



TUDOR HISTORY WITH PROFESSOR ANTHONY MUSSON AND DR JOHN COOPER

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE

1. Where did Henry VIII spend most of the year when not on a royal progress?
2. What were the guests?
3. What activities occurred during the progresses?

COMPREHENSION

4. Why did Henry VIII go on royal progresses? What benefits did they bring to him personally, and to the nation?
5. Why do we know so little about the lives of Tudor farm labourers?

APPLICATION

6. How might a historian use the inventory of a noble household to learn more about the royal progresses?
7. Imagine that a forgotten private letter between two of Henry's courtiers has been discovered in a Tudor house, written during a royal progress. What information do you think a historian would look for in the letter?

EVALUATION

8. Given their enormous costs and logistical challenges, do you think that the royal progresses were useful? Why, or why not?
9. If you were an ordinary working person in a town, how do you think you would have felt if Henry VIII visited while on a progress?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

Choose a country house that Henry VIII may have visited during a royal progress. Look at the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org.uk) or Historic Houses (www.historichouses.org) to find Tudor properties in the UK and to learn about the noble families who lived there. Imagine you are responsible for organising Henry's visit to the house and write a guest for the household, containing orders for the nobles and servants who live there. What preparations must be made before the king's arrival? How many people will accompany him? What activities should the nobles organise to keep Henry entertained?

MORE RESOURCES

Learn more about Hampton Court Palace, Henry's main London residence where Anthony works:
www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace

Read Anthony's blog post about the royal progresses:
blog.hrp.org.uk/curators/henry-viii-on-tour-royal-progresses-and-tudor-palaces