

Teacher Notes

Tudor Sports

Synopsis

Join two Tudor commentators, and their trusty correspondent, as they provide humorous sports-style analysis on a range of Tudor sports: jousting, an early form of football and the 'sport of kings' – real tennis.

Resources

Using Tudor Images

Art History: Use paintings from the Tudor period to make inferences about what society was like, through sport.

Tudor Board Games

Maths: Play these simple dice games, popular in Tudor times, and Merrills, a board game still played today.

Life of Black Tudors

History: Read the biographies of some Black Tudors to determine what life was like for Black Tudors.

Whole-topic Plenary Quiz

Plenary Quiz: A final, fun round-up of all of the things that have been learnt along the way.

Key questions to consider:

How does Tudor football/real tennis compare to the modern versions?

Why is some form of these sports still popular today?

Why do you think sports were generally seen as pastimes for the rich? What did the poor do?

How does the life of Black Tudors compare to the life of Black people today?

History curriculum objectives:

- Hypothesise what life would have been like for different people in the past.
- NI: Explore characteristics of past societies and distinctive features of life in the past.
- SOC 2-16c: I can discuss issues of the diversity of cultures, values and customs in our society.
- SOC 2-04a: I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.
- Welsh Progression step 5: I can critically evaluate the consequences and significance of events and changes in a range of societies in the past and present.

Cross-curricula objectives:

- Maths: (5C1) Add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers.
- PSHE: The importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds).

References to images:

1. Artist unknown: <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Tudor-Sport/>
2. College of Arms MS Westminster Tournament Roll, 1511, membranes 34-5
3. College of Arms MS Westminster Tournament Roll, 1511, membranes 25-6 Reproduced by permission of the Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of Arms

Tudor Sports Animation – Comprehension

What was the name of the castle where Henry VIII won some of his jousting tournaments?

What isn't allowed in jousting?

Was jousting a sport for the rich or poor? What makes you think this?

How many people are in a Tudor football team?

List four things mentioned about 'real tennis'.

How is real tennis different to modern-day tennis?

What does the venue Hampton Court Palace suggest about real tennis?

What other popular form of 'violent' entertainment was mentioned?

Which of these sports would you most like to try? Why?



Tudor Sports Animation – Comprehension

What was the name of the castle where Henry VIII won some of his jousting tournaments?

Sudeley Castle

What isn't allowed in jousting?

Hitting the other person's horse.

Was jousting a sport for the rich or poor? What makes you think this?

A sport for the rich – various answers, for example: it would be an expensive sport to take part in because you would need a horse, suit of armour, some lances and a place to have tournaments. They were usually attended by rich folk.

How many people are in a Tudor football team?

Anyone from the village who wanted to play.

List four things mentioned about 'real tennis'

A leather ball is used, the ball can hit the wall, the ceiling is sloped.

How is real tennis different to modern-day tennis?

Real tennis is different because the aim is to hit the ball as far past the net as possible, whereas in modern tennis, the players still need to hit the ball in the lines.

What does the venue Hampton Court Palace suggest about real tennis?

That it was a sport usually played by the rich as it is at a palace.

What other popular form of 'violent' entertainment was mentioned?

Bear-baiting

Which of these sports would you most like to try? Why?

Various answers, with justified opinion



Using Tudor Images



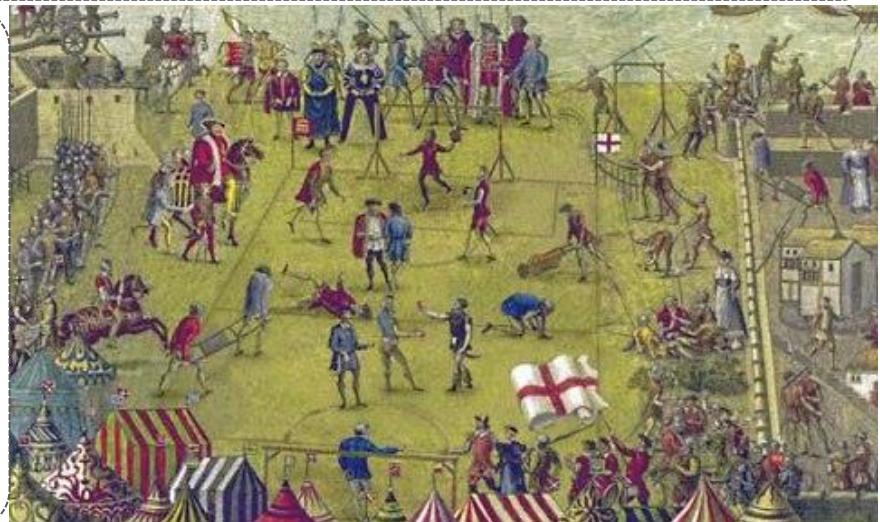
"This painting below is understood to be the earliest painting of a sporting event. The parchment was found inside a frame with an image of the Mary Rose and had the following writing on it."

"By Comande of His Royal Majestye ye Kinge Henry VIII fidei def. (defender of the faith) A Matche At Futbal to be Playd between ye Nationes opposed at Portsmuthe, [ye Matelots and ye Men-at-Armes of Real England vs. France, ye Attacking Forces] at Southsea Castle Fielde on ye First Day of Aprille, MDXLV."

What do you think the parchment says?

Using the information from the animation and the painting of real football, compare the differences and similarities of Tudor football and modern day football.

- How are the rules different?
- How different does it look?
- Anything else you notice?



Using Tudor Images



"The 1511 Westminster Tournament Roll is a 60-foot long painted roll that shows a jousting tournament, held by Henry VIII, to honour his new son and Catherine of Aragon. It was created by, we think, Thomas Wriothesley and his studio, and is made up of 36 sections.

The two images are photographs of the original Roll, courtesy of the College of Arms. Look at the images and note down anything that you can learn about Tudor sports and Tudor society from them.”



What thoughts do you have about the images? Note any general thoughts and create at least three questions you have about what you can see.

Using Tudor Images



3

What can we learn from the images?

Why do you think the Westminster Roll is important for historians? Do you think we can fully trust the images? Why or why not?

The Life of Black Tudors



"Read the information and biographies about some prominent black Tudors – John Blanke and Jacques Francis – as well as other black members of Tudor society and answer the questions on the following pages."

Black people in Tudor England

During the Tudor period, there were some 300 – 400 recorded instances of black people in England. Unlike in other European countries, where many black people were enslaved, in England, there were no laws allowing slavery or making slavery illegal and black people lived as free people. Black people held all manner of jobs within Tudor society, from brewers to silk weavers, and were valued for the skills they brought. One of the most prominent Tudors was John Blanke, whose portrait on the Westminster Tournament Roll represents the first known portrait of a black man in Britain.

John Blanke



It is likely that John Blanke arrived in England in 1501, as part of Catherine of Aragon's travelling group from Spain. According to the Treasurer of the Chamber, John was paid 8d (pence) a day as a trumpeter in the court of Henry VII. It is clear that he was highly respected, as he trumpeted at major events such as Henry VII's funeral, Henry VIII's subsequent coronation and the Westminster Tournament. Other factors that highlight John Blanke's position in Tudor society include him successfully requesting a pay-rise to 16 pence a day, as well as him receiving a gown, bonnet and hat from Henry VIII when he married an English woman in 1512. Given that he is pictured trumpeting on a horse, it is likely that Blanke was also a strong horse rider. Not much is known about what happened to Blanke. By 1514, his name was no listed on the list of royal court trumpeters.

The Life of Black Tudors

No known image

Jacques Francis

Jacques Francis was born some time around 1527, in either (according to records) Guinea or Mauritania. He was considered an extremely talented, 'expert' diver, but is also known for being the first African man to give evidence in an English court. Francis worked as a salvage diver, and led the expedition in 1546 to salvage the guns from the sunken *Mary Rose* for Henry VIII, as well as valuable items from the *Sancta Maria* and *Sanctus*

Edwardus. In 1548, he gave evidence in court as a witness in the case of Piero Corsi who was accused of thieving from the ships. There was controversy in the court as Francis's race and accusations of him being a slave were held against him as a reason he not be allowed to give evidence. However, he received wages for his work and ultimately gave evidence in court, suggesting he was not a slave.

Cattelena of Almondsbury



(Artist's recreation)

What we know from Cattelena is mostly formed from an inventory of her possessions after her death in 1625. She was an 'independent singlewoman' who lived in a shared house in the village of Almondsbury, near Bristol. Approximately 30% of Tudor women were unmarried, and were often not well-off as a result. Cattelena owned items such as a bed, a pillow, candlestick, twelve spoons and

her prized cow. It was her cow that made her a living – selling butter and milk.

Whilst she may not have owned much, the fact that she is recorded as having possessions is important as this helps to confirm her status as a free woman.

The Life of Black Tudors

Why do you think the biographies use the phrases 'it is likely...', 'some time around' or 'not much is known'?

How would you summarise John Blanke's position in Tudor England?

Why is there less known about Cattelena of Almondsbury than John Blanke or Jacques Francis?

How did life for black Tudors compare with life for black people in other points in history that you know about?

How did the lives of Jacques Francis and John Blanke differ from that of Cattelena?

Tudor Board Games



"We Tudors loved to gamble on dice games, even though just playing the games was made illegal in 1542, except around Christmas time. Now, I'm not suggesting you gamble, just keep track of the winner but there are a couple of games here for you to play to get into the spirit of the Tudor working class!"

Cents

Cents was a popular Tudor dice game. Most Tudors could afford dice, or made them out of little wooden blocks.

What you need:

A minimum of two players; two dice.

Aim of the game:

The aim of the game is to reach 100 first. First, each player rolls a die to determine who goes first. The player who rolls the highest number goes first.

Players then take it in turns to roll the two dice, adding the scores on the two dice together. For example, a roll of a 3 and a 6 equals 9. The players keep taking it in turns to roll the dice, and add their scores from each round to their previous score. The winner is the first to get to 100.

Main

Main is a popular card game even today, but was originally played with dice.

What you need:

A minimum of two players; two or three dice.

Aim of the game:

The aim of the game is to get as close to 31 as possible. A player can choose to use 1, 2 or 3 dice each roll. Players take it in turns, selecting how many dice they want to use for each roll. A player is out if they roll past 31. The player closest to 31 wins.

A twist on the game is to play it in complete silence. This was known as 'mumchance'. Any noise, including celebration, leads to the other player winning.

Merills

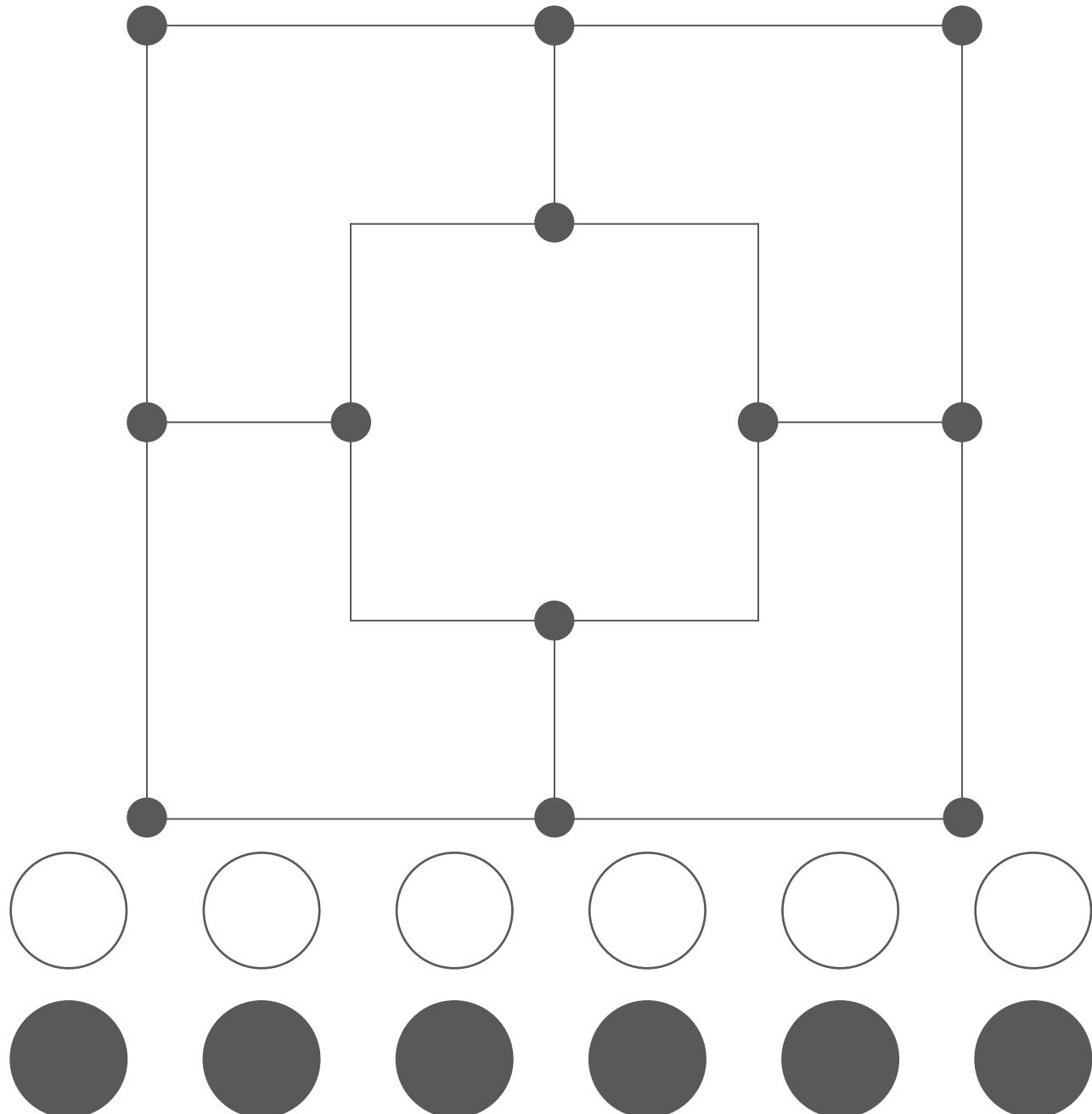
Merills was a Tudor pastime for anyone who couldn't afford the luxury of sports.

What you need:

Two players; six counters each.

Aim of the game:

Take turns to place your counters on the spots on the board with the aim of trying to make three in a row. If you make a row of three, remove one of your opponent's counters. Once all six of your counters have been placed, take it in turns to slide your counters along a line to a neighbouring spot until you make a row of three. If you make a row of three, remove one of your opponent's counters. The game ends when a player has only 2 counters left.



Tudor Fact Run – Plenary

1. Water was so filled with disease that Tudors mostly drank what instead?

- A. cough syrup
- B. light beer and wine
- C. water – it was all they could afford!
- D. rola cola

3. Which of the following were common Tudor punishments for crime?

- A. hung, drawn and quartered
- B. beheading
- C. locked in the stocks
- D. all of the above!

5. What was the name of the fleet of ships that attacked England?

- A. the French Squadron
- B. the Spanish Armada
- C. the Moroccan Navy
- D. the Scottish Fleet

7. What sort of items did a Tudor merchant trade?

- A. bricks
- B. ink
- C. salt and spices
- D. sand

9. Which of these sports was Henry VIII particularly talented at?

- A. football
- B. merrills
- C. jousting
- D. tiddlywinks

11. Which family ruled before the Tudors?

- A. The Plantagenets
- B. The Foresters
- C. The Bushells
- D. The Treemaines

13. What was Sir Francis Drake famous for?

- A. Flying around the globe in a hot-air balloon
- B. Running really, really fast
- C. Climbing the world's highest mountain
- D. Travelling around the world on a ship

2. The Tudor family ruled during which dates?

- A. 1400 – 1455
- B. 1623 – 1776
- C. 1485 – 1603
- D. 1500 – 1711

4. Which of the following was not one of Henry VIII's wives?

- A. Anne Boleyn
- B. Catherine Howard
- C. Anne of Cleves
- D. Jane Seeless

6. Where was King Richard III's body found?

- A. a supermarket in Brighton
- B. a car park in Leicester
- C. a post office in Birkenhead
- D. a skate park in Grimsby

8. How did many Tudor doctors first diagnose illnesses?

- A. sniffing and tasting the patient's urine
- B. looking at blood with a magnifying glass
- C. wiping the patient's snot on a bandage
- D. staring at the patient's wound

10. At which battle did the Tudor family rise to power?

- A. The Battle of Plymouth Harbour
- B. The Battle of Carlisle Bridge
- C. The Battle of Bosworth Field
- D. The Battle of Cardiff Castle

12. What was the Mary Rose?

- A. One of Henry VIII's wives
- B. A church in London
- C. A ship
- D. Shakespeare's theatre

14. What was a Tudor football made out of?

- A. A pig's bladder
- B. A horse's mane
- C. A human's hair
- D. A cow's stomach

Tudor Fact Run – Plenary

15. How long did the majority of Tudors live for?

- A. 12 years
- B. 85 years
- C. 60 years
- D. 35 – 40 years

17. Which of these is *not* a Tudor cure?

- A. Drinking lice in ale
- B. Holding rope to your head
- C. Draining blood with leeches
- D. Sitting in a hen coop

19. Who did Elizabeth I behead to keep power?

- A. Mary, Queen of Scots
- B. Sir Francis Drake
- C. William Shakespeare
- D. Henry VIII

21. What was the punishment for high treason (speaking ill of the monarchy)?

- A. The whipping post
- B. No punishment – it's no big deal!
- C. The rack
- D. Hung, drawn and quartered

23. What was a benefit of being Groom of the King's Close Stool?

- A. Receiving the King's clothes
- B. Being close to the King on the toilet
- C. Living in small quarters
- D. Receiving a small wage

25. What was the main purpose of a Sunday?

- A. To stay at home and relax
- B. To go to church
- C. To play sports
- D. To go to work

27. How many wives did King Henry VIII have?

- A. Six
- B. None
- C. Four
- D. Eight

16. Which church did Henry VIII create?

- A. The Catholic Church
- B. The Church of England
- C. The Protestant Church
- D. The Church of Henry

18. Where is the Mary Rose now?

- A. In a museum
- B. Rebuilt and sailing
- C. At the bottom of the sea
- D. It no longer exists

20. What is pottage?

- A. A misspelled cottage
- B. A kind of thick soup or stew
- C. A small pot
- D. A bowl of porridge

22. What did Tudors believe caused illness?

- A. The movement of stars and planets
- B. Doing bad things
- C. Bad smells
- D. All of the above

24. Which region was considered the 'New World' by the Tudors?

- A. Spain and Portugal
- B. Asia
- C. The Americas
- D. Africa

26. How long did Elizabeth I reign?

- A. 5 years
- B. 20 years
- C. 80 years
- D. 45 years

28. Which ruling family followed the Tudors?

- A. The Chesters
- B. The Stuarts
- C. The Moors
- D. The Percivals

Tudor Fact Run – Answer card



"Let's see what the kids have learnt! Cut up the question cards and place them on tables, one per child. Provide each child with an answer card. Select a given amount of time (10 seconds, for example) for children to answer the multiple-choice question on the answer card in the correct question number, and then move round the table on to the next question."

Answers		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
		B	C	D	D	B	B	C	A
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
C	C	A	C	D	A	D	B	D	A
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
A	B	D	D	A	C	B	D	A	B
Answer card: Write A, B, C or D		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
Answer card: Write A, B, C or D		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
Answer card: Write A, B, C or D		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
Answer card: Write A, B, C or D		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.