

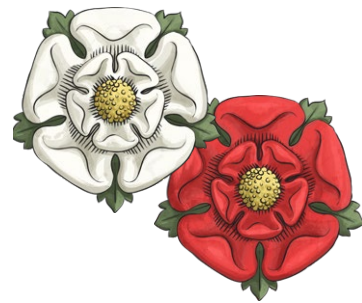
The Battle of Bosworth Field

The Battle of Bosworth Field is one of the most important battles in British history. The outcomes of the battle shaped the future of the English monarchy as well as the shape of the country as a whole.

The Wars of the Roses

In 1455, a war broke out between two major noble houses in England over the claim for the English throne, the House of York and the House of Lancaster. The heads of both houses were **descendants** of King Edward III and so both claimed to be the rightful king. The war was named after the roses that were the symbol of each house.

- The House of York, represented by a white rose, were the current rulers of England.
- The House of Lancaster, represented by a red rose, were led by the Tudor family.



Over the course of thirty years, war was raged between the two houses in many battles, finally coming to a head at Bosworth Field.

Bosworth Field

In 1483, Richard III of the House of York was crowned king after the sudden death of his brother, Edward IV and the disappearance of Edward's sons. Richard was unpopular, and his opponents believed that he had ordered the murder of his nephews in order to become king.

In August 1485, Henry Tudor – who had previously been **exiled** after **rebellions** against the throne - landed in southern Wales with his Lancastrian forces and French troops. They marched through Wales recruiting troops to fight against the king.

Richard ordered his troops to meet Henry's and the two armies met in Leicestershire, near the hamlet of Dadlington, on 22nd August. Richard's army was made of around 10,000 men as well as some cannons, whereas Henry's army numbered around 8,000.

The battle was long and bloody. Richard spotted Henry separated from his troops and decided to order a charge to try and defeat the enemy commander to seal victory. This tactic backfired however, as Richard was killed on the battlefield.

Did You Know...?

Archaeologists have uncovered a range of lead shots used in the battle, from large shots used in cannon fire, to small bullets used for handguns.

He is the last English monarch to have been killed in battle.

After the death of Richard, his troops surrendered and Henry, along with the House of Lancaster, were victorious. Henry was then crowned King Henry VII, the first monarch of the House of Tudor.

In order to keep the peace between Yorkists and Lancastrians, Henry married Elizabeth of York, the niece of Richard III, and then created his new **emblem** – the Tudor rose, made up of both the red and white roses of both families.



Legacy

The Battle of Bosworth Field led to the coronation of Henry Tudor as King Henry VII, the first of the Tudor monarchs. His family would go on to include some of the most famous monarchs in British history, including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Glossary

descendants – People who are related to a specific person from an earlier time.

exiled – Banned from a country, often as a punishment.

rebellions – Fighting against a government or leader.

emblem – A symbol representing a group, nation or family.

The Battle of Bosworth Field

1. Which house was represented by a white rose?

2. Where did Henry land with his forces when returning from exile? Tick one.

England

France

Wales

Lancaster

3. What date did the two armies meet at Dadlington?

4. Look at the paragraph called **Legacy**. Find and copy one word that means 'well-known'.

5. Who did Henry marry? Tick one.

Elizabeth of York

Catherine of York

Mary of York

Margaret of York

6. Why do you think Henry created the Tudor rose?

7. At the start of the text, it says that the Battle of Bosworth field shaped the future of the monarchy. In your own words, explain how this is true.

8. Who do you think was the most effective commander – Richard or Henry? Give reasons for your answer.

Answers

1. Which house was represented by a white rose?

The House of York

2. Where did Henry land with his forces when returning from exile? Tick one.

- England
 France
 Wales
 Lancaster

3. What date did the two armies meet at Dadlington?

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famous

5. Who did Henry marry? Tick one.

- Elizabeth of York**
 Catherine of York
 Mary of York
 Margaret of York

6. Why do you think Henry created the Tudor rose?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Henry created the Tudor rose to show that both sides of the war – Lancaster and York – were both represented by the royal house of Tudor to stop any potential rebellions.

7. At the start of the text, it says that the Battle of Bosworth field shaped the future of the monarchy. In your own words, explain how this is true.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think this is true as the end of the battle meant that Henry was crowned King Henry VII – the first of the Tudor monarchs. The Tudors were one of the most important royal families and included Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, so if Henry was never crowned king, we wouldn't have had those monarchs.

8. Who do you think was the most effective commander – Richard or Henry? Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Henry was the most effective commander as he had a smaller army compared to Richard but managed to be victorious in the battle.

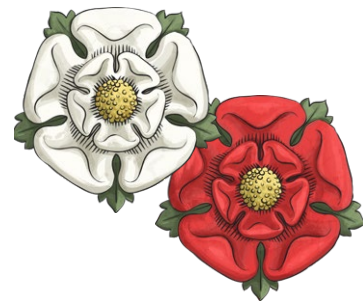
The Battle of Bosworth Field

The Battle of Bosworth Field is one of the most significant battles in British history. The consequences of the battle shaped the future of the English monarchy as well as the shape of the country as a whole. It was the final major battle in the period of conflict known as the Wars of the Roses.

The Wars of the Roses

In 1455, a war broke out between two major noble houses in England over the claim for the English throne, the House of York and the House of Lancaster. The heads of both houses were **descendants** of King Edward III and so both claimed to be the rightful king. The war was named after the roses that were the symbol of each house.

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Over the course of thirty years, war was waged between the two houses in numerous battles, finally coming to a conclusion at Bosworth Field.

Bosworth Field

In 1483, Richard III of the House of York was crowned king after the sudden death of his brother, Edward IV and the disappearance of Edward's sons. Richard was largely unpopular with the public, and his enemies spread rumours that he had ordered the **assassination** of his nephews in order to become king.

In August 1485, Henry Tudor – who had previously been exiled after rebellions against the throne - landed in southern Wales with his Lancastrian forces and French troops. They marched through Wales recruiting troops to fight against the king, managing to double their number of troops.

Richard ordered his troops to meet Henry's and the two armies met in Leicestershire on 22nd August. Originally, it was believed that the battle was staged on top of a hill near the town of Market Bosworth; however, recently discovered archaeological evidence has shown the location to be more likely near the hamlet of Dadlington.

Richard's army was made of around 10,000 men as well as some cannons, whereas Henry's army numbered around 8,000.

The battle was long and bloody. Richard spotted Henry separated from his troops and decided to order a charge to try and defeat the enemy commander to seal victory. This tactic massively backfired however – Richard was unseated from his horse and was then killed on the battlefield. He is the last English monarch to have been killed in battle.

After the death of King Richard, his troops surrendered and Henry, along with the House of Lancaster, were victorious. Henry was then crowned King Henry VII, the first monarch of the House of Tudor.

In order to keep the peace between Yorkists and Lancastrians, Henry married Elizabeth of York, the niece of Richard III, and then created a new **emblem** – the Tudor rose, made up of both the red and white roses of both families.



Legacy

The Battle of Bosworth Field led to the coronation of Henry Tudor as King Henry VII, the first of the Tudor monarchs. His family would go on to include some of the most famous monarchs in British history, including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Archaeologists have spent a lot of time trying to excavate evidence of the battle. They have uncovered a range of lead shots used in the battle, from large shots used in cannon fire, to small bullets used for handguns.

Glossary

descendants – People who are related to a specific person from an earlier time.

assassination – Murdered for political reasons.

emblem – A symbol representing a group, nation or family.

The Battle of Bosworth Field

1. What was the name of the war that the Battle for Bosworth Field was part of? Tick one.

- The War for the Crown
- The Wars of the Roses
- The Wars of York and Lancaster
- The English Throne War

2. Fill in the missing words.

In _____, a war broke out between two major noble houses in England over the claim for the English throne, the House of _____ and the House of _____.

3. What is the name of the hamlet near to where the battle took place?

4. When was Richard crowned King of England?

5. Tick to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	true	false
Richard III was the son of Edward IV.		
The House of Lancaster was represented with a red rose.		
Henry Tudor landed his forces in Wales.		
Henry was crowned King Henry VI.		

6. Why do you think Richard's enemies spread rumours that he assassinated his nephews?

7. Why do you think Henry created the Tudor rose?

8. At the start of the text, it says that the Battle of Bosworth field shaped the future of the monarchy. In your own words, explain how this is true.

9. Who do you think was the most effective commander – Richard or Henry? Give reasons for your answer.

Answers

1. What was the name of the war that the Battle for Bosworth Field was part of? Tick one.
- The War for the Crown
- The Wars of the Roses**
- The Wars of York and Lancaster
- The English Throne War

2. Fill in the missing words.

In **1455**, a war broke out between two major noble houses in England over the claim for the English throne, the House of **York** and the House of **Lancaster**.

3. What is the name of the hamlet near to where the battle took place?

Dadlington

4. When was Richard crowned King of England?

1483

5. Tick to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	true	false
Richard III was the son of Edward IV.		✓
The House of Lancaster was represented with a red rose.	✓	
Henry Tudor landed his forces in Wales.	✓	
Henry was crowned King Henry VI.		✓

6. Why do you think Richard's enemies spread rumours that he assassinated his nephews?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Richard's enemies spread rumours that he assassinated his nephews so people would dislike him more and join their rebellion to remove him as king.

7. Why do you think Henry created the Tudor rose?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Henry created the Tudor rose to show that both sides of the war – Lancaster and York – were both represented by the royal house of Tudor to stop any potential rebellions.

8. At the start of the text, it says that the Battle of Bosworth field shaped the future of the monarchy. In your own words, explain how this is true.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think this is true as the end of the battle meant that Henry was crowned King Henry VII – the first of the Tudor monarchs. The Tudors were one of the most important royal families and included Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, so if Henry was never crowned king, we wouldn't have had those monarchs.

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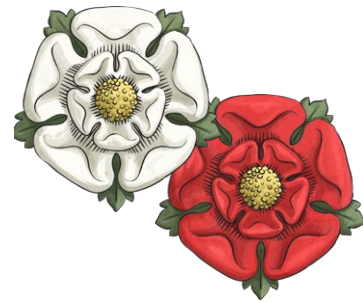
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The Wars of the Roses

In 1455, a war broke out between two major noble houses in England over the claim for the English throne, the House of York and the House of Lancaster. The heads of both houses were direct descendants of King Edward III and so both claimed to be the rightful king. The war was named after the roses that were the symbol of each house.

- The House of York, represented by a white rose, were the current rulers of England.
- The House of Lancaster, represented by a red rose, were led by the Tudor family.



Over the course of thirty years, war was waged between the two houses in numerous battles. Both sides had won battles but no one had been able to claim an outright victory. After a failed rebellion against the crown, Henry Tudor fled to France in 1471 where he lived in exile.

In April 1483, King Edward IV suddenly died, leaving his young son as the new king, under the protection of his brother, Richard. A few months later in June, before he had been crowned, young King Edward V and his younger brother were declared illegitimate and later disappeared. Richard was then crowned King Richard III. He was largely unpopular and rumours spread that he had ordered the assassination of his nephews in order to gain power and become king.

During this time, Henry Tudor's mother was actively plotting for her son to replace Richard as king. She rallied support among the nobles and helped negotiate a marriage between Henry and Richard's niece, Elizabeth of York, if they should succeed.

The Battle

In August 1485, Henry Tudor landed in southern Wales with his Lancastrian forces and French troops with the intention of dethroning the king. They marched through Wales recruiting troops to fight the king's army, managing to double their number of troops. Henry also recruited the help of his stepfather, Lord Stanley, who gave him money to support his cause, despite the fact that Lord

Stanley was a member of the House of York.

Richard ordered his troops to meet Henry's and the two armies met in Leicestershire on 22nd August. Originally, it was believed that the battle was staged on top of a hill near the town of Market Bosworth; however, recently discovered archaeological evidence has shown the location to be more likely near the hamlet of Dadlington.

Richard's army was made of around 10,000 men as well as some cannons, whereas Henry's army numbered around 8,000.

The battle was long and bloody and both armies sustained many casualties. Richard spotted Henry separated from his troops and decided to order a charge to try and defeat the enemy commander to seal victory. This tactic massively backfired however – Richard was unseated from his horse and was then killed on the battlefield. He is the last English monarch to have been killed in battle.



After the death of King Richard, his troops surrendered and Henry, along with the House of Lancaster, were victorious. Lord Stanley picked up Richard's crown from the battlefield and placed it onto Henry Tudor's head. Henry was then crowned King Henry VII, the first monarch of the House of Tudor.

In order to keep the peace between Yorkists and Lancastrians, Henry fulfilled his promise to marry Elizabeth of York and then created a new emblem – the Tudor rose – which was made up of the red and white roses of both families.

Aftermath

The Battle of Bosworth Field led to the coronation of Henry Tudor as King Henry VII, the first of the Tudor monarchs. His family would go on to include some of the most famous monarchs in British history, including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.

Archaeologists have spent a lot of time trying to excavate evidence of the battle. They have uncovered a range of lead shots used in the battle, from large shots used in cannon fire, to small bullets used for handguns. This gives us clues to the kinds of weaponry used by the soldiers in the battle. The remains of Richard III were finally discovered in 2015, where they were placed into a tomb in Leicester Cathedral.

The Battle of Bosworth Field

1. Which noble houses fought the Wars of the Roses? Tick **two**.

- The House of Leicestershire
- The House of York
- The House of England
- The House of Lancaster

2. Where did Henry Tudor flee to in exile?

3. Look at the paragraph called **The Battle**. Why was it surprising that Henry's stepfather supported his rebellion?

4. What date did the two armies meet in battle?

5. '...rumours spread that he had ordered the assassination of his nephews in order to gain power and become king.'

Which of these is closest to the meaning of **assassination**? Tick one.

- removal
- execution
- celebration
- exile

6. Do you think Henry Tudor's mother played an important role in her son's victory? Explain your answer.

7. Why do you think Richard's enemies spread rumours that he assassinated his nephews?

8. Why do you think Henry created the Tudor rose?

9. At the start of the text, it says that the Battle of Bosworth field shaped the future of the monarchy. In your own words, explain how this is true.

10. Who do you think was the most effective commander – Richard or Henry? Give reasons for your answer.

Answers

1. Which noble houses fought the Wars of the Roses? Tick **two**.

- The House of Leicestershire
- The House of York**
- The House of England
- The House of Lancaster**

2. Where did Henry Tudor flee to in exile?

France

3. Look at the paragraph called **The Battle**. Why was it surprising Henry's stepfather supported his rebellion?

It was surprising that Henry's stepfather supported his rebellion because Lord Stanley was a member of the House of York - Henry's enemies.

4. What date did the two armies meet in battle?

22nd August 1485

5. '...rumours spread that he had ordered the assassination of his nephews in order to gain power and become king.'

Which of these is closest to the meaning of **assassination**? Tick one.

- removal
- execution**
- celebration
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6. Do you think Henry Tudor's mother played an important role in her son's victory? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think Henry's mother played an important role in his victory because she rallied supporters while he was exiled in France. Without their support, he might not have had enough troops to win the battle. Also, she arranged his marriage to Elizabeth of York which helped to keep the peace after his victory.

7. Why do you think Richard's enemies spread rumours that he assassinated his nephews?

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