

TURTON SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – LIFE IN TUDOR ENGLAND		
Key events	Key people	Key questions/words
The Tudors ruled England from 1485 to 1603.The first Tudor king was Henry VII. He became king after the battle of Bosworth field, which ended the War of the Roses. He was followed by his son, Henry VIII, who was famous for marrying six times and beheading two of his wives! His son, Edward VI ruled after him, followed by his daughters Mary I and Elizabeth I. They are famous for many things, including the Henry VIII and his six wives, the exploration of America and the plays of William Shakespeare. During the sixteenth century, England emerged from the medieval world. It was a time of great change, most notably it marked the end of the Catholic church in England. Great naval exploits began the great English seafaring tradition. Life had many problems. Towns were becoming overcrowded, roads were muddy tracks and travelling was difficult. The overcrowding caused danger from fire and disease. During 118 years of Tudor rule, England became richer than ever before. As the country became wealthier, towns grew, beautiful houses were built and schools and colleges were set up. Arts and crafts flourished too. England was home to great painters, writers and musicians.	Henry VIII is probably the most well-known Tudor monarch. He brought religious upheaval to England. When he became king, most people belonged to the Catholic Church, which was headed by the Pope. In 1534, Henry broke away from the Catholic Church and proclaimed himself head of the Church of England. The land riches became Henry’s property and he sold most of this to dukes and nobles. Henry wanted a son to rule after him. He first married his brother’s widow, Catherine of Aragon but divorced her when she did not produced a male heir to the throne. He married three times more before a son was born. In total he married six times! Jane Grey granddaughter of Henry 8th younger sister Mary whose daughter Francis married Henry Grey. Henry VIII had specified that in the event of Edward dying early that firstly his daughter Mary should reign and secondly is daughter Elizabeth, but Edward changed it on his deathbed. Edward was the only son of Henry VIII. Edward VI became king at the age of nine upon the death of his father, Henry VIII. He was known as 'The Boy King'. His mother was Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife. Edward was a sickly child and the country was run by his protectors: firstly, the Duke of Somerset, his mother's brother, then by the Duke of Northumberland. While Edward was still alive his ministers persuaded him to make a will naming Lady Jane Grey his successor to the throne. She was a Protestant unlike Edward's half sister Mary (Henry VIII's eldest daughter) who was Catholic. The ministers wanted to keep England a Protestant country. Lady Jane Grey ruled for only 9 days before Mary had her arrested and later executed. Mary I was the first Queen Regnant (that is, a queen reigning in her own right rather than a queen through marriage to a king). Mary was the eldest daughter of Henry VIII by his first wife Katherine of Aragon. She was named after Henry's favourite sister, Mary Tudor (the 'Tudor Rose'). Mary was born just before dawn on Monday 18 February 1516 in Greenwich Palace. Mary was a committed Catholic. When she came to the throne she vowed to return England to Rome and Catholicism. Mary reunited the English Church with Rome in 1555. She is known as Bloody Mary because of the numbers of people who were executed for being Protestants. Mary burned nearly three hundred Protestants at the stake when they refused to give up their religion. Elizabeth I - the last Tudor monarch - was born at Greenwich Palace on 7 September 1533, the younger daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. When Elizabeth came to the throne, she was 25. She succeeded to the throne on her half-sister's death in November 1558. Elizabeth I's rule is remembered as the Golden Age of English history. Under her rule, England advanced in such areas as foreign trade, exploration, literature, and the arts. During Elizabeth's reign the age of exploration began with explorers such as Francis Drake claiming new lands for England and introducing new materials and foods. The American State, Virginia, is named after her.	How important was religion to the Tudor’s? Why was Martin Luther unhappy? Why did the English reform? Who was the best Tudor monarch? What problems did Elizabeth I face? Religion, Church, Catholic, Pope, Protestant, Tudor, Henry, Edward, Mary, Elizabeth, heaven, hell, Latin, Martin Luther, doom paintings, monastery, monk, nun, divorce, heir, Defender of the Faith and reform.