

Tudor Times is a series of three 20-minute programmes designed to support the QCA History Scheme of Work for unit 8: 'What were the differences between the lives of rich and poor people in Tudor times?'. Each programme involves twenty-first century children going back through time to experience the lives of men, women and children from different levels of society in 1587. The Tudor Times package consists of a video, an Activity Book and web-based programme notes.

Each programme provides a starting point for role-play in the classroom and offers opportunities for developing literacy skills in imaginative writing, information retrieval and comparisons of fact and fiction.

Programme 1: **Housing, Hygiene and Health**

Introduces children to the way of life among the poor and looks at health and medicine in Tudor times

Freddy and Holly have travelled back through time to experience the life of poor farm labourers. It's 1587 and Holly's family are making their way to London in search of work. They lodge with Freddy's family but bring sickness with them. As the children struggle to master the many skills involved in running a Tudor household, Freddy's father becomes ill with 'the sweats'. He is bled by an apothecary. The children seek advice from a herbalist to help Holly's family, but despite their best efforts one of them dies.

Before viewing

- Locate the programme in time and relate it to previous periods studied.
- Talk about the different kinds of people who lived in Tudor times – kings and queens, lords and ladies, writers like Shakespeare, and people who lived in the town and country.

While viewing

- The children look for clues that tell them this is a poor household (eg clothes, furniture and work).
- Who are the most important people in this village? (Answer: the bailiff, the priest and the apothecary.) How can the children tell?

After viewing

- Why did Holly's mother try to keep her illness a secret?
- Why was the priest reluctant to help the family after Mary's death?
- Why did the bailiff think Henry was to blame for getting 'the sweats'?
- What do these incidents tell us about the attitudes and beliefs of the time?

Programme 2: **Work and Education**

Enables children to compare the life of the very poor with that of the more prosperous country people. Shows some of the different employment opportunities available to Tudor children

Phil, Josh and Michaela join the household of a yeoman farmer. Phil, the oldest son, learns the skills he will need to run the farm while his younger brother, Josh, will go to the grammar school to receive an education. Michaela, a servant's daughter, is being trained by her elders in household tasks.

Each of the children finds their lot hard. Phil, struggling with the backbreaking work of picking stones and tending the stock, envies his brother who goes to school. But Josh finds learning hard and cannot master his work, despite the ever-present threat of a flogging. Michaela sees life as a servant mapped out before her and recognises that she will have little say in her future.

Before viewing

- Recap on the previous week's programme, showing the life of very poor people. What were the problems they faced? What was the family's house like? Who can remember what they had in the way of possessions?

While viewing

- Look for differences in lifestyle between this family and the family in programme 1.
- Look for differences in the experiences of the three children.

After viewing

- Ask the children what they want to be when they grow up. Contrast this with the limited choice available to children in Tudor times.
- Which of the three children had the worst deal? Which child was the most fortunate? Discuss this, emphasising that there is no right answer.

Programme 3: **Food, Drink and Entertainment**

Looks at the lifestyle of a middle-class family in Tudor times. Children have an opportunity to compare the lives of rich and poor and look at differences in diet, work and entertainment

It is 1587. In Spain, Philip II is preparing to launch his great armada. In Sussex, modern schoolchildren Nell and Greg have joined the household of the local bailiff. Nell is his daughter and Greg is the son of the bailiff's servants. There is plenty for them to do as the household prepares a feast to celebrate the betrothal of the bailiff's oldest son. But as the day passes by Greg becomes increasingly conscious of the contrast between his life as a servant and that of Nell, the bailiff's daughter.

Before viewing

- Recap on the two previous programmes and discuss differences in lifestyle of the characters in programme 1 and programme 2. Discuss their clothes, furniture and food.

While viewing

Children look for clues that tell them this is a wealthy household. How do the lives of the family members differ from the lives of their servants?

After viewing

- Can the children guess when the programme was set?
- Which monarch was on the throne then?

Support material for Tudor Times

Activity Book: 206842 £5.95

Video: 206841 £12.99

For information and orders, consult 4Learning's annual brochure or visit www.channel4.com/learningshop Email: sales@4learning.co.uk
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History for 7–11 year olds



How We Used to Live: **Tudor Times**



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