

# LEEDS CASTLE'S KS 3 TUDOR TRAIL



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO .....

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## WELCOME TO LEEDS CASTLE.

Look carefully at the outside of the castle.

Leeds Castle is over 900 years old, and has grown, developed and been re-born several times through the centuries

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEEDS CASTLE

When the Normans invaded England in 1066, William the Conqueror and his knights built many castles. Some were built for defence; others, like Leeds, were built as homes, to show off wealth and strength. A Norman Knight called Robert de Crevecoeur built Leeds Castle in 1119. The moat that runs around the castle was made in the 13th century and is fed by the river Len.

In 1278, King Edward I became the owner and it stayed a royal castle until 1552. Its most famous owner was Henry VIII. Soon after his death, the castle passed into private hands where it remained until 1926 when a very rich lady called Lady Baillie bought it to create a fabulous country house. She spent over £20 million in today's money restoring it. She had French artists and craftsmen rebuild the inside to make it look like it did in Tudor times.

The buildings themselves date from different periods of history - some go back as far as Norman times, while others belong to the Tudor Period or later.

Before going into the Castle look at the Gatehouse.

1. Who do you think would have lived there?

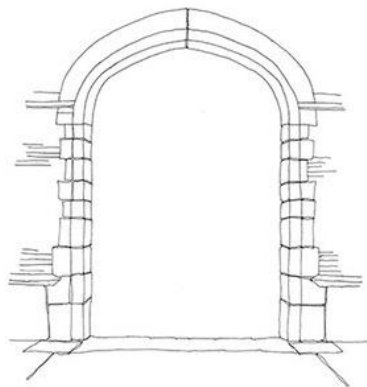
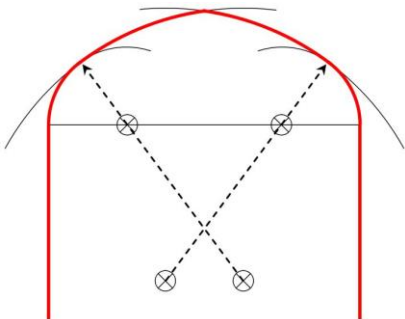
King and Queen

Servants

Guards/Soldiers

Here are some of the key features of Tudor architecture to look out for in the castle:

- Flattened arches, used in doorways and windows
- Leaded window panes set in groups of flattened arch windows
- Symmetry, for example doors and windows are often balanced in pairs or mirror images



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Enter through the front door of the 'New Castle', rebuilt in 1822, and updated with plumbing and electricity by Lady Baillie in the 1920s. You now find yourself in the Entrance Hall Did you notice the 'door within the door' as you came through? You will not find any Tudor clues in this part of the castle. So, walk slowly through ....

## THE LIBRARY

This room was once the schoolroom for Lady Baillie's two daughters. When they grew up it was converted into a library.

## THE DINING ROOM

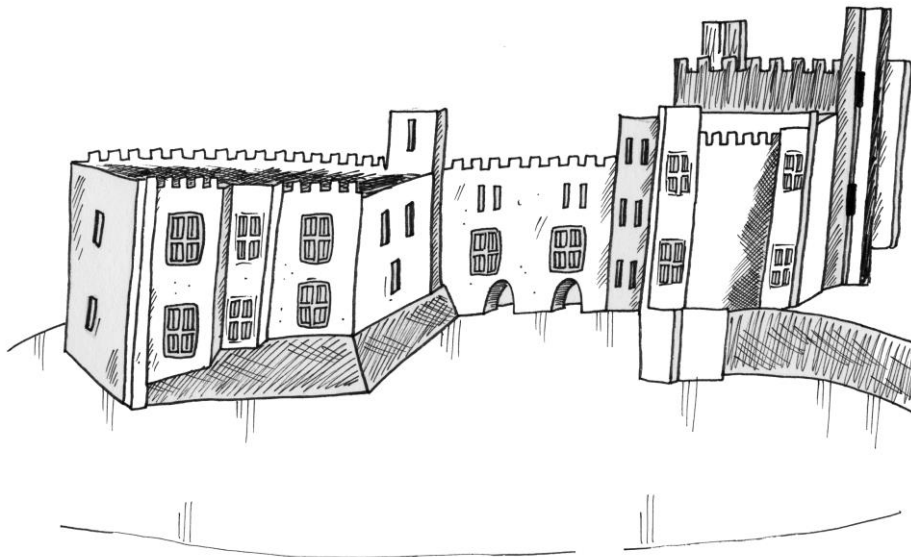
If this room is open, you may see a large dining table that can seat up to 30 people. This room is also used for weddings and dinners.

## THE SERVANTS QUARTERS

Here you can read about the different people employed during lady Baillie's time here As you leave this room and go down the Servants Corridor, you are crossing the moat into the Gloriette, the oldest part of the castle.

## THE LOWER GLORIETTE

The next four rooms is where you will find the Tudor clues. These rooms will often have different displays, and/or set dressings, depicting pre, during and post the Lady Baillie restoration.



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## THE EVENING DINING ROOM

Although the room is now how it might have been during Lady Baillie's early years we can still see the clues that the castle was here in the Tudor period.

The fireplace, originally installed in what is now the Salon during the reign of Henry VIII was moved into this room as part of Lady Baillie's reconstruction of the Gloriette 1927-28.

Look closely at the carvings in the spandrels

2. Which symbols can you see carved into the stone?



Coat of Arms

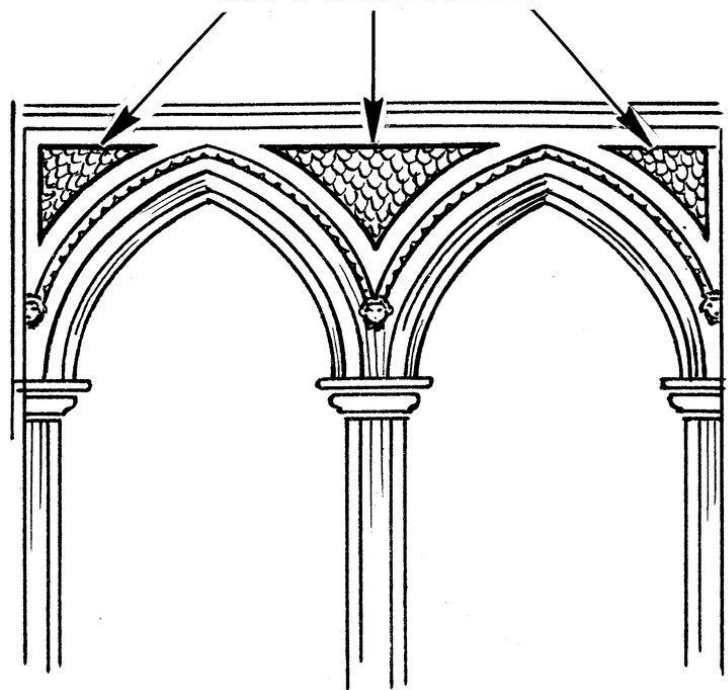
Dragon

Tudor Rose

Elephant

Tip: The spandrel is the triangular 'corner' of a doorway, fireplace etc.

### SPANDREL



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Go along the corridor past

**THE GAMES ROOM**

And into

## **THE WRITING ROOM**

The chimneypiece in this room was previously in the room that is now Lady Baillie's Bedroom, having been installed there by King Henry VIII. We can pinpoint an approximate date, because the right hand spandrel is carved with the heraldic castle of Castille and pomegranate of Aragon, so we can deduce that it was installed before Catherine of Aragon fell out of favour in 1534.

Lady Baillie re-positioned it in this room during the restoration of the 1920s.

### **Tudor Symbolism in Leeds Castle**

Sketch or photograph the fireplace and look out for its flattened arch shape in other rooms.

3. What clues are there apart from its shape to link it to Henry VIII?

.....

4. What was the meaning of the Tudor Rose symbol?

.....

5. Why do you think symbols like these became so important during the Tudor period?.....

.....

## **THE SALON**

Although the room is now displayed in the 1920s era, it was an important room in 1520.

Prior to the meeting in France between King Henry VIII and King Francis 1<sup>st</sup> of France, Henry and his queen plus entourage overnighted in Leeds Castle. He would have had a huge banquet in this room. When Henry stayed at Leeds Castle in May 1520 he would have had a huge banquet in this room.



6. The meeting France was held at Guisnes, near Calais, but what did it become known as?.....

7. What was the purpose of the event and was it successful?.....

8. Which of Henry's queens accompanied him?.....

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From the Salon, make your way up the spiral staircase. Whilst it looks very old, it was put in by Lady Baillie one hundred years ago.

Henry VIII added this upper floor to the castle, although in Tudor times it did not look as it does now. The rooms are as they would have been when Lady Baillie owned the castle in the 1920s and 1930s.

## LADY BAILLIE'S BOUDOIR, BEDROOM, DRESSING ROOM AND THE BAILLIE ROOM

We know that Henry VIII had a suite of rooms constructed on this upper level of the castle keep for himself, his queen, Catherine of Aragon, and their close personal attendants.

Be aware that these rooms may have Tudor features, such as Tudor style windows, but they will all have been reconstructed during the 1920s and 1930s. As you leave the Baillie Room and walk along the corridor, look out for the door frames which have Tudor carvings in the spandrels.

You will now go down the main staircase, and are back in the 1822 building, so no Tudor clues in this part of the castle.



This is The Maiden's Tower, but not on the castle visitor route so you cannot see inside it. However you can see clues on the exterior that this was a Tudor building.

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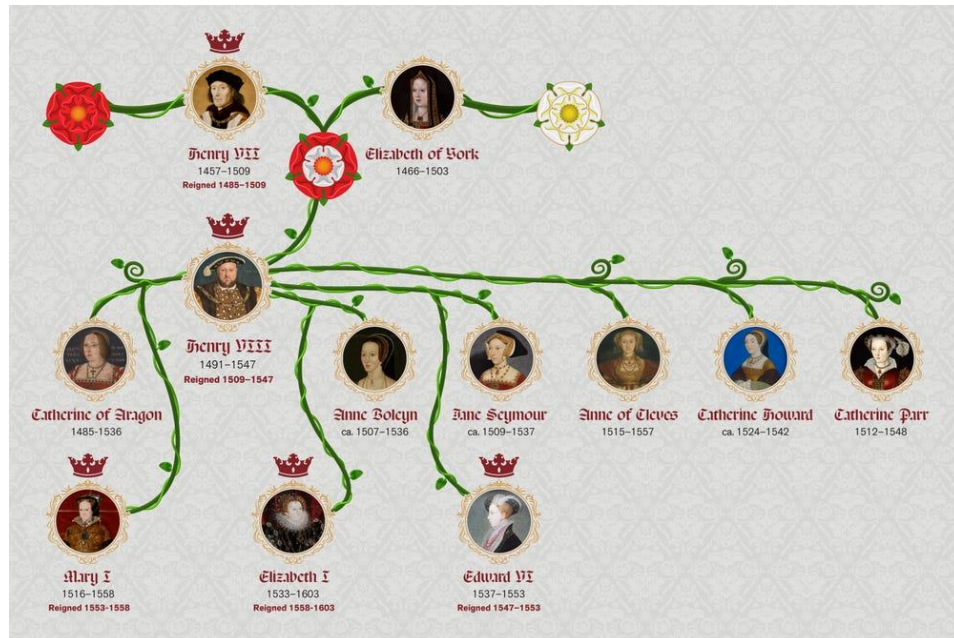
## TUDOR KNOWLEDGE

9. How many Tudor monarchs were there?.....
10. Who were King Henry VIII's parents.....
11. Why did Henry VIII end his marriage to Catherine of Aragon? .....
- .....
12. Who was the last Tudor monarch?.....
13. What was the full name of the Elizabethan explorer, Sir Francis.....
14. What was the role of a 'whipping boy' in a  
household?.....
15. How many years did Mary 1 reign for? .....
16. Who was Elizabeth 1's husband?.....
17. When and why did Leeds Castle cease to be a royal  
palace?.....
18. Who was Lady Jane Grey?.....



# LEEDS CASTLE'S KS 3 TUDOR TRAIL

Although Leeds Castle carries many Tudor examples, they are mainly from the reign of Henry VIII, but what about other members of the Tudor family? Below is a basic family tree, but who were Henry VII's parents and from where did the Tudor name originate?



Now draw another family tree below showing Henry VII's parents and grandparents, both paternal and maternal. Be as plain or creative as you like.

