

# Woking Palace

## Henry VIII's Royal Palace



The Palace from the north-west by kind permission of Woking Borough Council

## Education Pack



## **Table of Contents**

Tudors in Woking Time Line.....	2
A Brief History .....	3
Woking Palace Today .....	4
Proposed On-Site Activities.....	6
Discovery trail .....	6
Role play .....	6
Tudor Games .....	6
Mapping.....	6
Suggested Pre/Post Visit Activities .....	7
Mumchance.....	7
Design an emblem .....	7
Tudor Games Project .....	8
Tudor Dance .....	8
Tudor Tableware Loan Box .....	9
Arranging a Visit .....	10
References.....	10
Ideas for Curriculum development .....	11
Palace Complex Map.....	12
Woking Palace Discovery Trail .....	13

## **Tudors in Woking Time Line**

**1485**

Henry VII crowned King. Grants his mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort, the Manor of Woking

**1490**

Treaty of Woking signed by King Henry VII and Maximilian of Austria

**1503**

Henry VII reclaims the Manor from his mother.

**1508**

Building of the King's Hall

**1509**

Death of Lady Beaufort and Henry VII. Henry VIII succeeds as King

**1515**

Henry VIII visits Woking. Work begins on the Palace

**1532**

Palace extended

**1547**

Henry VIII dies, Edward VI becomes King

**1550**

Edward VI visits Woking

**1553**

Edward VI dies, Mary becomes Queen

**1558**

Death of Mary, Elizabeth I becomes Queen

**1569**

Elizabeth visits Woking

**1576**

Alteration and reconstruction works commence

**1580**

Major reconstruction works completed

**1603**

Elizabeth I dies

**1620**

James I grants Palace to Sir Edward Zouch.

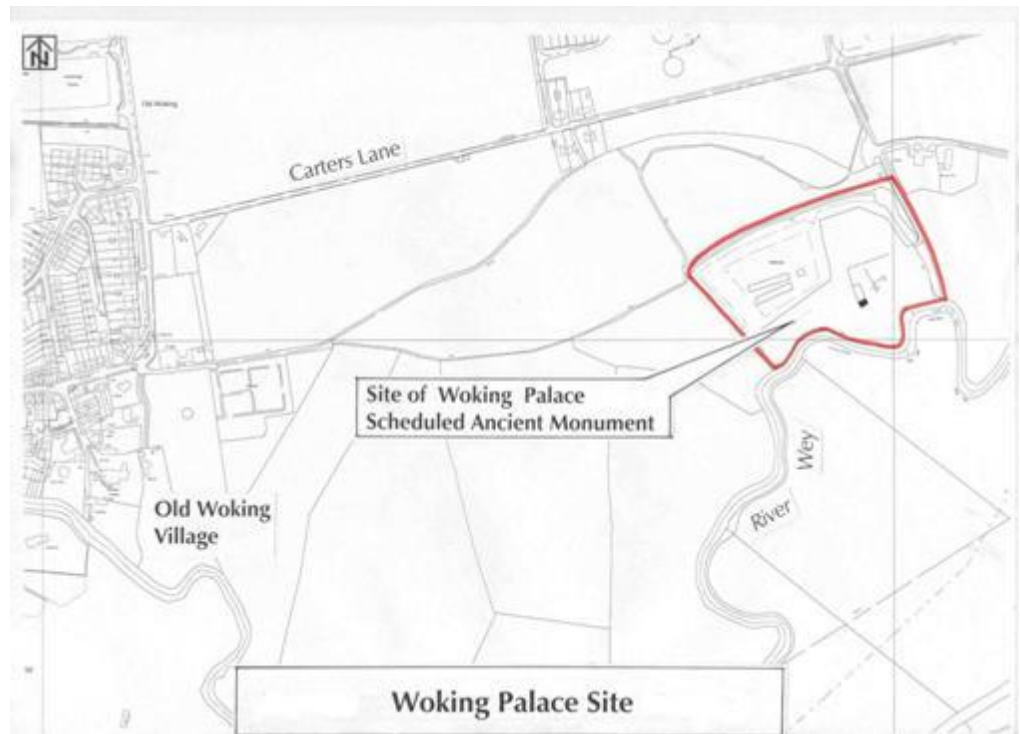
**1620s**

Palace abandoned

## **A Brief History**

It is not widely known, but Woking has strong links with the Tudor monarchs and a colourful Tudor history. The remains of Woking Palace can be found near Old Woking, off Old Woking Road and Carters Lane, on the banks of the River Wey.

The Palace was located in what used to be the royal forest of Windsor and was easily accessible from London. From medieval times the Royal Manor of Edward the Confessor was held by the kings of England, and in 1466 was granted to Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII.



The royal manor house of Woking was frequently visited by Henry VII, and the Treaty of Woking was signed there on 11 September 1490. The Treaty, between Henry VII and Maximilian of Austria, made a pact against their common enemy, the French, to prevent them from dominating Europe.

In 1503, Lady Margaret Beaufort gave up her manor house when Henry VII decided to extend it and transform it into a royal palace. After Henry died in 1509, his son Henry VIII continued the royal association with Woking Palace.

Henry VIII was a frequent visitor to Woking Palace and it became a regular holiday home, meeting place and venue for great events. In 1515, new work began on the Palace with the main extension work carried out between 1532 and 1542. Records show that the Palace included a Great Hall, Privy Court, King's Hall, Queen's Gallery and Apartments, the King's Apartments, numerous lodgings, stables, bowling greens, orchards, fishponds and extensive parklands. The Palace must have been of some considerable size and lavishness and it is known that Henry VIII spent time at Woking Palace with both Katherine Howard and Catherine Parr, enjoying the country air and the good hunting in the parks.

After Henry VIII's death in 1547 the Palace was seldom used. Edward VI only visited once during his reign and Mary never visited the Palace. When Elizabeth became Queen in 1558, the Palace returned briefly to royal favour, with alterations and additions between 1576



and 1580. By the end of the sixteenth century, however, the Palace began to deteriorate and was regarded as old fashioned; the heyday of King Henry had passed and the Palace fell out of royal favour.

In 1620, James I granted Woking Palace to Sir Edward Zouch, on condition that every year on the feast of St.James, he carried the first dish to the King's table, and at the same time



Artist's impression of Woking Palace © Kelvin Wilson

paid £100 in gold coin of the realm. Sir Edward abandoned the Palace and built himself a new manor house at Hoe Place. It is possible that some materials were also taken from the Palace to be used in the construction of Sutton Place.

## **Woking Palace Today**

Woking Palace is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Entrance to the site is across the moat and over an earth causeway, which would originally have been a drawbridge. Much of the moat has been filled in, but a shallow depression shows its course. Upon entering, you will see in the distance the stone built Barrel Vault, probably dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and next to it, the remains of the brick King's Hall, built in 1508.

The Barrel Vault may have been a store and would probably have been two storey, as was most of the Palace. The roof of the Barrel Vault has brick vaulting interspersed with chalk ribs and there is Tudor graffiti on the left hand side of the doorway. A bolthole would have provided access to the King's Hall next door. The King's Hall was originally Henry VII's area

of the Palace, but since the abandonment of the Palace in the 1620s, the Park was turned over to agricultural use and the King's Hall was used as a barn until within living memory.

Other fragments of wall foundations can be seen, which indicate where buildings such as The Great Hall, the gatehouse and the Queen's Gallery would have been.

The fenced Copse was originally the site of the Palace orchards, with two fish ponds and a bowling green, 'for the kyng and quene to walk in'. The ponds, also called stew ponds, may have been used to keep fish caught in the river, but may also have been designed to keep different species of fish separate, so that one did not eat the other.

More recently the site has been used as a hazel copse and after much restoration, including pulling two cars out of the ponds, there are plans to renew a regime of coppicing. The copse is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the area being a blaze of colour in the Spring, with one of the best displays of wild daffodils and bluebells to be found in Surrey.

In the 1990s, archaeological diving operations in the River Wey brought up a number of interesting artefacts. These included pottery dating from all periods and a number of rare fragments of blue and white Valencian tiles.



Guildford Museum collection

Other items found in the river were building materials, clay pipes, window and vessel glass, metal and household objects such as knives, buckles and goblets.



Recovered artefacts are part of The Lightbox's collection and some are on display in the Woking's Story gallery. Some artefacts may also be found in Guildford Museum.

## **Proposed On-Site Activities**

### ***Discovery trail***

Although there is little physically remaining, a visit to the site will allow pupils to see the full scale and extent of a Tudor Royal Palace.

Enter the site by crossing the moat and see where the drawbridge and gatehouse used to be. Follow the Discovery Trail, which will lead you around the site, pointing out where the various buildings, gardens, moat and ponds would have been. The trail includes clues to find hidden items and mystery facts.

The Discovery Trail can be found at the end of this pack. Please print off as many copies as you will need prior to your visit.

### ***Role play***

Once pupils have explored the Palace, they could be divided into small groups to devise short scenes, which can then be performed to the rest of the class. Coming in costume always helps to add authenticity. Using imagination and virtual, rather than actual props, they can explore the ideas of rich and poor/ servants and masters, in the context of a royal palace.

For example, preparing and serving food for a royal banquet. How about bringing Tudor style packed lunches?

### ***Tudor Games***

Games were a very popular pastime in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, in the midst of the mayhem abounding in religious and political circles, and Henry VIII was a keen sportsman.

Backgammon, skittles, bowls, hopscotch, football and card games were all the rage, though only the nobility were allowed to play. In 1512 a law was passed banning the ordinary person from playing a range of games, such as real tennis, dice, cards, bowls and skittles.

Pupils can take part in some Tudor games on site, bringing their own cards, dice or bowls, or use the skittles provided. Unfortunately, football is not permitted on the site.

### ***Mapping***

A map of the Palace complex is attached at the end of this pack. Using the map, students can explore the site and try to discover each part of the Palace, colouring it in on the map as it is found. Perhaps students could be divided into teams, with a prize for the first team to successfully fill in their maps. Some elements of the Palace are not obvious and will require observational and deductive skills and quite a lot of guesswork!

## Suggested Pre/Post Visit Activities

### ***Coats of Arms***

Woking's coat of arms is made up of extracts from the arms of past holders of the Manor of Woking. The cross belongs to Edward the Confessor and the red and gold colours are from



the arms of the Bassett family, to whom the Manor was granted by King John. On the death of Aliva Bassett in 1281, the Manor passed to her son Hugh le Despenser, and it is from the Despenser family arms that the frets in the second and third quarters are taken. The fleur-de-lis in the first and fourth quarters are from the arms of the Beaufort Dukes of Somerset, who came into possession of the Manor in 1416. The motto is "Fide et Diligentia" — "By Faith and Diligence".

Have your students design their own coat of arms using colours and symbols that are meaningful to them.

### ***Tudor Banquet***

Henry VIII held many feasts at Woking Palace. Have your students come up with their own menu of what would have been served at a Tudor banquet. The Tudors ate much of the same food that we eat today such as bread and vegetables, but a lot of the food would have been the game that was caught that day. After the meal there would be sweets and confectioneries.

### ***Mumchance***

Card games were often played at the Tudor courts, with Mumchance being a favourite card game of Elizabeth I. Have you noticed that the royals on modern playing cards are still depicted in Tudor dress?

1. Shuffle the cards and place the pack face down on the table.
2. Each player has to name a card (e.g. 8 of diamonds)
3. The cards from the pack are turned over by each player one at a time.
4. The player whose chosen card is turned over first has won and gets the point.
5. The first one to get to ten points is the winner!

### ***Design an emblem***



The Tudors used roses as their emblems. Ask your students to find out why they were used. If archaeologists were to look at artefacts from today in 500 years time, what symbol or emblem would best represent us?

Ask students to draw or paint a design that they think will best stand the test of time.



## ***Tudor Games Project***

This project is good for honing investigative skills and practising instructional writing, at the same time as having fun playing the games.

- Divide the children into teams, with each team assigned a game. For instance, backgammon, skittles, cards, football or hopscotch.
- Ask the children to find out as much as they can about the Tudor version of their game from a variety of resources and then write a set of rules for someone who has never heard of their game before. For example, football was not the game we know today; the goals were about a mile apart and players could pick up and throw the ball as well as kick it. It was also a violent game and in 1540 Henry VIII banned football as too many young, fit men were being injured and therefore were unable to join the army.
- Have a games session, where the children play each other's games, following each other's rules. Perhaps a few Tudor refreshments at half-time would be appreciated.

As a follow-up the children could create a Tudor games book. Perhaps they could bring it with them to Woking Palace and play their games on site. The only exception would be football, which, unfortunately, we cannot allow on the Palace site.

## ***Tudor Dance***

The Spanish Pavanne is a slow courtly dance. Pair up the students and have them form a circle. The dance will move clockwise.

One step to the left  
Place feet together  
One step to the right  
Place feet together  
Take three steps backwards  
Place feet together  
Take four quick steps forward

Make a small bow or curtsy  
Repeat these steps  
One step to the left  
Place feet together  
One step to the right  
Place feet together  
Make a deep bow or curtsy.

You could play this on a recorder if you would like to accompany the dancing:



## ***Make a Pomander***

One of the reasons that the Court moved between Palaces so frequently, was to allow time for the sewage to be removed. Tudor Palaces were likely to have been smelly places and to ward off the odours, people carried pomanders made of oranges spiked with cloves and spices, and sweet smelling nosegays. Encourage your class to discuss why the Tudors needed to have herbs and spices to scent their clothes and body. Does it have something to do with the lack of bathing and drains?

You will need:

- 1 small firm skinned orange
- 25 grams cloves
- 1 teaspoon orris root (*Along with the spices, this acts as a preservative. Available from health food stores*)
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon allspice
- 1 sheet tissue paper
- ½ metre thin ribbon
- Narrow tape – masking tape will do
- Cocktail sticks

1. Using the tape, divide the orange into 4 equal parts – you will replace the tape with ribbon later.
2. Push the cloves into the orange skin, either in a pattern or covering it completely. Use your thumb or a thimble to push in the cloves, or use a cocktail stick to pierce the skin first.
3. Mix the orris root, cinnamon and allspice together in a bowl. Roll the orange in the mixture until it is completely covered.
4. Wrap the orange in tissue paper and put in a dry warm place.
5. Leave it for a few weeks until the skin has dried out.
6. Remove the tape and tie with a ribbon instead, leaving a loop at the top to hang it up by.



## **Tudor Tableware Loan Box**

The Lightbox has a Tudor Tableware loan box that can be borrowed before or after a visit. The box contains replicas of objects that might have been found at a Tudor dining table together with teachers' notes and some suggested activities. Loan boxes are available to borrow at £18 for three weeks, with a £25 returnable deposit. For more information on loan boxes, please contact The Lightbox Education Team at [education@thelightbox.org.uk](mailto:education@thelightbox.org.uk) or call 01483 737815

More information about Woking Palace can be found in the **Guide to Woking Palace** (priced at £2.50) and a **CD** (priced at £5). Both are available from the Friends of Woking Palace. As well as a version of the guide, the CD also contains photographs, maps and paintings.

## **Arranging a Visit**

### **When is the site open?**

The site is open all year round, but please note that protective footwear may be necessary during wet and colder weather.

### **Who do I contact?**

Schools wishing to arrange a visit to the Palace site should contact the Friends.

Email: [askus@woking-palace.org](mailto:askus@woking-palace.org) or ring 01483 825523.

The Friends of Woking Palace will provide a guide to accompany any school group and arrangements can be made to open up the Barrel Vault.

Please contact us with any queries and to arrange a pre-visit.

Any risk assessment is the responsibility of the school.

### **How accessible is the site?**

Apart from Open Days, access to the site is restricted to organised visits only. There are no facilities and parking at the site is limited to cars or minibuses. Though generally flat, the site is uneven and, unfortunately, not wheelchair friendly. It is hoped to establish wheelchair accessible walk ways in the near future.

Please note: there is a hive of honeybees in the grounds. It has been placed at a good distance from the Palace Building and the Copse, in the North West of the site. Warning signs will be in place and it is advisable to keep children well away.

### **How much does it cost?**

The cost is £1 per child, with a minimum charge of £30. There is no charge for adults, and a free copy of the Woking Palace CD will be provided upon booking.

## **References**

Activities - [http://www.bvt.org.uk/sellymanor/ideas\\_activities.html](http://www.bvt.org.uk/sellymanor/ideas_activities.html)

Friends of Woking Palace - <http://www.woking-palace.org/>

Wikipedia - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Woking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Woking)

Wakeford, Iain, *Woking Palace in Tudor Times*, 2000

Arnold, Phillip and Dyer, Steve, *Woking Palace: Henry VIII's Royal Palace*, 2001

Locke, Arthur, *Woking Past*, 1980

Harvey, John. *English Medieval Architects*. 1954

*Woking History Journal* vol 1. 'The History of Woking Palace'

*Woking Palace: The History*. 2006 Edition 6.1

Crosby, Alan, 2003. *A History of Woking*

History Society Archive translation of *The Treaty of Woking 1490*

# **Ideas for Curriculum development**

## **Maths**

Survey of building, site, copse – measuring, calculating length, height, area  
Geometry of arches  
Shapes  
Tesselation  
Symmetry

## **Art**

Creating maps using variety of materials, eg collage  
Portraits – Tudor miniatures  
Observational sketches  
Making jugs, tiles based on objects found at site

## **Technology**

Making 3D models of building  
Construction of timber framed buildings  
Design visitor centre  
Construction and design of moats  
Prepare meals based on Tudor recipes

## **Science**

Building materials  
Living things – flora and fauna  
Survey of trees  
Pond and river life  
Conservation issues – decay and vandalism

## **English**

Poems and stories inspired by site  
Guide book to site  
Drama and role play based on life in Royal Palaces, court masques

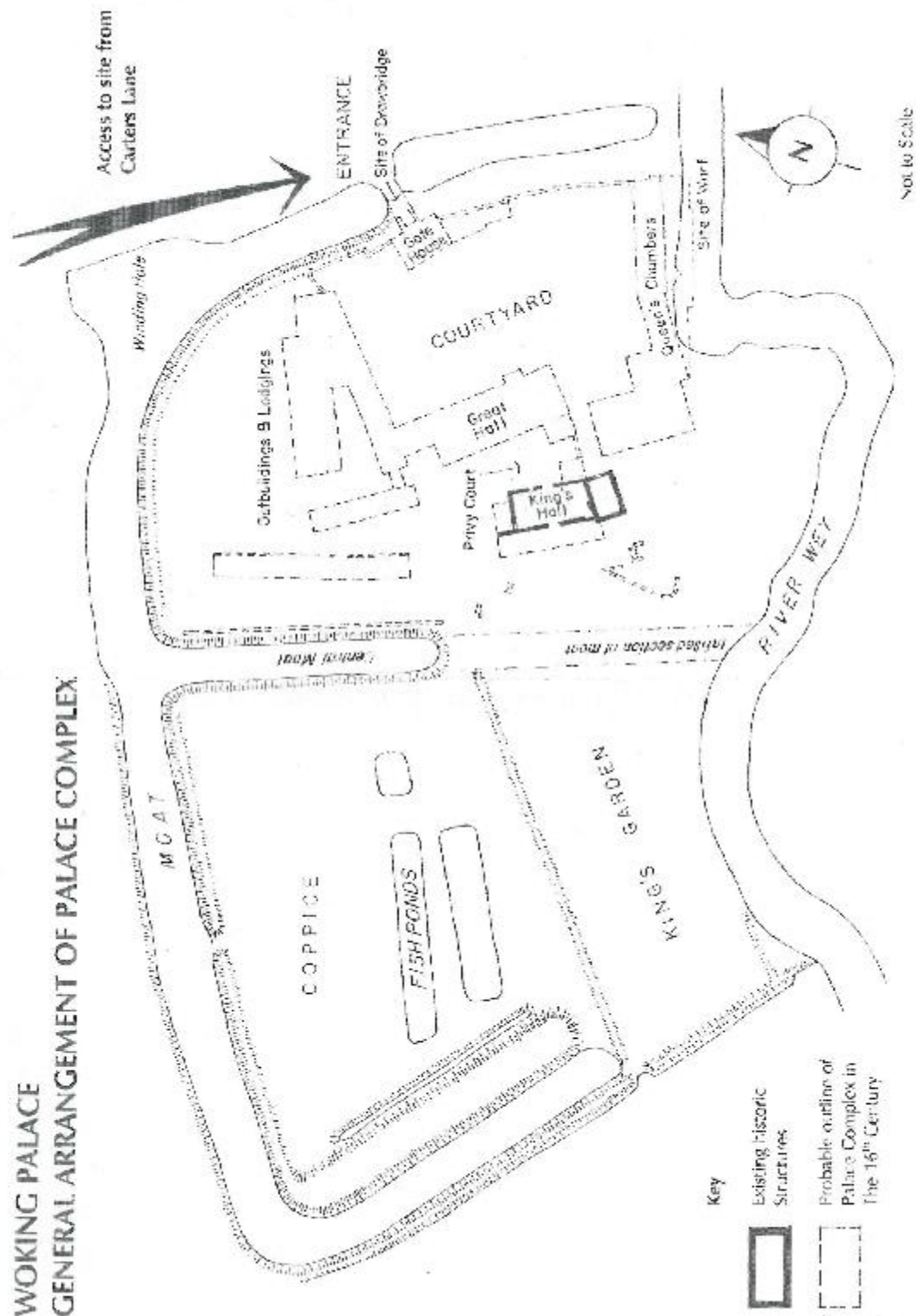
## **Geography**

Mapping site and route to site  
Locating European links  
Land use and change  
Development of site in future

## **History**

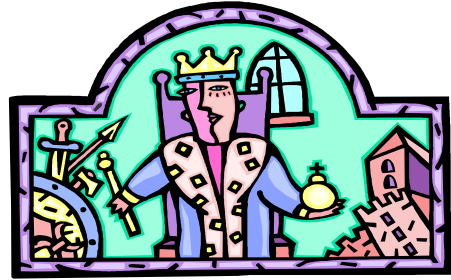
Life in Tudor times  
Local history  
Tudor Royal Courts and parks  
Tudor food and tableware  
Moated houses and sites  
Life of Margaret Beaufort  
Forests and hunting  
Timeline of site's history  
Links with important events

# Palace Complex Map





## Woking Palace Discovery Trail



As you walk down the track towards the entrance to the Palace site, you will see some water on your right. Can you guess what this was?

.....

Can you guess what the wider stretch of water was for?

.....

Go through the gate. Now you are crossing the moat where the drawbridge used to be.


Can you spot 3 stones in the ground on the right?

This was where the Gatehouse was.

Draw a picture of what you think the Drawbridge and Gatehouse looked like.

Look carefully at the Vault and the King's Hall. How many different shapes can you find?

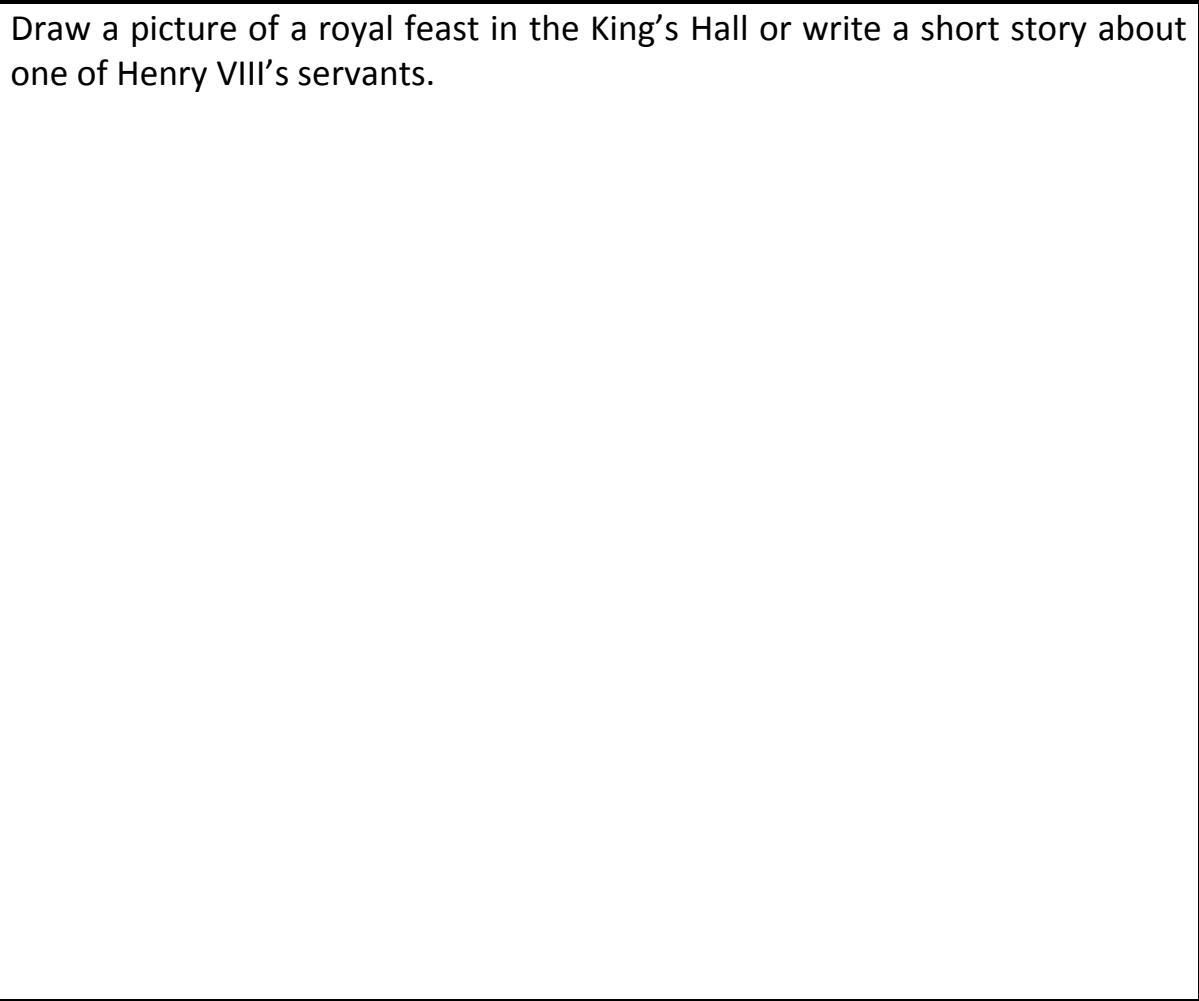
Draw your shapes here.



Look at the King's Hall. There are only a few walls left now, but try and imagine what it used to look like.

Henry VIII had great feasts in the King's Hall. Do you think the servants had as much fun as Henry?

Draw a picture of a royal feast in the King's Hall or write a short story about one of Henry VIII's servants.

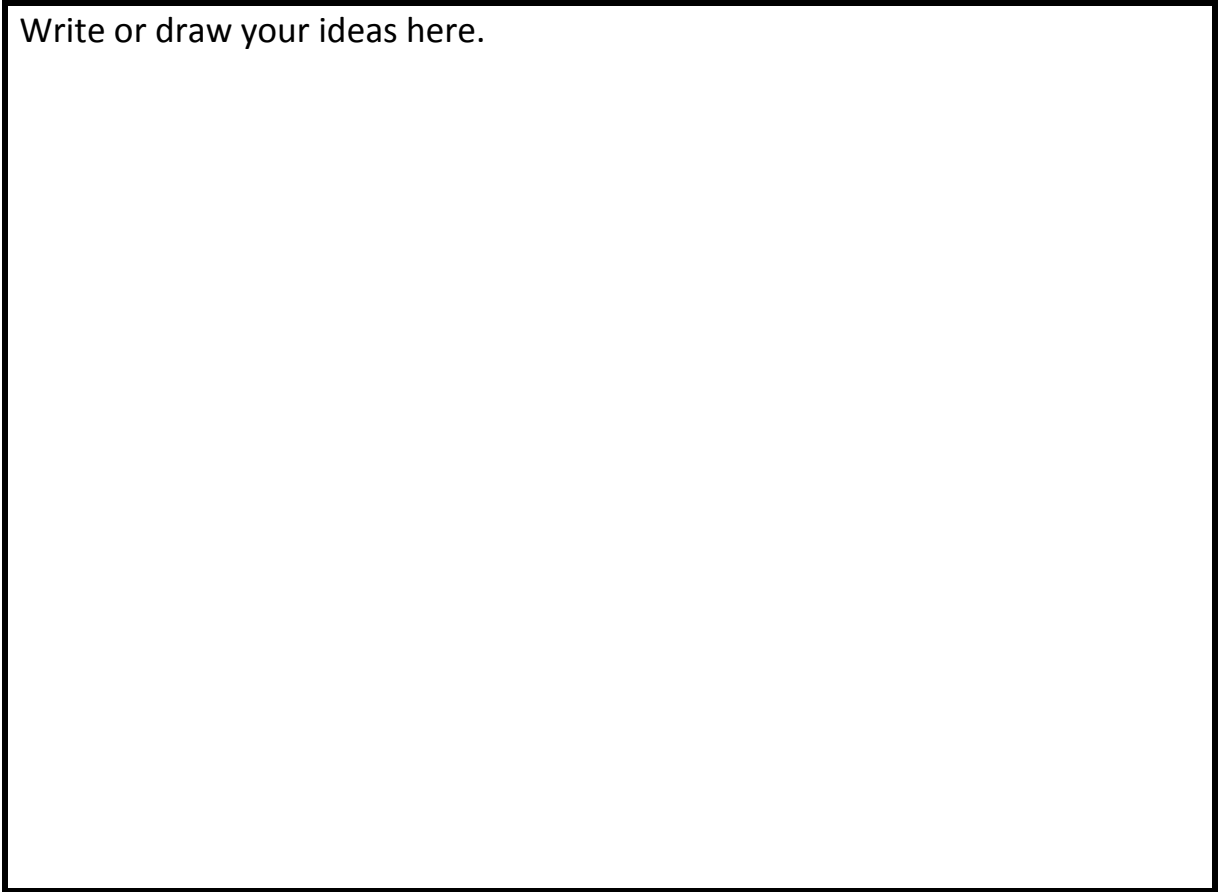


Look at the Barrel Vault. How many different types of stone can you find in the walls?

---

Can you spot the square holes in the walls? What do you think they were for?

Write or draw your ideas here.



Look up at the roof inside the Vault. Can you guess what the white arches are made of? (Here's a clue: you write with it on a blackboard)

---

Follow the path to the river. The Queen's Apartments were here. From her windows the Queen could see the fields across the river, where maybe Henry VIII held jousting tournaments or went hunting.

Draw a picture of Henry VIII practising one of his favourite sports or write a short description.

Barges full of goods for the Palace would travel up the river and unload here. What sort of things would the barges carry?

---

---

Do barges still use the river?

---

As you walk to the Copse, see if you can spot any green, noisy birds. Can you guess what they are?

.....

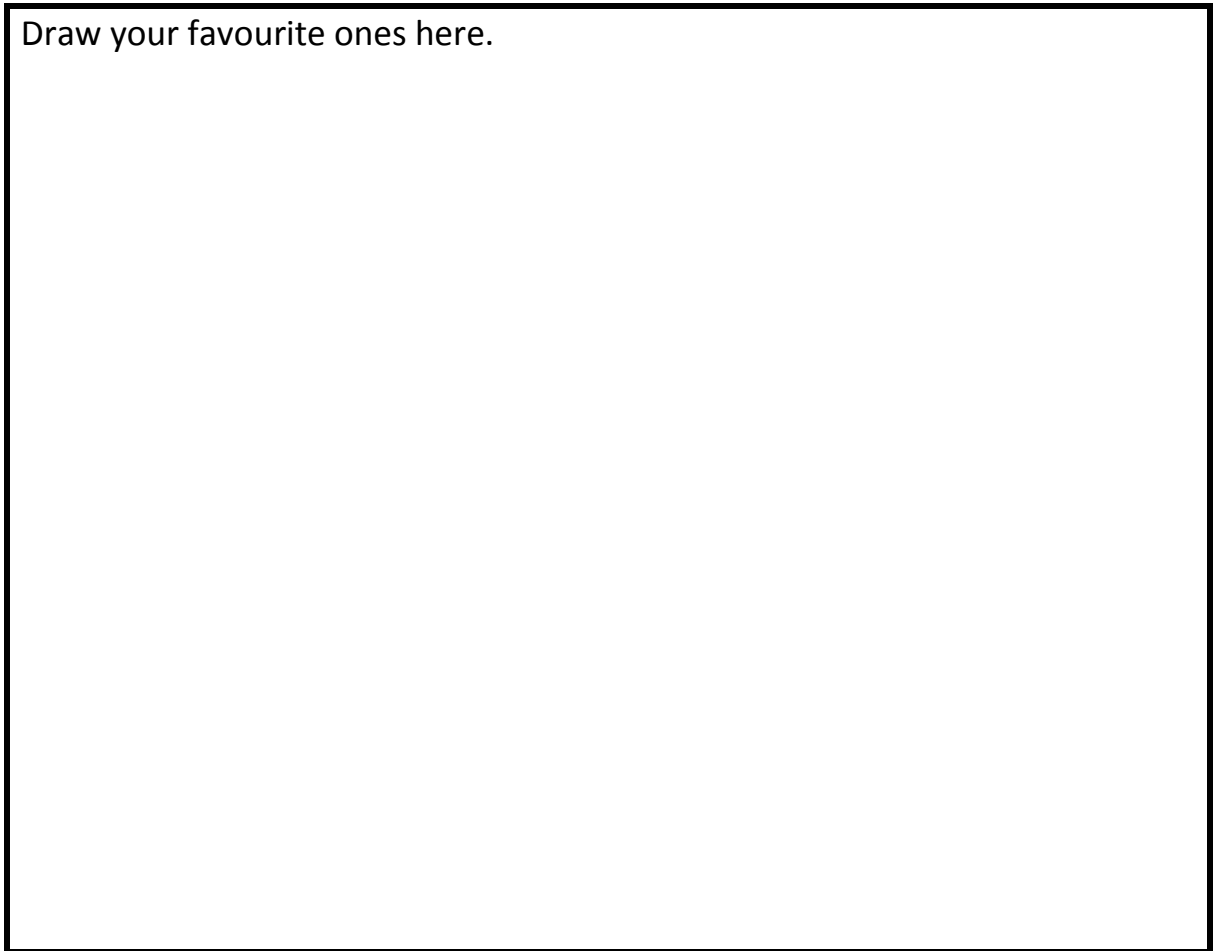
In the Copse there are two long, thin fish ponds. Why do you think there are two?

.....

.....

See how many different plants and flowers you can find in the copse.

Draw your favourite ones here.

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing favorite plants and flowers found in the copse.