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The Tudor monarchs

Three generations — and a teenage queen who lasted only nine days.

English Heritage dates Tudor England from 1485 to 1603, beginning with Henry VII's victory over Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, which ended the Wars of the Roses. "England underwent huge changes during the reigns of three generations of Tudor monarchs."

Monarch	Official reign	A line from the official pages
Henry VII	r.1485–1509	Victory at Bosworth ended the Wars of the Roses.
Henry VIII	r.1509–47	In 1533 he declared that he, not the Pope, was the head of the Church in England.
Edward VI	r.1547–53	English Heritage calls him "the bookish boy-king."
Lady Jane Grey	Nine days, 1553	A great-granddaughter of Henry VII, she "reigned for only nine days" before Mary I.
Mary I	r.1553–8	"A convinced Catholic," she immediately set about reversing the Reformation.
Elizabeth I	r.1558–1603	Mary, Queen of Scots was executed in 1587 by her order. The Spanish Armada came in 1588.

A wider official heading

The National Archives groups a longer span as "Early modern (1485–1714)," covering the Tudor, Stuart and English Civil War eras. That is a different official heading, not a rewriting of English Heritage's Tudor dates.

A short quiz

1. In which year, according to English Heritage, does Tudor England begin?
2. How long did Lady Jane Grey reign?
3. When was Mary, Queen of Scots executed?

Answers. 1. 1485, at Bosworth. 2. Nine days. 3. 1587, by order of Elizabeth I.

Sources, checked 17 November 2026: English Heritage, "An Introduction to Tudor England (1485–1603)," and The National Archives, "Early modern (1485–1714)." This typographic sheet has no photographs. tudor.ages.im is independent of the official organisations.
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