

Enquiry 8:2 How did Miranda Kaufmann uncover the lives of Black Tudors?

Big ideas

Exploration	The action of exploring an unfamiliar area; Exploration brought Europeans into contact with people from other parts of the world.
Monarchy	A form of government with a king or queen at the head.
Reformation	The religious revolution that took place in the Western church in the 16th century, which saw Protestant groups break away from the dominant Catholic Church. The Reformation divided Europe into Protestant and Catholic countries. Some people had to leave their country for their own safety.

Evidential thinking

This enquiry is linked around the historical concept of **evidential thinking**. In these kinds of questions, we study the ways in which historians use different types of sources to write historical accounts. We will focus on **contemporary sources**, sometimes called **primary** sources which were created at the same time period as the events we are studying.

This type of enquiry also helps us to think about how some historical **interpretations** are created. An **interpretation** is the way in which the past has been reconstructed and represented by people living in later times.

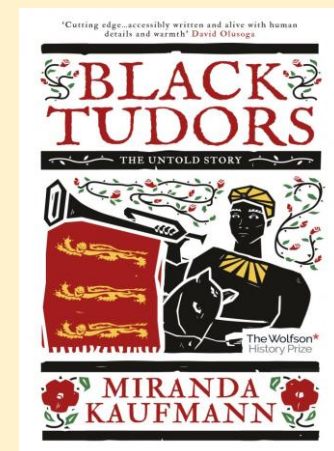
King Henry VIII	King of England from 1509 to 1547, son of King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. He was married to his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon and in this enquiry we discover how he famously celebrated the birth of his young son, Henry, in 1511. Sadly his son died just a few days later.
John Blanke	John Blanke was a royal trumpeter in the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII, and remains the only black Tudor for whom we have an identifiable image. While serving two kings, he bore witness to some of the great moments in England's history and contributed to some of the greatest spectacles of the Tudor age.
Mary Fillis	A powerful, independent and skilled seamstress who was the daughter of Fillis of Morisco, a Moroccan shovel maker. She was born in Morocco in 1577 moved to Britain in 1583 at the age of six and worked as a servant for a man named John Barker, a merchant and sometime factor for the Earl of Leicester. She lived here for over a decade.
Diego	Diego began working for Sir Francis Drake in 1572 and was a skilled circumnavigator. He travelled widely and was with Drake when he passed through the straits of Magellan, raided South America and laid claim to California in the name of Elizabeth I in 1579.
Sir Francis Drake	Drake was an English sea captain, privateer, slave trader and explorer in the Tudor era. He was the son of a farmer, but his godfather was a nobleman (Francis Russell, 2nd Earl of Bedford.)

This enquiry is based around the book *Black Tudors* by Miranda Kaufmann. Whilst studying at Oxford University, Kaufmann discovered a number of **sources** which revealed that was a significant presence of Black people living in Britain during the Tudor period, of which she had previously been unaware.

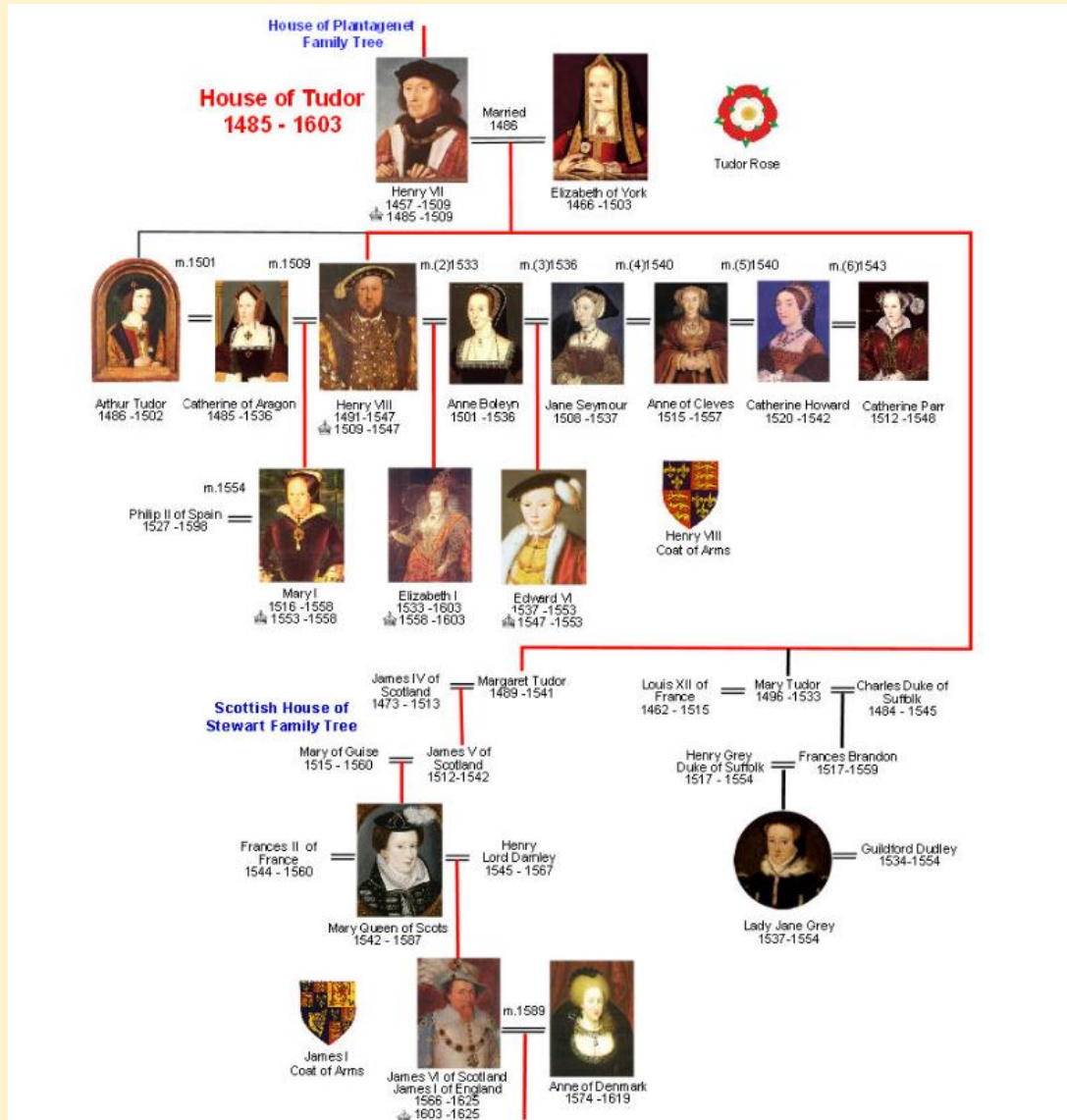
Miranda Kaufmann traces the stories of ten Africans living in Tudor & Stuart England, uncovering a rich array of detail about their daily lives and how they were treated. She reveals how John Blanke came to be the royal trumpeter to Henry VII and Henry VIII: the trouble Jacques Francis got himself into while working as a salvage diver on the wreck of the *Mary Rose*; what prompted Diego to sail the world with Drake, and she pieces together the stories of a porter, a prince, a sailor, and a silk weaver.

They came to England from Africa, from Europe and from the Spanish Caribbean. They came with privateers, pirates, merchants, aristocrats, even kings and queens, and were accepted into Tudor society. They were baptised, married and buried by the Church of England and paid wages like other Tudors.

Yet their experience was extraordinary because, unlike the majority of Africans across the rest of the Atlantic world, in England they were *free*. They lived in a world where skin colour was less important than religion, class or talent: before the English became heavily involved in the slave trade, and before they founded their first surviving colony in the Americas.



Key term	Definition
Archive	a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people.
Circumnavigation	the action or process of sailing or otherwise travelling all the way around something, especially the world:
Contemporary source	Any item created at the time of the events we are studying, which can provide evidence for historians.
Court	The place where the business of the monarch took place. To be part of the “court” was a privilege, and the court moved with the monarch.
Parish clerk	An official performing various mainly administrative duties concerned with the Church. Some of the sources we will use in this enquiry written by parish clerks.
Petition	A formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority in respect of a particular cause
Protestantism	An idea created by Martin Luther, a monk who had lost faith in the Catholic Church. It rejects some of the key catholic beliefs such as the Pope being head of the church.
Tournament	An extravagant display of royal power, often including a joust, to celebrate a particular royal event.
Tudor	Anything relating to the English royal dynasty which held the throne from the accession of Henry VII in 1485 until the death of Elizabeth I in 1603.



Timeline of Tudor England

1485 – Battle of Bosworth. Richard III defeated, Henry VII crowned	1509 – Henry VII dies, Henry VIII takes the throne and marries Catherine of Aragon	1533 – Henry VIII marries Anne Boleyn	1534 – Act of Supremacy	1536 – Dissolution of the monasteries	1547 – Henry dies, Edward takes the throne	1553 – Edward dies, Mary takes the throne	1558 – Mary dies, Elizabeth takes the throne	1587 – Mary Queen of Scots executed	1588 – England defeats the Spanish Armada	1603 – Elizabeth I dies – end of Tudor dynasty
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