

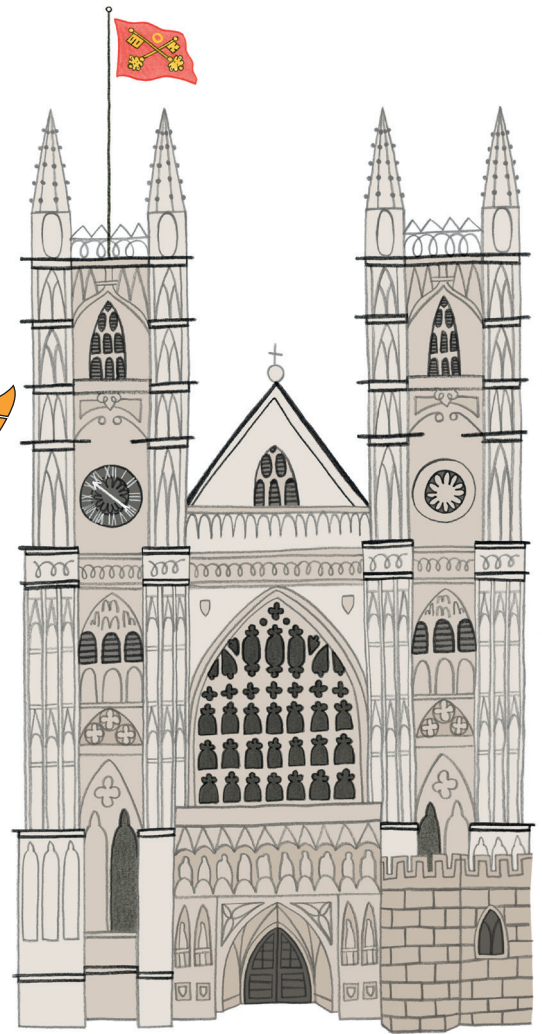


# Westminster Abbey

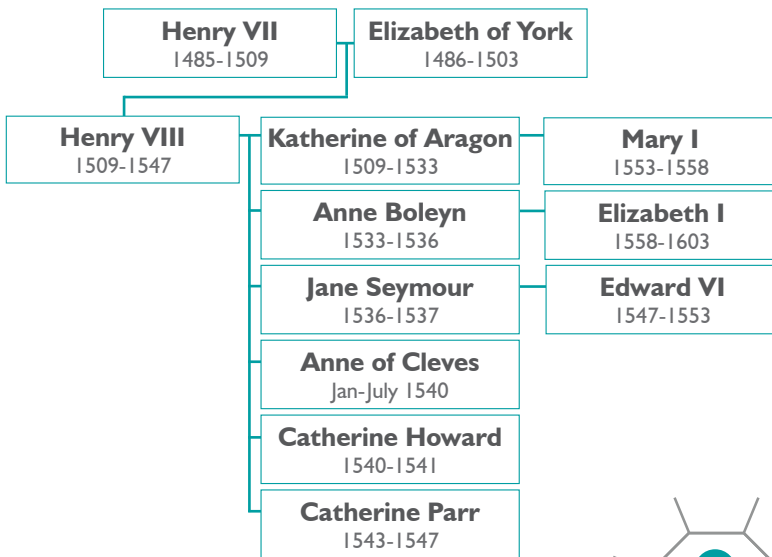
## Tudor Trail

Westminster Abbey has stood as the church at the heart of the nation since 960 A.D.

The Tudors celebrated all of their coronations at Westminster Abbey. Henry VII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I are all buried here, along with many of their relatives, nobles and servants.



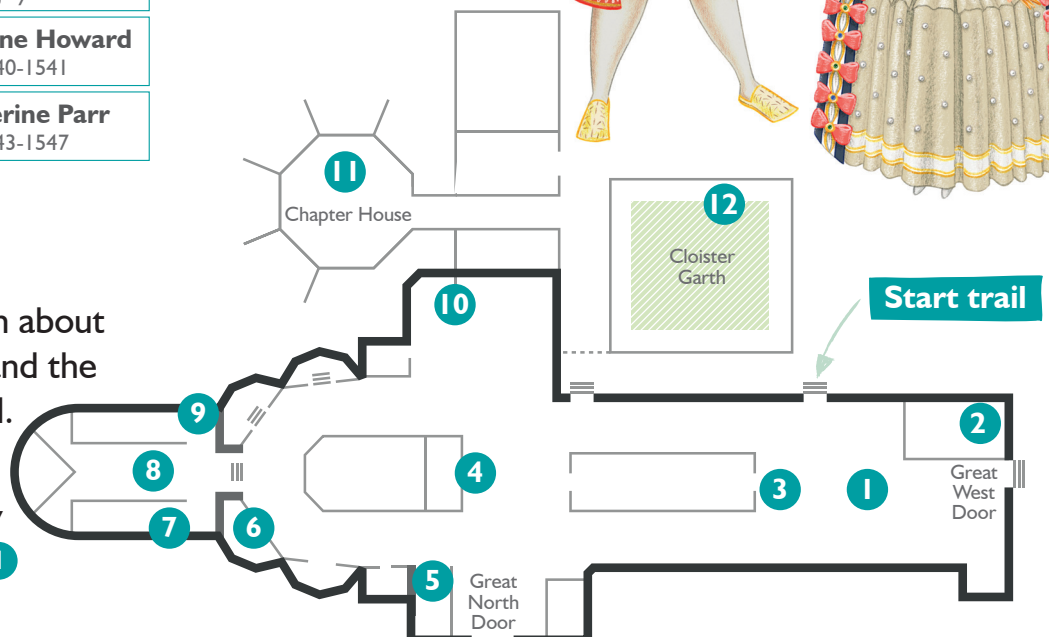
## Tudor Family Tree



## Site Map

Follow the trail and learn about the remarkable Tudors and the times in which they lived.

Use the map to guide you around the one-way route. Start at number 1 at the Great West Door.





### 1 The Great West Door

Stand with your back to the Great West Door. In front of you is the nave, completed during the reign of Henry VIII.

You are standing where all the kings and queens, including the Tudors, have stood when they came to the Abbey to be crowned.



**Discuss with your group:**  
What differences might there have been in the Abbey in Tudor times? Think about sounds, sights and smells.

### 2 The Coronation Chair

On the right, behind glass, is the Coronation Chair, used in coronations since 1308. In 1485, Henry VII was crowned as the first Tudor monarch. Over the following 118 years, the Tudors ruled England and the chair

was used for the coronations of three kings, one queen and three queen consorts. Mary I chose to sit in a new chair to mark her reign as a break from the past.

**Which of the following Tudors were NOT crowned during this time?**

**Henry VII**

**Elizabeth of York**  
Henry VII's wife and  
Henry VIII's mother

**Katherine of Aragon**  
Henry VIII's first wife  
and Mary I's mother

**Mary I**

**Lady Jane Grey**  
Edward VI's heir

**Anne Boleyn**  
Henry VIII's second wife  
and Elizabeth I's mother

**Jane Seymour**  
Henry VIII's third wife  
and Edward VI's mother

**Philip II of Spain**  
Mary I's husband

**Elizabeth I**

**Henry VIII**

**Edward VI**



### 3 The nave

At the beginning of the Tudor period, the Abbey was used by monks; they worshipped God and prayed in the church throughout the day and night.

In 1539, Henry VIII closed down this monastery and hundreds of others around the country and sent the monks away. This became known as the Dissolution of the Monasteries and many were completely destroyed.

**Why do you think Westminster Abbey was left intact?**

Write your ideas here. Revisit this question at the end of your visit.

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**Go through the doorway in the brightly coloured screen ahead.**

Today, the choir sits here. When monks worshipped here, this is where they sang and prayed.

**4 The High Altar**

All coronations take place at the top of these steps. All Tudor monarchs, as well as two of Henry VIII's wives, Katherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn, were crowned here.

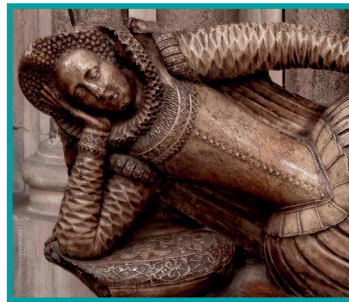
To the right is the tomb of Anne of Cleves, another of Henry VIII's wives, who died in 1557, outliving all the others and the only one to be buried in the Abbey.

**Discuss as a group:** Why do you think she was the only one of Henry's wives to be buried in the Abbey?

**5 Chapel of St. Michael**

Some monuments here date from Tudor times.

**Find the monument to Catherine, Lady St John of Bletso.**



**What do you think these clothes and the poses of the effigies (figures) were trying to show? Give reasons for your answer.**

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**6 Chapel of St. Paul**

**Find the tomb of Sir John Puckering.**

Sir John was a very important man in Elizabethan England. He was Lord Keeper of the Great Seal and Speaker of the House of Commons.



**Discuss as a group:** How many children did he have? How many of them died as children? How can you tell? Why do you think so many of them died young?



**7 The Lady Chapel**

**Go up the stairs and through the small doorway on the left.**

Two women are buried here, although there is only one statue. They were sisters and both were queens in their own right.



What were their names? You can only see the statue of one of them. Who is it? Look carefully at the effigy and describe what she is holding and wearing.

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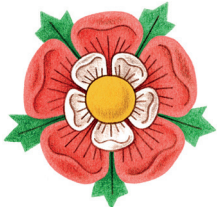
**8 Leave this area and turn left into the main part of the Lady Chapel.**

This chapel was built by Henry VII as a place for his family to be buried. Look at the decorations, particularly the golden symbols on the ceiling.

**Draw three different symbols:**

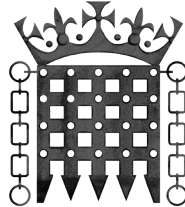


**Meaning of the symbols:**



**Tudor Rose**

When Henry Tudor married Elizabeth of York the rose symbolised the union between the House of York and the House of Lancaster.



**Portcullis**

This is a symbol of the Earls of Richmond, who were Henry VII's family.



**Fleur-de-lys**

The symbol of the kings of France. Henry VII's great-grandfather was the king of France, and he claimed that throne as well!

**Can you see the tomb surrounded by railings?**

This is the tomb of Henry VII, the first Tudor king, and his wife Elizabeth of York.

**Draw the symbol of the greyhound you can see here.**

This Tudor symbol is linked to the family of Henry's mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort. Henry kept greyhounds as pets and even bought one, Lancelot, a jewelled collar!



**Look at the floor, can you see another Tudor king buried here? What is the name of the school he founded?**



**9 Leave this area of the Lady Chapel and go through the small door on the left at the top of the stairs.** In here, you will find three tombs. The tomb in the middle is Mary, Queen of Scots, Elizabeth I's cousin.

The third tomb at the end of this area is that of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII.

**Discuss as a group:** What sort of person do you think she was? Which tomb do you prefer?

### 10 Poets' Corner

This part of the Abbey is known as Poets' Corner. Many famous writers, poets, actors and musicians are buried and remembered here.

**Find the large memorial to William Shakespeare.** He wrote plays and poetry during the reign of Elizabeth I. Can you name any of his plays? Which Tudor monarch is shown on this memorial?



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### 11 The Chapter House

This is where the monks used to gather daily to discuss tasks, address disagreements and to listen to a reading from their Rule of St Benedict.

In January 1540, this is where they met to hand over the keys to Henry VIII's representatives as the monastery was closed down.

**Look at the stained-glass windows, which Tudors can you see?**

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**12 The cloisters**

**Follow the square round until you come to the memorial dedicated to three sailors.**

One of these, Sir Francis Drake, is famous for being the first Englishman to sail around the world and for leading the battle against the Spanish Armada in 1588. **Follow his route marked in red on the map.**

Francis Drake also worked for the English Crown, seizing Spanish ships full of treasure looted from the indigenous people of South America.

Drake was also part of the trade in enslaved people, taking them from Africa to work in the Caribbean. Drake was buried at sea when he died on board ship.

After your visit, research Sir Francis Drake then consider if you think he deserves an individual memorial at Westminster Abbey.

**Go back and answer why the monastery was not destroyed on page 2. Can you think of any reasons why it was left intact?**



**We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Westminster Abbey today!**

What was the most interesting thing you have learnt today? Did you find anything surprising? What questions do you still have? What would you like to learn more about?

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