The Tudors ruled England from 1485 until 1603: Henry VII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I are buried at Westminster Abbey, along with many of their relatives, important nobles and servants. Follow this trail around the Abbey and see what you can learn about this remarkable family and the times in which they lived.

This map will help guide you around the Abbey. The trail starts at number 1 by the Great West Door. Follow the blue dots in numerical order.

The martlet appears on the Westminster Abbey shield. It is a stylized bird with short tufts of feathers instead of legs. The inability of the martlet to land may symbolize the constant quest for knowledge and learning.
Enter the Abbey and stand by the Great West Door. This is where **all** the Kings and Queens of this country have stood as they entered the Abbey for their coronations. You are standing where the Tudors stood!

**Write down three words to describe how you feel standing here.**

Try to get children to think about the age and importance of the Abbey and the significance of the building. They could also think about the physical size. The columns are 100ft high.

Just by the Great West Door the Coronation Chair is being restored.

**In 1485, Henry Tudor was crowned here, the first of the Tudor Monarchs to sit in the Coronation Chair and became Henry VII. The Coronation service gives God’s blessing to the king or queen.**

**Walk down the Nave.**

**When Henry VII ruled, the Abbey was used by monks. They used the Abbey to worship God and prayed together at set times throughout the day and night.**

Most of the monuments were put in here after Tudor times but you may recognise some famous names.

**Enter the Quire**

This is where the Choir sits to sing. The space between the Quire and the steps is called the Lantern, and up the steps is the High Altar and the area where the Coronation takes place.

**On the right of the High Altar is the tomb of Anne of Cleves. Which Tudor king was married to Anne of Cleves? (She was his fourth wife.)**

**Henry VIII. They married in 1540. When he saw her, however, Henry thought she was ugly and the marriage was annulled.**
Now make your way to the Chapel of St. Michael in the North Transept. Find the effigy of Catherine, Lady St John of Bletso. She is wearing clothes typical of a rich Elizabethan woman.

Do you think these clothes would have been comfortable to wear? Explain your answer.

Heavy fabrics (only underwear would have been washed). Rich women often had to be sewn into dresses each day and Elizabeth I would take hours! The corset would be tied tightly to create a small waist. The ruff would have been stiffly starched. **Hot and uncomfortable!**

Look at the large tomb of Henry, Baron Norris of Rycote and his wife Margaret at the far end of this area. **Margaret’s father was executed, accused of being in love with Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII’s second wife. (He was probably innocent, though.)**

**How many sons did they have?**
(Clue: count the kneeling figures. There are the same number on each side.)

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**Look carefully at the armour they are wearing**

Leave this chapel and follow the North Ambulatory round until you get to the door on the left. Go through here into the Chapel of St. John the Baptist.

Turn right and find the grand tomb of Henry Carey, 1st Baron Hunsdon against the wall. This is the largest tomb in the Abbey! **Carey was Lord Chamberlain to Elizabeth I.**

**How many shields can you count on his tomb?**
Don’t worry about getting this too accurate! **There are at least 50!**

**Why do you think the tomb is so grand?**

Lord Chamberlain is a very important position and Carey was a powerful man. He was therefore rich and the tomb also shows this off.

Look on the floor for the grave stone of Robert Devereux. His father was one of Queen Elizabeth I’s great favourites and his grandfather was her spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham.

Leave this chapel and turn left. Enter the next chapel on your left, St. Paul’s Chapel.
On the left, find the tomb of Sir John Puckering.

Sir John Puckering was Lord Keeper of the Great Seal and Speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of Elizabeth I. This made him a very important man in Elizabethan England.

How many children did he have?
Count the figures!

How many of them died before they grew up?
(Clue: look at what the figures on the tomb are holding).

Two (they are holding skulls)

Now leave this chapel and go up the stairs and through the little door on the left.

Look at the big tomb in the middle of the room.

Two women are buried here although there is only one statue. They were sisters and both Tudor queens of England.

What are their names?
Elizabeth I
Mary I

You can only see the effigy of one of them.

Which one?
Elizabeth I. The face is a death mask, so very accurate.

Look carefully at the decoration around the tomb.
You will see roses, which were the symbol of the Tudors.

Draw some Tudor roses

Leave this chapel and turn left into the main Lady Chapel.
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Look up at the beautiful ceiling of this room.

**This chapel was built by Henry VII, the first Tudor king.** He, and over a hundred other people, are buried here, including many other kings and queens of England.

Look at the floor to find out who is buried beneath the altar.

**Who was this king's famous royal father?**

It is the tomb of Edward VI so his father was Henry VIII.

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**When the Tudors ruled**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>King</th>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry VII</td>
<td>1485-1509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry VIII</td>
<td>1509-1547</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward VI</td>
<td>1547-1553</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary I</td>
<td>1553-1558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth I</td>
<td>1558-1603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Draw the symbols you can see around this tomb.**

- A Tudor Rose
- A Greyhound (symbol of the Count of Richmond, Tudor's title before he became King).
- and a Welsh dragon (Henry Tudor was Welsh)
Leave this part of the Lady Chapel and go through the small door on the left at the top of the stairs. In here you will find three tombs. Look at the one in the middle first.

**This is the tomb of Mary, Queen of Scots, Elizabeth I’s cousin. She was executed because many people thought she should be queen and she plotted against her cousin.**

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The third tomb is that of Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry Tudor.

**What sort of person do you think she was?**

(Clue: Look at her hands)

She was a very religious person. She claimed to have seen a vision as a young girl. She was too important politically to become a nun, but her she is said to have lived chastely after giving birth to Henry. At the time of the Battle of Bosworth, she was married to Lord Stanley, who betrayed Richard III, costing him the battle.

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Leave the chapel and return to the top of the stairs. Go down the stairs and turn left. Walk down the Ambulatory until you reach the South Transept.

This part of the Abbey is known as Poets’ Corner and many famous writers, poets, actors and musicians are buried and remembered here.

**Find the monument to William Shakespeare. He wrote plays and poems during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I which are still performed and read today (so they must be good!).**

**What is he leaning on?**

A pile of his plays.

**Can you name any of his plays?**

Draw their attention to the decorations on the monument.

**See how many other names you recognise.**

Look out for Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, the Bronte Sisters, Rudyard Kipling, and Oscar Wilde.

Look on the walls, the floor and in the windows!
Leave the Abbey via the Cloisters.
Monks used to spend much of their time here.

**What do you think it would have been like here on a cold winter’s day?**
May have been glass but possibly not!

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Turn left and go up the stairs to the Chapter House.

**This is where the monks used to gather to discuss business. In January 1540 they decided that they would obey King Henry VIII and close the monastery down.**

**How do you think the monks may have felt about this?**
Try to get children to think about the monks losing their home and their job. Also emphasise that they had lived a rather comfortable and privileged life and were thrown out.

**Why did Henry want to close the monastery?**

Several possible answers:

1. He closed all the monasteries in the country because he wanted all the people to think of him as Head of the Church and the monks were still loyal to the Pope in Rome.
2. He wanted their money - Westminster had a lot of land and gold which Henry needed to fund his wars and lavish lifestyle.
3. The reason he gave was that the monks were corrupt and sinful!

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Leave the Chapter House and turn left to enter the Museum.

**Have a look round here and make sure you see:**

- The Funeral Effigies of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, Mary I and Elizabeth I.
- Queen Elizabeth I’s underwear (well, it could have been hers as it is old enough!)
- The Earl of Essex’s ring given to him by Elizabeth I
- The crown which contains Elizabeth’s earrings.

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After the museum, go back into the cloisters and follow them round. Can you find a memorial to great explorers, including Sir Francis Drake. Trace the route he travelled around the world marked in red.

Re-enter the Abbey in the Nave and have one last look around before you exit through the Great West Doors!