

Questions on the long & short term causes of the Wars of the Roses (info on page 1)

(Individual work) Date:

- 1) What war ended in 1453? _____
- 2) What was the “Ultimate Prize” for which men fought during the Wars of the Roses?

3) Explain how dynastic quarrels were one of the causes of the Wars of the Roses.

4) Explain how a weak monarch was a cause of the Wars of the Roses.

5) Explain how England losing the Hundred Years War was also a cause of the Wars of the Roses.

The Wars of the Roses is a modern term given to the fighting between 1455 -1487. The total fighting time during this period was only about 15 months. The Yorkist emblem was a **white rose** and Lancastrian a **red rose**.

The Wars of The Roses can be divided into three wars

1) 1455-1461 2) 1469-1471 3) 1483-1487



Henry VI



Edward IV



Margaret of Anjou

The Wars of the Roses Begin - First Period 1455-1461

- The shock defeat at St Albans caused **Henry VI** to suffer another **bout of madness**.
- **York** was once again **elected Protector**, much to the annoyance of Margaret.
- In 1459, **Henry VI recovered again**, **York** was dismissed, Margaret had never forgiven York for the death of Somerset and she wanted revenge. By an Act of Attainder, York and all his supporters were **condemned to death** for treason.
- In 1460 (10th July), Warwick defeated the Lancastrians at the **Northampton** and captured Henry VI.
- Duke of York marched to London where he demanded to be crowned King. However, he did not get support and agreed to allow Henry to remain as King so long as he was named heir to the throne.
- On Dec 31st, 1460, Margaret defeated the Yorkists at **Wakefield**. Richard, Duke of York was killed, his head cut off and a paper crown put on it.
- On 2 Feb, 1461, Edward, the 19 yr old, new Duke of York defeated Lancastrians at **Mortimer's Cross**. Edward had all captured Lancastrian nobles executed in retaliation for Wakefield.
- **2nd Battle of St Albans**, 12 Feb. 1461, Warwick defeated & Henry VI was released.
- Margaret defeated at Battle of **Towton** on 29th March 1461. Margaret, Henry VI and their son managed to escape into Scotland.
- In March 1461 Warwick had Edward, Duke of York crowned as King Edward IV.
- At the battles of Hexham and Hedgeley Moor, Henry VI and Margaret defeated.
- In 1465, Henry was betrayed and handed over to the Yorkists and imprisoned.

Questions of first period of Wars of the Roses (Page 4) (Group work) Date:

8) What caused Henry VI to suffer another bout of madness?

9) Who was elected Protector and to whose annoyance? _____

10) Why did Margaret want revenge on Richard Duke of York?

11) At which battle in 1460 was Henry VI captured? _____

12) At which battle was Richard Duke of York killed? _____

13) What was placed on his severed head? _____

14) What was the significance of this being placed on his head?

15) Why did Edward, Duke of York execute all captured Lancastrian nobles after the battle of Mortimer's Cross? _____

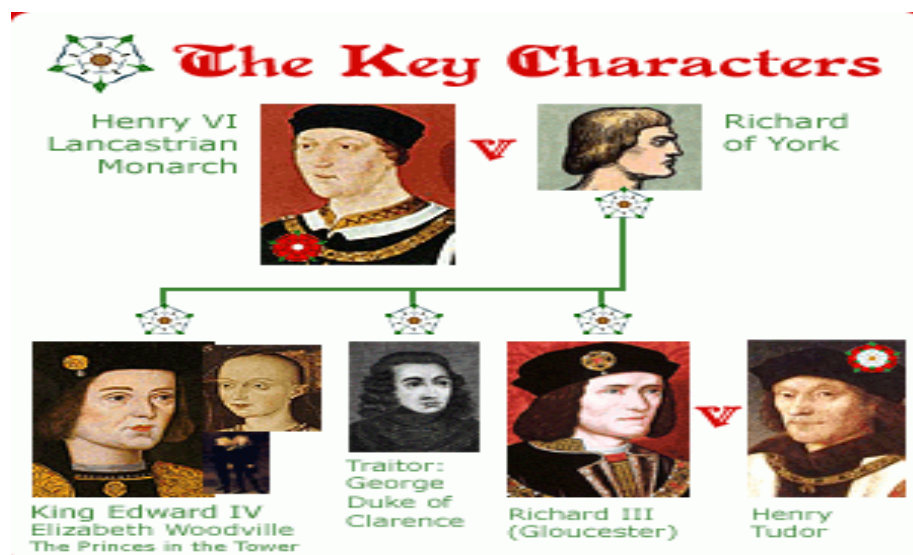
16) At which battle in 1461 were Margaret & Henry defeated? _____

17) To which country did they flee after this defeat? _____

18) Who was crowned king in March 1461? _____

19) What was his title? _____

20) Who helped him to take the throne? _____



Edward IV and Warwick the Kingmaker (Richard Neville).

- Edward IV was on the throne, with **support** from **Warwick**
- **Warwick** was **very powerful** and one observer said that "They tell me they have two rulers in England, Monsieur de Warwick is one; I have forgotten the name of the second".
- Warwick was the power behind the throne for the first three years but Edward decided that he wanted to be **more independent**.
- Edward & Warwick realised that Foreign Policy & finding Edward a wife were vital.
- **Edward** favoured an **alliance** with **Flanders** that would protect English wool trade.
- **Warwick** wanted an **alliance** with the powerful **French**. Warwick wanted Edward to marry a French Princess, Bona of Savoy, sister in law of Louis XI of France. This would mean that the French would no longer shelter Lancastrians exiles.
- **Edward ignored** Warwick's wishes and married **Elizabeth Woodville**. Warwick was furious.
- In order to **regain** the **upper hand** Warwick tried to arrange the **marriage** between his **daughter Isabella** and **George** (Duke of Clarence), **Edward IV's brother**. Edward IV could see what Warwick was up to and refused to allow the marriage to go ahead. This was the final straw for Warwick.
- In 1469 Warwick fled to **Calais** where the marriage took place. **Warwick** then invaded England and **captured Edward IV**. All Warwick wanted was a **pardon** and Edward IV was released.
- In 1470, Ed IV accused Warwick & Clarence of plotting and they fled England.
- Whilst in exile Warwick met his rival Margaret of Anjou. Amazingly, despite what had happened in the past, a **marriage** was agreed between Margaret's youngest son, **Edward**, and Warwick's younger daughter **Anne**. Warwick was now the father in law of two potential kings. (George a Yorkist and Prince Edward a Lancastrian)
- With funds (46,000 gold crowns) and soldiers (2000) from Louis XI of France, **Warwick invaded England**. Warwick marched to London and Edward IV fled to Flanders. Henry VI was released from the Tower after 5 years in prison. Parliament declared Warwick and George '**Lieutenants of the Realm**'.
- George, Duke of Clarence thought Warwick would place him on the throne. Warwick put his support behind Henry VI. George was an alcoholic wife beater.
- In 1471, Edward IV (with the help of Duke of Burgundy) invaded England. He was joined by Clarence who had deserted Warwick.
- At the **Battle of Barnet** on 14th April 1471, Warwick was defeated and killed.

Questions on Edward IV and Warwick (Group work) Date:

21) What statement shows that Warwick was a very powerful man?

22) What did Edward IV want to have more of? _____

23) With which country did Edward favour an alliance? _____

24) Why did he favour this country? _____

25) With which country did Warwick favour an alliance? _____

27) Why did he favour this country? _____

28) How did Edward IV upset Warwick? _____

29) Complete the following passage with the correct word.

Warwick was furious. In order to **regain** the **upper hand** Warwick tried to arrange the _____ between his **daughter** _____ and _____ (Duke of _____), **Edward IV's** _____. Edward IV could see what Warwick was up to and refused to allow the marriage to go ahead. This was the final straw for Warwick.

In 1469 Warwick fled to _____ where the marriage took place.

_____ then invaded England and **captured** _____.

All Warwick wanted was a _____ and Edward IV was _____.

30) What deal was done between Margaret of Anjou and Warwick whilst they were abroad? _____

31) In which battle was Warwick killed and on what date was this battle?

32) What was Warwick's nickname? _____

After the Kingmaker

- Margaret then invaded but was defeated at the **Battle of Tewkesbury** on the 10th May 1471. Edward, Prince of Wales was killed and Margaret was captured. (4 years in prison then ransomed to King of France)
- Henry VI was returned to the Tower, where he died under suspicious circumstances. Official reports of the time said he died "of pure displeasure and melancholy".
- Edward was now in control. All Lancastrian rivals had been eliminated, except 14 year old, **Henry Tudor**, who had escaped to Brittany after the Battle of Tewkesbury.
- From 1471 to 1483, when Edward IV died, England was relatively peaceful.

Edward V

- Edward IV left the throne to his 12 year old son Edward V. Edward wanted Richard Duke of Gloucester to be the children's protector.
- At the time of Edward IV's death the Princes were in the custody of the Woodville family. Richard distrusted them and acted quickly. Some Woodvilles were arrested and later executed.
- Richard, Duke of Gloucester, persuaded Parliament to make him Regent. Richard then took charge of Edward and his younger brother Richard. What happened to them is as yet unknown but the rumour of the death of the two Princes in the Tower is well known.
- Richard claimed that Edward V's claim to the throne was illegal because his father had broken a previous contract of betrothal. Richard persuaded Parliament to illegitimise both the princess and their sister Elizabeth of York. This barred them from the throne (Titulus Regius)

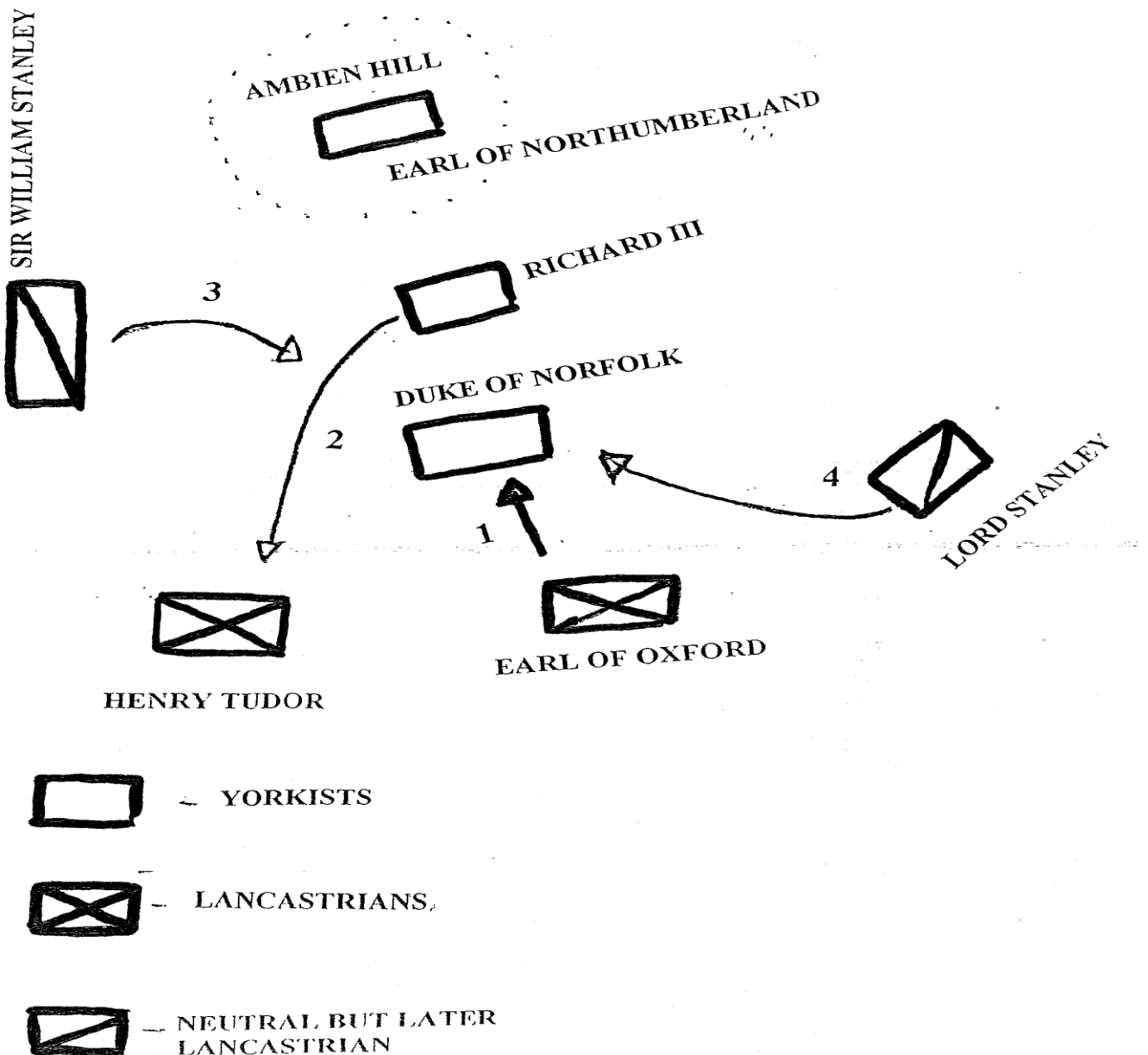
Richard III 1483-1485

- In July 1483, Richard was crowned King. (Richard III).
- Richard III was certainly an ambitious and ruthless man, but his reputation was definitely damaged by Tudor writers and in particular William Shakespeare.
- On August 7th 1485, Henry Tudor landed at Milford Haven. He marched through Wales gaining support.
- On 21st August 1485, Richard and Henry fought at the Battle of Bosworth Field. Richard was killed and the crown passed to the Lancastrian Henry.

Battle of Bosworth Field 21st August 1485

- 1: **Henry Tudor** landed at **Milford Haven** on 7th August 1485. He had with him 2,000 French mercenaries and a handful of Lancastrian lords and knights.
- 2: Henry marched through Wales and by the time he reached **Market Bosworth** in Leicestershire, his army had grown to around **5,000 strong**.
- 3: **Richard's** army was around **15,500 strong**, but 6,500 of his troops were commanded by the Stanley brothers.
- 4: The **weather** was **good**. The battle lasted only **two hours**.
- 5: **Northumberland** **refuses** to take part in the battle although he was on Richard's side. (3,000 men)
- 6: **Lord Stanley** (on Richard's left flank) **and Sir William Stanley** (on Richard's right flank) wait on the sides to see how the battle develops. This was despite the fact that Richard has taken Lord Stanley's son as a hostage. Lord Stanley was also Henry Tudor's stepfather!
- 7: Richard had the better position with his troops placed on **Ambien Hill**.
- 8: When Henry finally was ready, his men used cannon and arrows to force Richard to come down from his hilltop.
- 9: **Richard** was **hesitant** at first and did not take advantage by attacking Oxford whilst he was deploying his troops.
- 10: This allowed **Oxford** to launch the first **attack on Norfolk**, who is soon killed. Surrey takes command but Richard is losing men fast.
- 11: For the **first hour** the fighting is **evenly matched**.
- 12: With a stalemate to his front, Henry (accompanied by a bodyguard of about 200 knights) decided to ride across to the Stanleys and see if he could persuade them to enter into the fray on his side. Richard observed Henry's dragon banner moving across the battlefield to his right and saw an opportunity to end the battle at one fell stroke.
- 13: **Richard** **unsure** of the **loyalty** of the **Stanleys** decides to attack. Leaving his infantry on the hill, **Richard and 1000 cavalry** **attack** Henry Tudor's position.
- 14: **Richard** **killed** William **Brandon**, Henry Tudor's standard-bearer. Throwing away his broken lance and drawing his sword, Richard tried to hack his way through and wounded John Cheney, his bodyguard.
- 15: Some of Henry Tudor's pikemen form a schiltron around Henry.
- 16: **William Stanley's** 4,000 red jacketed horsemen now entered the battle on the Lancastrian side, attacking Richard's right flank. They are shortly followed by **Lord Stanley's** troops.
- 17: **Northumberland** still **refuses** to bring in Richard's **reserves**. He later surrenders.

- 18: **Richard was unhorsed** but refused a remount and returned to the fight wielding his battle-hammer. Richard was now surrounded by enemy soldiers. Sir Percy Thirlwall (the King's standard bearer) was gallantly holding Richard's banner aloft, even though both his legs had been cut off.
- 18: King Richard died alone, fighting bravely against a horde of men-at-arms. **Richard** was cut down by a Welsh soldier armed with a halberd and most of his horsemen are trampled to **death**. **Treachery** had won the day for Henry Tudor.
- 19: **Richard's infantry fled** the field and Lord Stanley crowns Henry king with Richard's crown.
- 20: **Richard's body** was stripped, thrown over his horse (White Surrey) and taken to Leicester where it was buried three days later at the Friary of Grey Friars in an **unmarked grave**.



Why did Henry VII win (or why did Richard III lose) the Battle of Bosworth Field 1485?

Weather was good. No chance of weather affecting outcome such as at Barnet where fog has caused confusion and led to 'blue on blue' casualties.

Tactics

It was difficult for any commander to be certain about his tactics. Throughout the Wars of the Roses when battles had begun, commanders were never quite sure who was going to fight on their side.

Richard's advantages

1. More military experience. Had fought in several battles (Barnet 1471) during the Wars of the Roses. Regarded as a competent commander.
2. Richard had every reason to believe that he had sufficient manpower to deal with Henry's army. At the start he anticipated having a larger army of 12,000 compared to 5,000.
3. Placed his army on Ambien Hill. Had advantage of ground position. 150m height, clear of trees (good vision), marshy at bottom.

Why Richard Lost

1. Richard's left wing, under Northumberland, (3000) refused to fight. He wanted to see who would fight for whom!
2. Lord Stanley (2,500 mounted cavalry) and Sir William Stanley (4,000 footsoldiers) were pledged to Richard's cause, but they had secretly agreed to support Henry. When the decisive moment in the battle came, their men joined in on Henry Tudor's side and Richard's fate was sealed.
3. Richard was hesitant at first and did not attack Oxford whilst he was deploying his troops. Lost vital initiative. Maybe Richard had an inkling about the loyalty of the Stanleys.
4. This allowed the earl of Oxford to launch the first attack on Norfolk, who was soon killed. Oxford showed some tactical brilliance.
5. Richard's suicidal charge to kill Henry Tudor nearly succeeded but its failure left Richard stranded and surrounded by his enemies who wasted no time in killing him.

Whatever else has been said of him (most of it negative propaganda by later Tudor "historians" no one can accuse Richard III of cowardice. He fought bravely to the end, and was eventually killed on the field, deserted by his friends and allies. As **Charles Oman** in *The Art of War in the Middle Ages* (1923) dismissed Bosworth saying "this can hardly be taken for serious military study - since it was not settled by strategy or tactics, but by mere treachery".

Weapons and Tactics of Richard III

Archers (1,200)



Firing longbows. This was one of the last battles in which the longbow was used. The increasing cost of hiring longbowmen had reduced their affordability, and with the development of firearms, their day was near an end.

Men at arms (1,600)



Dismounted men at arms were trained knights who dismounted from their horses and fought with polearms. These were pole about 2 metres long with various weapons attached to their end. Such weapons included the following:

Halberd



Lochibar



Bill Hook



Pitchfork



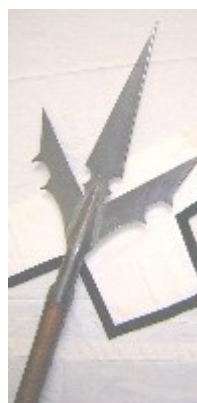
Pole Cleaver



Guisarme



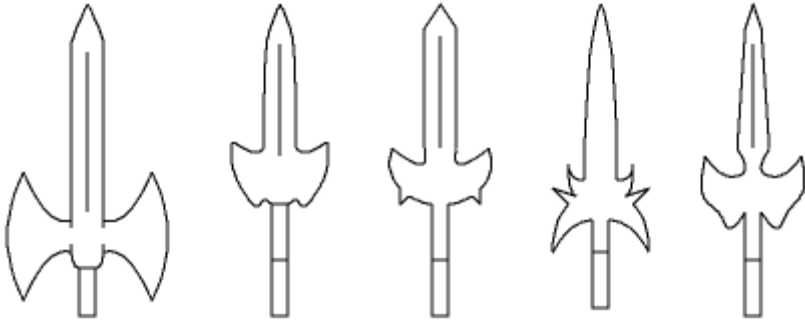
Ranseur



Glaives



Partisans



Footsoldiers (5,000)

Many of Richard III's men used pikes. These were between 10-15 feet long, with a sharp metal point. Used by infantry principally as a counter-measure against cavalry assaults.

The extreme length of this weapon requires a strong wood such as ash for the pole, which is often reinforced with two strips of steel running down the sides.

The steel tip was fairly long compared to the shaft, making the weapon most unwieldy in close combat. This meant that pikemen were often equipped with a sword, for close quarter fighting.



Cavalry (2,500)

Mounted knights armed with lances, swords, maces and flails. They charged at the enemy hoping either to force them from the battlefield, ride over them or kill them with their weapons.

Flail



Maces



Richard's Tactics

Very little respect or chivalry was shown to enemies during the Wars of the Roses. There was no hostage taking for ransom. Fighting was to the death and important captives were executed. Unfortunately for Richard III he was unable to use what we think were his original tactics. Had things gone to plan,

1. Richard planned to remain on Ambien Hill with his army.
2. Using his bowmen he would fire at advancing cavalry and footsoldiers.
3. His pikemen and men at arms would deal with any enemy who got through.
4. When Henry Tudor's forces were sufficiently weakened he would sent his troops in for the kill.



Henry Tudor's troops, weapons and tactics.

Henry's Tactics

1. Henry wanted to force Richard off Ambien Hill, and in order to do so he fired his cannon and arrows at Richard.
2. Having forced Richard down from the hill, the Stanleys would join him in surrounding Richard's troops.
3. However, desertions forced Richard to charge Henry and played into Henry's hands.

Henry had archers (900) men at arms and cavalry much like Richard III. However he had to other weapons at hand.

The handgun of the period was primitive, its user both feared and pitied as the weapon occasionally exploded in the firer's face, causing serious injury. In England during this period its use appears to be very limited and was used by mercenaries only.

Cannon.

Like the hand gun still very primitive. Dangerous to the users as it was prone to exploding. Limited range, manoeuvrability and accuracy.

