Yorkists and the Wars of the Roses 1399-1509*
- Colin Pendrill (2004) *The Wars of the Roses and Henry VII: England 1459 – c.1513*
- Andrew Pickering (2000) *Lancastrians to Tudors: England, 1450 - 1509*

<b>Medieval Monarch and Years of Reign</b>		
<b>How did they come to power?</b>		
<b>Which House (Plantagenet, Yorkist, Lancastrian, Tudor) did they represent?</b>		
<b>What challenges did the face during their reign?</b>		
<b>How successful was their reign? Create a table of successes and failures.</b>	<b>Successes</b>	<b>Failures</b>
<b>Medieval monarch score /10 [1 – not very successful 10 = amazingly successful]</b>  <b>Give a short explanation to justify your score</b>		

## Russia 1917-1991: From Lenin to Yeltsin

**Buy and read *Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991* by Orlando Figes and complete the following tasks:**

*This book will give you a fantastic overview of Russia before and during the Revolution, and covers the entirety of our course. The following tasks are designed to help you understand what Russia was like before the Revolution and to understand why revolution began in 1917. You will also be introduced to the key people and leaders that we study.*

Summarise...

**The situation in Russia at the end of the C19th/beginning of the C20th**

**What happened in the 1905 revolution**

**What happened in the 1917 revolution**

Note down at least 5 pieces of information about the following people...

**Lenin**

**Trotsky**

**Stalin**

**Khrushchev**

**Brezhnev**

**Andropov**

**Gorbachev**

**Yeltsin**

What conclusions does Figs draw about the Russian Revolution?

**\* You need to bring this work with you to your first history lesson in Y12 to be submitted to your teacher.**