

HORRIBLE HISTORIES

®

**TWO SHOWS
LIVE ON STAGE**

BY TERRY DEARY

Activity Pack



**TERRIBLE
TUDORS**



**VILE
VICTORIANS**



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SOME HORRID HISTORY FACTS WE BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW!

Queen Elizabeth 1 was one of the cleanest women in England ~ she was very proud of the fact she took a bath every three months!

Rich ladies in Elizabethan times loved wearing stiff collars called ruffs but some were so wide that ladies couldn't reach their mouths to eat ~ so silversmiths had to make extra long spoons especially for them!

Men trying to cure their baldness in the 16th century were told to shave their heads and smear them with the grease of a fox or the juice made from crushed beetles! Other Tudor remedies for sickness were to swallow powdered human skull or eat live spiders ~ covered in butter to help them slide down easier!

Football in Tudor times was much more dangerous than today. Players from one team would often physically attack the opposing team and sometimes players necks or backs were broken, shoulders or legs dislocated and bloody noses and black eyes were very common by the end of a match!

There were seven separate attempts made to kill Queen Victoria but she survived them all to become Britain's longest reigning monarch. One would-be assassin was John Francis who tried to shoot the Queen as she rode in her carriage down the Mall in London. He failed because he was so poor he couldn't afford to buy a bullet for his gun so stuffed the barrel just with tobacco!

Some poor Victorian beggar children tried the scaldrum dodge to make people feel sorry for them so give them more money. They covered their bare arms and legs with soap then rubbed vinegar onto them and the resulting mess looked like disgusting angry blisters. Some beggars would also strap up one leg under their body to look as if they'd had it cut off in battle.

Over 100 years ago children as young as 6 years old were forced to work in terrible conditions to help feed the rest of their families. Some worked in factories where they often lost fingers working huge machines and the din of the machinery made them go permanently deaf. Those working in a tanners to prepare the animal hides to make leather shoes or bags had to stand in a mixture of dog and chicken poo and rotting animals for up to 10 hours a day scraping the flesh off cow and sheep skins. For this they earned the great sum of just 8 shillings a week or 40p in today's money!

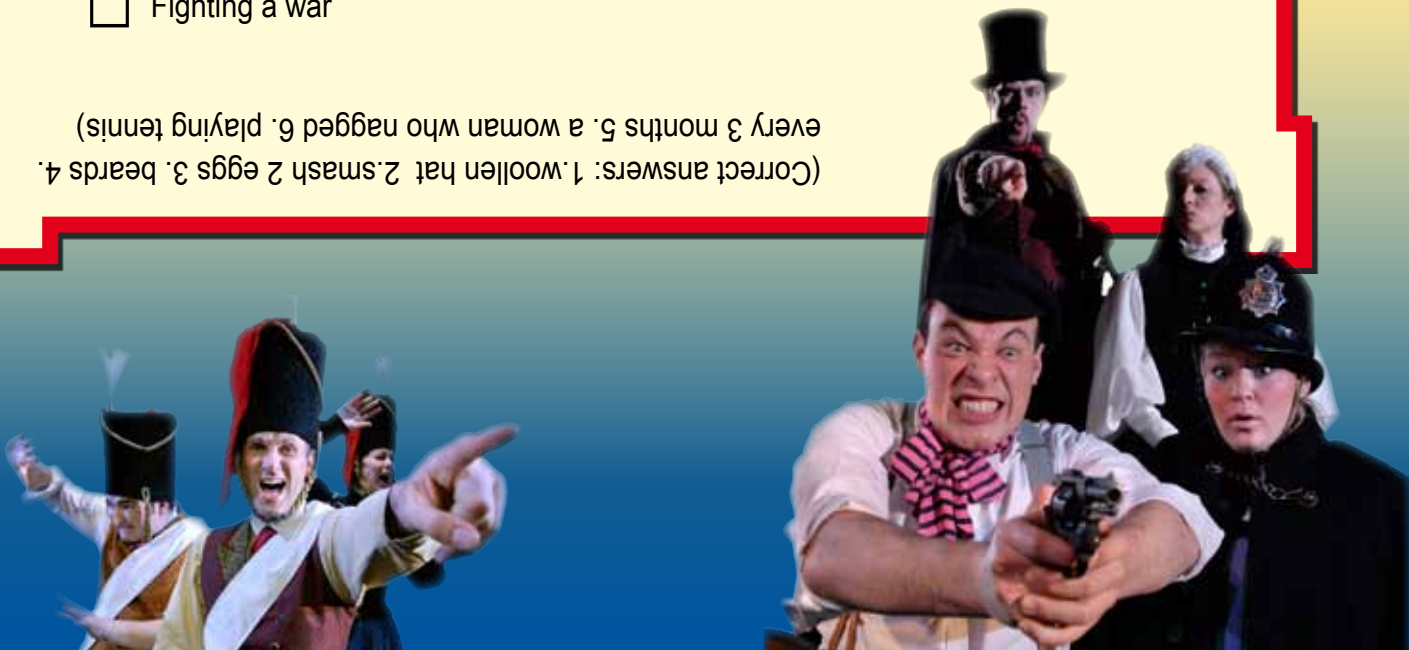


A TERRIBLE TUDORS QUIZ

(taken from *Terrible Tudors* book by Terry Deary)

- 1. Queen Elizabeth I passed a law telling people they had to wear what type of clothing on a Sunday?**
 Red shoes A cotton vest A woollen hat Blue socks
- 2. Which of these was not thought of as a cure for baldness in the Tudor period?**
 Smear the head with the grease of a fox
 Wash the head with the juice of crushed beetles
 Smash two fresh eggs on top of the head and cover in bandages overnight
 Rub crushed garlic all over the head then wash with vinegar
- 3. Queen Elizabeth created a new tax on men with what?**
 Long hair Beards Wooden legs Pimples
- 4. Queen Elizabeth was considered one of the cleanest women in the country. How often did she take a bath?**
 Once a day Once a week Once every 3 months Once in a blue moon
- 5. The 'branks' was a Tudor punishment for what sort of behaviour?**
 A woman who nagged her husband A man who sold lame horses
 A beggar who pretended illness A shopkeeper who sold rotten food to get more money
- 6. While Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn was being beheaded Henry was doing what?**
 Shedding tears Playing tennis Marrying wife number 3
 Fighting a war

(Correct answers: 1. woollen hat 2. smash 2 eggs 3. beards 4. once a week 5. a woman who nagged 6. playing tennis)



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