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Constructing History

Lawson Garrett Hammock

Richard III and the Wars of the Roses: A
Teaching Unit

Introduction

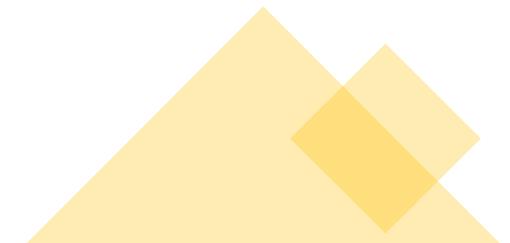
The historical life and times of Richard III of England (1452-1485) presents an especially vivid demonstration of the idea that history is constructed. Both villainized and venerated by his contemporaries, Richard has also run the gamut through modern historians' portrayals, which brings some query as to their historiological methods. This teaching unit is designed to introduce high school history students to some key concepts of artifact/document analysis. Its four activities allow students to discover for themselves the historical disjunctions that can occur between competing histories.

Another reason Richard makes for a wonderful subject is the excitement, the drama, the mystery, and the intrigue surrounding his persona. Richard's life was bigger than life, and the true events of his life were stranger than fiction. Additionally, other incredible historical characters –with their own amazing histories- are introduced into the mix multiplying the intrigue. This teaching unit aims to harness the natural wonderment that comes with objectively looking at Richard's life and then uses it to build upon students' nascent hunger for narrative and historical truth.

However, the final segment of the unit (Richard III Rediscovered) may well prove even more fascinating to many students. This section tracks from beginning to end, the discovery of a once lost grave of a king of England, and his proper reburial in the twenty-first century. Students will have the opportunity to survey the various occupations that came together to construct Richard III's modern history.



The focus of this project relies on the premise that young people find fascination in history as readily as they might music, mathematics, medicine, or any other form of science and art. Using the dramatic Wars of the Roses as a backdrop, *Constructing History: A Teaching Unit* aims to whet the historical appetite of students, and to instill in them a sense of historical awareness as individuals.





Our curriculum provides high school educators with lessons that clearly demonstrate to students the difference between academic historiography and historical narrative while highlighting the imperative for interdisciplinarity. The unit introduces and profiles figures --both likely and unlikely historians-- of various academic and public professions from the past and the present. Students will begin to understand the importance of discovering for themselves whether the histories they themselves have either accepted (or rejected) are true. Armed with this knowledge they can then determine how best to reasonably express their conclusions, leading directly to the main focal point of the project wherein students will learn that history is a cultural construct, and that especially now, all of us participate in its construction as both actors and narrators.





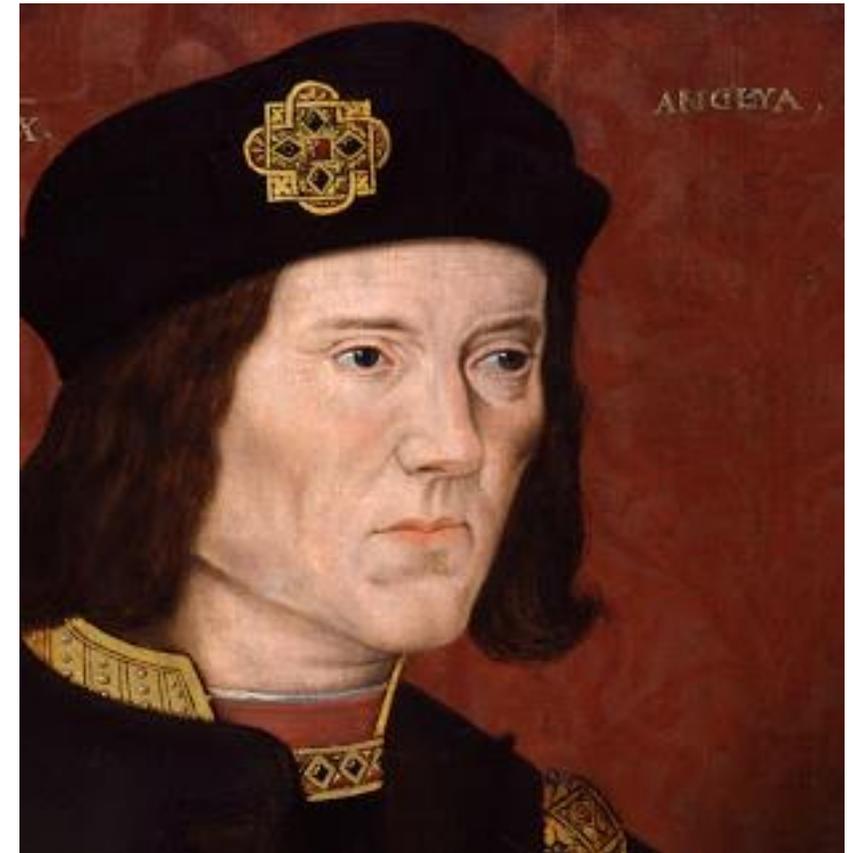
WARS OF THE ROSES: England (1455-1485)

- **Historians work to create order out of the chaos of the past. Nowhere is this more evident than with the Wars of the Roses...**

Essentially a civil war, the conflict reportedly derived its name through the choosing of red and pale flowers for use as **insignia** by each of the two warring factions. Sometimes alternating their support, each army fought for the dynastic royal houses of either York or Lancaster, both of which possessed varying degrees of legitimacy for succession to the throne because of their common ancestor, King Edward III (1312-1377). The series of battles culminated through decisive victory by a third contestant and his armies, the Welshman Harri Tudur (1457-1509) aka Henry Tudor in 1485. Though Henry also claimed royal legitimacy through the house of Lancaster, as King Henry VII he successfully reunified the two branches of royal lineage and the nation through his subsequent marriage to Elizabeth of York in 1486. His actions ushered in the strong government and royal dynasty of the house of Tudor.

RICHARD III AND HISTORY

Richard began the Wars of the Roses a mere boy, a witness to his father and older brothers' struggle for power. He also was intimately tied to the violence. When only eight years old Richard's older brother Edmund, Earl of Rutland, and his father Richard, 3rd Duke of York were killed in battle. His eldest brother Edward took over as head of the family (and 4th Duke of York) as the Wars of the Roses continued to rage. As young Richard grew, he became more involved in the family, helping his brother maintain his power and control. Richard would be made the Duke of Gloucester in 1461; he was one of his brother's closest allies and one of the most fearsome and respected battle commanders in all of Europe. After the death of his brother, the King, in 1483, Richard imprisoned his nephews the rightful heirs to his brother's crowns. Thus, was born the mystery of the *Princes in the Tower*. Securing the throne for himself, Richard became the last of his family to sit upon the English throne. Killed at Bosworth Field in 1485, he was also the last English king to die in battle. Since those days, few historical figures have been so widely and differently interpreted. Remember, history in the past and today is not only constructed but contested. Activity one evaluates some of these more important and notable constructions and interpretations.



Princes in the Tower

Princes in the Tower is a historical designation referring to Richard III's nephews Edward and Richard, whom he confined to the **Tower of London** in 1483 on the pretext that it was necessary for their physical protection; this just weeks prior to what would have been the 12-year-old Edward's coronation as King Edward V. Because both Edward and his 9-year-old brother Richard of Shrewsbury (and 6th Duke of York) represented the only legitimate successors to the throne of England, Richard III has historically been accused of their murders, although rumors to that effect did not begin to surface until 20 to 30 years after the fact. Additionally, several other historical figures had motives for being rid of the princes, and no conclusive evidence has been produced that directly ties them or anyone else to their mysterious disappearance.



Tower of London

Tower of London: The 900-year-old castle located in central London on the River Thames has been used for a variety of purposes throughout its history. Some of these include royal and guest residence, national arsenal/military barracks, museum, and prison. But it is important to understand that in its capacity as a prison its uses were just as varied. Especially during the close of the middle-ages, confinement to the Tower meant anything ranging from being starved to death while chained to a wall in its deepest recesses (especially for the powerless) to biding one's time in relative comfort with limited freedom or even outright luxury for those of noble or royal descent, even for some of those who awaited capital punishment. Today the castle's official designation is "Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London."



Since the middle-ages King Richard III (1452-1485) -or earlier, Richard Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester- represents one of at least three monarchs whose actions scholars of the period have scrutinized most.

So contentious was Richard’s short-lived reign that he was immortalized through William Shakespeare’s play *Richard III* more than a century later. But then volumes are written on the life and times of any monarch regardless of controversy. However, in an era long before freedom of the press authors needed to ensure that their histories did not upset the crown. For example, Thomas More (1478-1535) wrote his *History of King Richard III* in 1518 while employed by the Tudor king Henry VIII. In it More heralds the supremacy of the House of Tudor by denigrating the earlier Yorkist kings Edward IV and Richard III.



An Unlikely Historian/William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare (26 April 1564 – 23 April 1616) is today heralded as both the greatest writer and dramatist of the English language. But while his legacy boasts a positive historical portrayal, his theatrical plays portrayed some individuals in such a negative light that their historical reputations are all but forever tainted.

The Tragedy of Richard the Third, written in 1592, paints Richard III as a veritable monster. Depicted as repulsive, a hunchback with a withered arm among other physical maladies, Shakespeare's account has helped to negatively shape the historical legacy of Richard to this day.

It is however important to note that like Thomas More, Shakespeare lived during a time when it was highly unwise to contradict the king; James I reigned when Shakespeare wrote his play about Richard and the House of York. James was of the House of Stuart, which likely would not have succeeded had Richard stayed in power as Stuart familial connection to the throne --though indirectly-- was through the House of Lancaster. Additionally, Shakespeare drew inspiration concerning who Richard was as both a man and king from Thomas More's *The History King Richard III* to construct his own dramatization of Richard III.





John Rous

Some of the very few primary source documents pertaining to Richard III were created by his contemporary John Rous. Among these documents are the *Rous Roll* (c. 1483-84) and the Latin *Historia Regum Angliae* (History of the Kings of England) written between 1480 and 1500. One reason so little information on Richard III was produced during his lifetime is the feeble literacy rate in Europe during the middle-ages. Generally, only the privileged could read and write. Though not born to nobility, Rous was among the gentry class (or what some today might deem upper-class) and was educated at Oxford University. Rous was born at Warwickshire (probably in 1420 but not certainly) and spent most of his career as a historian chronicling and archiving the achievements of the royal House of York. His work is particularly noted by modern scholars on two contrasting levels.



Rous is credited with personally creating the elaborate illustrations included in his *Rous Roll*. A treasure trove of cultural symbolism, the ancient artworks depict both Yorkist royalty and their support among nobility in vivid and intricate detail. Rous' apparent complete reversal from praise of Richard III in the *Rous Roll* to blatant scorn in the *Historia Regum Angliae* is highly intriguing. His works clearly demonstrate changing social attitudes towards Richard III during his brief reign. John Rous died on 24 January 1492 subject to a new king, Henry VII, and in service to the succeeding dynastic House of Tudor.

Historians employ a variety of sources to construct and interpret history. Most obviously, historians use written sources as a lens for viewing and understanding the past.

Historians divide written sources into two categories: primary and secondary. A **primary** source indicates an item, be it a document, image, or artifact that was created during the period of study. Examples of primary sources may include biographies/autobiographies, court and legislative records, census and military records, original historical research and tabulation, diaries, both commissioned and folk-art, including poetry and music to name only some. Even a newspaper article can constitute a primary source provided the reporter either gave a firsthand account or quoted an eyewitness. Certainly, modern primary sources will include all the above along with statistics/data bases, photographs and videos, audio recordings and the like. Ironically, a **secondary** source may also be found among these same categories and more; the defining factor between the two is that the secondary source was created after the fact. Regarding these second-hand accounts though, historians today prefer scholarly reviewed works for their use in explaining the past.

But today historians realize that layers of interpretation are often added to historical narratives as well. Economic, political, religious, national, tribal, or familial allegiance has traditionally represented the root cause for omission and/or embellishment of historiographical narrative. **Historiography** is and has been subject to both since its beginnings. But while many modern scholars might discourage the practice of either, most agree that even fiction -intended or otherwise- can be useful in tracing historical events. Constructing history involves the careful interpretation of both primary and secondary accounts to form explanations concerning the probable intentions of peoples who shaped their own histories. In that regard, even a twenty-first century event can be historically analyzed and interpreted no differently than one might study the medieval Wars of the Roses.

The Rous Roll was created between 1483 and 1485



he moost myghty prynce Rychard by the grace
of god kyng of ynglond and of fraunce and
lord of Ireland by verrey matrimony with owt
dyscontynewans or any defylynge yn the lawe
by eyre male lineally dyscendyng from kyng harre the
second all avarice fet a fyde Rewled hys subietty In hys
Realme ful commendablylly poneschyng offenders of hys
lawes specyally Extorcioners and oppressors of hys comyns
and chereschyng tho that were vertues by the whyche dys-
crete guydyng he gat gret thank of god and love of all hys
subietty Rychard and pore and gret layd of the people of all

The Rous Roll was created
between 1483 and 1485

- Below is an excerpt from The Rous Roll created during the time of King Richard's reign.
- Presented in a modern font for clarity, see how many words you recognize. In this form, can you follow Rous' construction, or interpretation of the life and times of Richard?

The moost mighty prynce Rychard by the grace of god kynge of ynglond and of fraunce and lord of Ireland by verrey matrimony with owt dyscontynewans or any defylynge yn the lawe by eyre male lineally dyscendyng from kynge harre the second all avarice set a syde Rewled hys subjettys In hys Realme ful commendablylly poneschyng offenders of hys laws specyally Extorcioners and oppressors of hys comyns and chereschyng tho that were vertues by the whyche dyscrete guydynfe he gat gret thank of god and love of all hys subjettys Ryche and pore and gret lavd of the people of all othyr landys a bowt hym

Because **linguistics** represents an area of specialization for many modern historians, we can read the same script in a modern English translation:

Activity 1: Write a short essay answer addressing the following question:

Concerning who Richard was as a man and king, what message was Rous trying to convey to his readers?

The most mighty prince Richard -- by the grace of god king of England and of France and lord of Ireland, by very matrimony without discontinuance or any defiling in the laws, by heir male lineally descending from King Harry the second -- set aside all avarice, ruled his subjects in his realm full commendably [by] punishing offenders of his laws -- especially extortioners and oppressors of his commons -- and [by] cherishing those that were virtuous, the discreet guidance of whom brought him great thanks of god and love of all his subjects, rich and poor, and great praise of the people of all other lands about him.

HISTORY OF Historia Regum Angliae



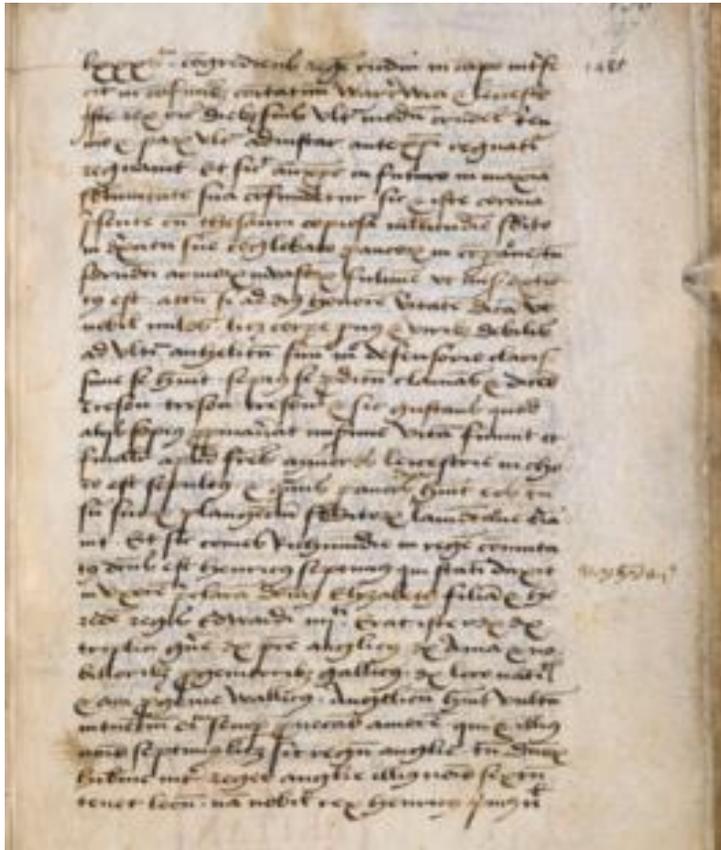
John Rous: Historian, **antiquary**, chantry priest

Because Rous possessed an advanced education –likely greater than many of his peers– his professional roles were multi-faceted. Today one who holds down more than one job might be referred to as a moonlighter, but in service to Richard’s eldest living brother, Edward IV, Rous sought to provide the king with a general history of past kings of England, which he began in 1480 (three years before Richard ascended the throne). In late medieval England three languages were in primary use for scripting official documents: Latin, English (or Middle English) and Anglo-Norman (French). The choice of which to use by authors, chroniclers, and record keepers largely depended on audience-specificity and the context for the construction and presentation of each. Some even employed more than one language in the same discourse. Whereas Rous crafted his Rous Roll in Middle English, he penned *Historia Regum Angliae* in Latin, the most formal, or regal.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/researchguidance/medievaldocuments/languages.aspx>

Rous likely borrowed much of his *History of the Kings of England* from the twelfth century Welsh **chronicler**, **anthropologist**, and **cleric** Geoffrey of Monmouth whose historiographies popularized the tales of **King Arthur**. Monmouth’s own *De gestis Britonum or Historia Regum Britanniae* or in English, *The History of the Kings of Britain* chronicled England’s pre-Roman beginnings via a mix of fact and fable. His writings were hugely popular in his day and his account of Britain’s kings was translated from its original Latin to other languages including both French and English. Though his works included mythical figures such as giants and legendary heroes such as Brutus of Troy who Monmouth alleged was the first king of England, they were considered historically credible until well past the death of John Rous in the 16th century.

Historia Regum Angliae 1480-1500



11. die assumptionis beate marie anno domini
m. ccc. lxxxv. congregiendi, regem Ricardum in cam
terfecit in confinibus comitatum Warrwici & L
striae. Iste rex Ricardus diebus suis ultra modum ci
lis triennio & parum ultra ad instar Antechristi reg
ri regnavit. Et sicut Antichristus "in futuro" in ma
ia sublimitate sua confundetur, sic & iste corona pi
nte cum thesauri copiosa multitudine subito in exerc
o conglobato paucorum in comparatione tamen ferve
armorum fulmine ut miser extinctus est. Attamen
ejus honorem veritatem dicam ut nobilis miles li
rpore parvus & viribus debilis ad ultimum anhe
m suum modo defensorio clarissime se habuit, sep
proditum clamans & dicens, **Treason, Treason, T**
n, & sic gustans quod aliis sapius propinaverat r
rime vitam finivit, & finaliter apud fratres Mino
ricestriae in choro est sepultus. Et quamvis pau
es habuit, eos tamen sine suorum plangentium sub
rum lamentatione terminavit. Et sic comes Ri
undiae in regem commutatus dictus est Henricus sep
us. Qui statim duxit in uxorem praeclaram domin
Elizabeth, filiam & heredem regis Edwardi IIIII. E
e rex ex triplici genere; ex parte Anglicus, ex Ar
nobilioribus progenitoribus Gallicus, ex loco na

Richard was born at Fotheringhay in Northamptonshire, retained within his mother's womb for two years and emerging with teeth and hair to his shoulders. ... At his nativity Scorpio was in the ascendant, which is the sign of the house of Mars. And like a scorpion he combined a smooth front with a stinging tail. He received his lord King Edward V blandly, with embraces and kisses, and within about three months or a little more he killed him together with his brother.

He was small of stature, with a short face and unequal shoulders, the right higher and the left lower.

This King Richard, who was excessively cruel in his days, reigned for three years [sic] and a little more, in the way that Antichrist is to reign. And like the Antichrist to come, he was confounded at his moment of greatest pride. ... For all that, let me say the truth to his credit: that he bore himself like a noble soldier and despite his little body and feeble strength, honorably defended himself to his last breath, shouting again and again that he was betrayed, and crying "Treason! Treason! Treason!"

Activity 2



- To what should we attribute John Rous' contradictory interpretations of Richard?
- Remember, history is constructed
- What do you suppose may have caused John Rous to reconstruct his history of Richard III?
- For this activity simply list three potential reasons.



Princes in the Tower 1495-1499

Princes in the Tower 1495-1499: Ironically, even Henry Tudor (Henry VII) - ultimate victor of the Wars of the Roses and dynastic successor of Richard III as King of England- was in some ways bound, through social constraint, to play an essential part in extending the mounting cultural mythology surrounding the missing princes of York.

He had already been king for a decade when a would-be usurper to his throne claimed to be the younger of the princes, Richard. Identified by Henry as a commoner, Perkin Warbeck of Flanders successfully gathered 6000 troops to challenge Henry's legitimacy as king of England. Warbeck found many influential supporters especially among die-hard Yorkists. But he also gained much needed support from the likes of the Duchess of Burgundy, the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian, Charles VII of France, and James IV of Scotland, all of whom were Tudor's political rivals.

But when Warbeck's fourteen ships landed at Kent (July 3rd, 1495) to return the throne to the House of York, his troops were routed before his ship even had time to land. Other imposters also surfaced during Henry's reign, but this event marks the last time Henry was forced to take military action to protect his throne from Yorkist dissidents.



The Plot Thickens

During a building renovation in 1674, what were believed to be the remains of the young princes were found in a wooden box buried beneath a stairwell in the tower. The bones were taken to Westminster Abbey and interred, complete with a monument memorializing the princes. Then, in 1933 an anatomist, a dental expert, and the principal archivist for the Abbey conducted an examination of the remains to determine the cause of death(s). Today, however, their work is largely criticized by modern scholars because of its presumptive determination that the remains were in fact those of the princes. Moreover, there have been other discoveries of human remains in the tower, even some likely those of children. Lastly, although modern forensic anthropology is well acquainted with the difficulties associated with determining age and sex of fragmented skeletal remains, the 1933 examination is considered flawed as they made no scientific attempt at differentiating either.



The Making of Henry VII

Richard III's prowess as a military strategist, commander, and individual fighter far outweighed that of his adversary Henry Tudor who, though trained per royal protocol, possessed no battlefield experience. Richard learned of Tudor's intent to overthrow him through a series of failed uprisings led by the once Yorkist supporter and confidante of his dead brother Edward IV, Henry Stafford (2nd Duke of Buckingham). But while the revolts alerted Richard to Buckingham's betrayal, they also bolstered confidence in Welsh and English support for Tudor, who had been exiled in France. Richard quickly squelched every attempt at his throne including the last, in which Tudor --who was ported offshore of Plymouth-- waited a week before learning of Buckingham's failure. He turned back for France.

Buckingham was later captured (most likely due to the bounty Richard had placed on his head) and eventually executed for treason. However, Henry Tudor rallied, and gambled his support of one-time Yorkists and Lancastrians combined with his familial ties to Wales was greater than Richard's total base of allegiance. His theory was tested and proven correct despite Richard's military advantage at the Battle of Bosworth Field 22 August 1485, and the crown of England represented the enormous payoff for the risk he took.

The March from Pembroke through Wales

Distance from Dale to Welshpool:
134 milltir (216 km)

134 milltir (216 km)

● Places where Henry Tudor and his men camped for the night

● Route of Henry Tudor

● Route of Rhys ap Thomas



THE MARCH TOWARD BOSWORTH FIELD Summer 1485

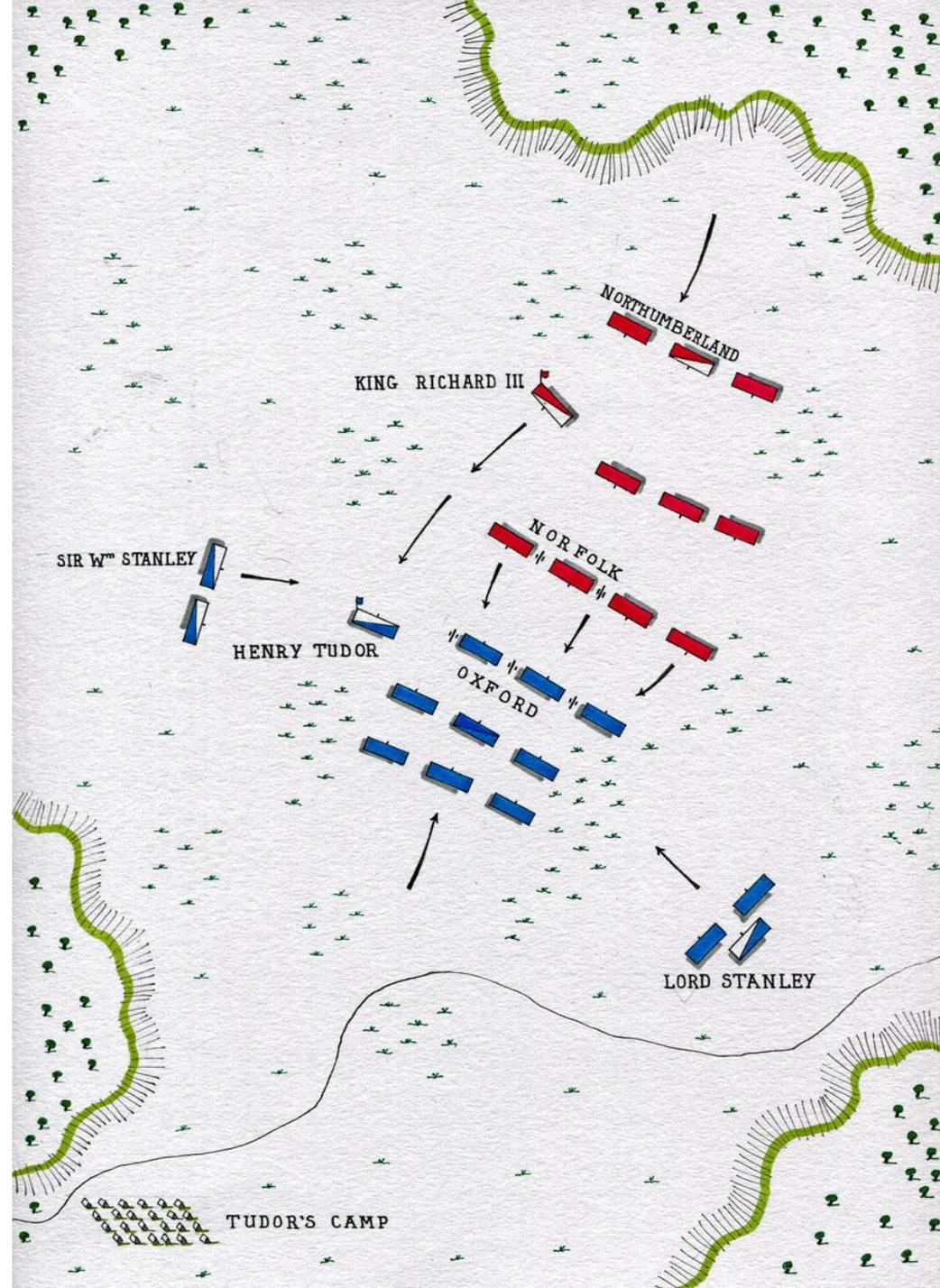
- Henry returned from Normandy, France with 2000 mercenaries landing in West Wales on 7 August 1485. Accompanied by his uncle Jasper Tudor (the Earl of Oxford) he advanced toward London via Shrewsbury gathering the support and troops of both Lancastrian and Yorkist nobility. Richard also recruited military support from all over England including Wales, where he procured as sub-commanders Sir Rice ap Thomas and Sir Walter Herbert. But he was soon disappointed by his Welsh contingency's delay in arrival to the battle.
- Ironically, both Richard and Henry expected support from some of the same knights and nobles. Among these were the powerful Stanley family i.e., Lord Stanley and Sir William Stanley. But Richard had previously held Lord Stanley's son (George Stanley aka Lord Strange) hostage as collateral in hopes of ensuring Stanley's military support. On the other hand, Henry anticipated their support based on Lord Stanley's marriage to his mother, Margaret Beaufort of Lancashire.



Richard III: Late Medieval Warrior King

With the king as supreme commander, Richard and his army --accompanied by his sub-commanders, the Duke of Norfolk and the Earl of Northumberland-- intercepted Henry's outnumbered forces at Ambion Hill, just south of Market Bosworth in Leicestershire. Henry relied fully on the extensive battle experience of his uncle, the Earl of Oxford, who assumed chief command of the Tudor faction. Additionally, the Stanleys positioned their forces as to give both sides the impression of their support.

The Stanley cohort was reluctant to engage in warfare on behalf of either side before knowing which would be the likely victor. Richard was assured of their deception upon ordering Lord Stanley's attack at the threat of his son's life who was yet in Richard's custody. But Stanley called Richard's bluff when purportedly replying through a battlefield messenger, "I have two other sons."



After a lengthy struggle by Norfolk's men against Tudor's, many took flight, and then Northumberland also failed to charge as ordered by Richard. As Richard witnessed the pitiful routing of his armies, he caught sight of Henry, his would-be usurper unprotected by his knights who were otherwise engaged in the fury of battle.

RICHARD III

Last of English Kings to Die on the Battlefield

At this juncture Richard took his own gamble and charged into the lower marshes in effort to personally dispatch his enemy. But by the time he reached his target, Stanley and his men had surged to rescue Henry. Richard's last moments as the warrior King of England found him on horseback, mired in bog mud, surrounded by Stanley's men, bravely defending his kingdom. John Rous said he fought courageously shouting "traitor, traitor, traitor" and that his was a violent yet valiant death.



An unceremonious burial for a king



- Richard was not afforded the burial of a king. Instead of being interred at Westminster his body was taken to Leicester and crudely buried by the abbots at Greyfriars in the friary church.
- Over time, because of his hasty burial and the eventual demolition of the friary, the exact whereabouts of Richard's grave became unknown.



Cultural Symbols

Found on the battlefield, these relics exhibit the importance of late medieval cultural symbology. On the left is a coin bearing Richard's likeness. Above is a gold amulet which symbolized Richard's preeminence as king of England.

The middle-ages come to an end



The historical significance of the defining battle of the Wars of the Roses cannot be overemphasized. The showdown at Bosworth Field marked the end of Plantagenet rule by both houses of Lancaster and York. It also presented to the British Isles an era of relative peace under the strong Tudor government. This set England on course for the eventual development of its modern parliamentary government and ultimately propelled medieval Europe into the early modern period.

The *Looking for Richard Project* began in 2004 with a visit by screenwriter Philippa Langley to the Leicester Social Services parking lots in hopes of finding clues as to Richard's final resting place.

- Langley had already been conducting research for a screenplay on the life of Richard III and became convinced after review of original and secondary sources that the car park was close to where the medieval Greyfriars monastery, Richard's purported burial site, once stood. At the same time the BBC had commissioned historian and genealogist Dr. John Ashdown-Hill to determine the historical facts pertaining to Richard's death and burial.
- His extensive research and findings were compiled in a book-length monograph titled *The Last Days of Richard III* (2004). In 2009 when Langley and Ashdown-Hill finally met, the project was taken under the wing of the Richard III Society -chartered in 1924- whose affiliation had focused on the proximity of the probable burial site since the 1960s. In 1962 historian and author Audrey Strange even approached the Leicester Museum Service to request excavation of the Greyfriars precinct site.

Ricardians: Historians, Authors, and Scientists

The Richard III Society credits Philippa Langley for spearheading the enormous undertaking of locating and recovering Richard's remains. Beginning with convincing the Leicester City Council of the operation's importance, it took three long years before approval for archaeological excavation was finally granted. Langley spent much of that period drumming up support and funding for the project. But logistical organization for the archaeological expedition, especially amidst a bustling city, posed as many challenges. Fortunately, the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was locally operated.

After acquiring a grant from the Richard III Society, Langley was able to formally commission the ULAS to begin the necessary preliminary tasks such as document assessment, that included examination of a 1741 map of Leicester and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) surveys. Payment for archaeological contractors to perform the actual dig accounted for the greatest monetary expense. When she was joined by communications professional and author Annette Carson, a last-minute funding shortfall (£10,000) was remedied through their lobby of fellow “**Ricardians**,” people who hold an active interest in the legacy of Richard III.

Amazing Discoveries

At long last Philippa Langley's vision was realized on 25 August 2012, the anniversary of Richard's original burial. Astounded by the entire team's fortune of unearthing the grave on the very first day of the dig, Langley stated, "By the time he had been freed from his surroundings, and we saw his curved spine and battle wounds, I needed no further proof. We had to wait for the scientific tests, of course ... but for me, my quest was over." Subsequent radio-carbon testing confirmed the subject perished near the turn of the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries, consistent with the date of the battle of Bosworth field in 1485.

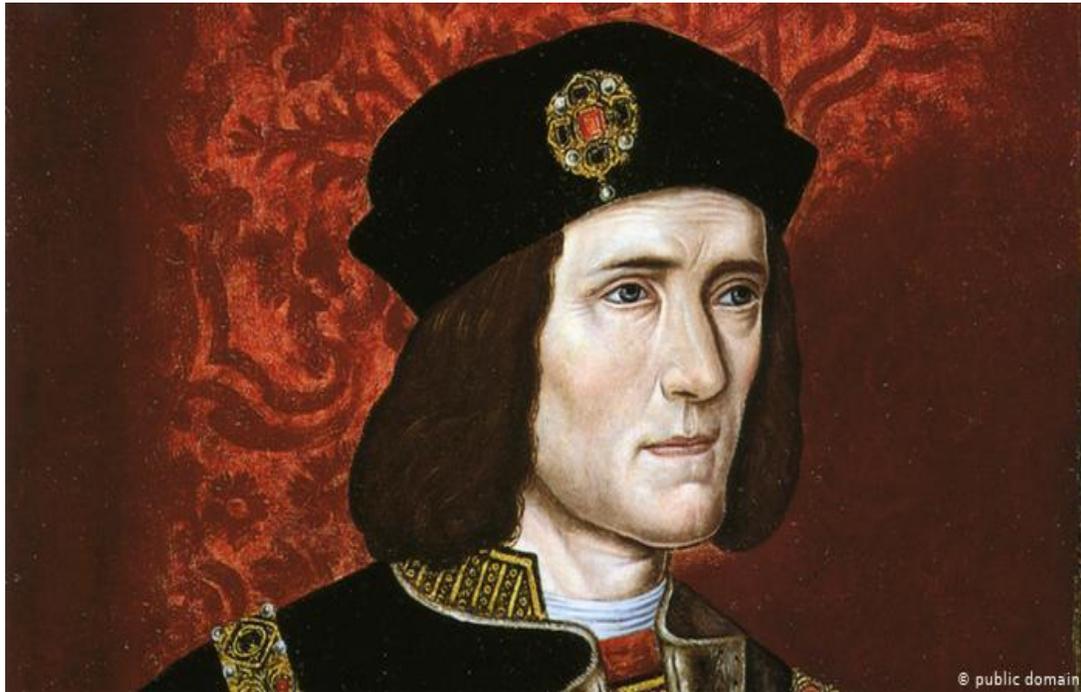
But conclusive DNA evidence as to Richard's identity was provided by John Ashdown-Hill, who had made a most remarkable discovery whilst Langley pursued hers. He had tracked down two direct descendants of Richard's sister, Anne of York, through mitochondrial (or all-female line) genetic research. One of these, a woman, currently resides in Canada, while her son lives in England. Both possessing and matching Richard III's mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) scientifically confirms the authenticity of Langley's (and the team's) achievement.



Richard III's remains were reinterred at the Leicester Cathedral amidst much pomp and celebration on 26 March 2015...

Richard's Repatriation

...but not before the task was set for his 3-D facial image reconstruction, which fell to Dr. Caroline Wilkinson, Professor of Craniofacial Identification at the University of Dundee. Funded by the Richard III Society, the finished product was unveiled in February of 2013. Members of the Society were jubilant with finding that Richard looked nothing like the numerous depictions of the past, which so often portrayed the king with contorted body and facial features. According to the Society: “After his death, many portraits deliberately added narrowed eyes and mean lines,” and further, “We have already discovered he had no kyphosis [hunchback] or withered arm.” This contrast between ancient and modern depiction of Richard III demonstrates the immense social influence of cultural symbology. Professor Wilkinson and her reconstruction team were duly praised by the Society as follows: “Congratulations and thanks are in order, but these words somehow don't seem adequate to recognize such art, skill and loving craftsmanship.”





Activity 3

What other careers do you suppose training in history might prepare you for?
See how many you can list below.



PRINCES IN THE TOWER: Moving forward

Princes in the Tower moving forward: After the enormous success of the Richard III Society's Philippa Langley and John Ashdown-Hill and their discovery, exhumation, and positive DNA identification of Richard III's skeletal remains, they -- along with others from the academic community -- have repeatedly lobbied Westminster Abbey to release for re-examination the alleged remains of the Princes in the Tower. To date their appeals have been rejected. The society regards the ability to glean such scientific evidence as crucial because of their commitment to venerating Richard's historical reputation, which, as they see it, has been wrongfully denigrated. Since then, another of their associates, genealogist Glen Moran, has located the 16-times great grand daughter of Jacquetta of Luxembourg, the princes' own maternal grandmother. She is a famous British opera singer by the name of Elizabeth Roberts. With her DNA sample and modern advances in mitochondrial research, access to the remains, or to the other bones found since then, could well completely exonerate or condemn Richard III for the princes' demise.



Write a paragraph explaining what you think should be done with the alleged remains of the Princes in the Tower.

Should Westminster Abbey release them for a modern scientific examination, leave them be, or something else?

Activity 4



Richard's commemoration has transformed from a simple plaque on an exterior wall near his original burial site to a museum and visitor's center fit for the remembrance of a king.



Glossary

- **Anthropology**: The scientific study of human beings -both past and present- in relation to their physical and social world. Anthropologists generally practice their science within the framework of one of four main branches: archaeology, physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, and linguistics.
- **Antiquary**: An antiquarian is one who not only studies the past but also collects (usually through trade) material artifacts she deems valuable, such as antiques.
- **Artifact**: A portable object made by human hands that most often bears some degree of historical or cultural significance or value.
- **Chronicler**: One who records (most generally meaning in written form) accounts of significant events of the past and present.
- **Cleric**: A priest or other religious leader, especially within the contexts of Catholicism and Islam.
- **Cultural Symbol**: A human-made physical item that denotes (or symbolizes) and expresses the beliefs, traditions, and values of a particular group within that group and/or to others. These can include movable artifacts such as artwork or weaponry, but they also pertain to stationary things (called features by archaeologists) like architecture and landscaping, and their trendings.
- **Historiography**: 1. The total historical writing on any given subject. 2. The construction of history: meaning not only the chronicling of what happened, but also the capture of what is said to have happened within a given historical subject.

House of Lancaster

Royal house

The House of Lancaster was a sub-branch of the royal House of Plantagenet. The first house was created when King Henry III of England created the Earldom of Lancaster



House of Stuart

Royal house

The House of Stuart, originally Stewart, was a royal house of Scotland, England, Ireland and later Great Britain. The family name comes from the office of High Steward of Scotland, which had been held by the family scion Walter fitz Alan.



House of Tudor

Royal house

The House of Tudor was an English royal house of Welsh origin, descended from the Tudors of Penmynydd.



House of York

Royal house

The House of York was a junior branch of the English royal House of Plantagenet. Three of its members became kings of England in the late 15th century. The House of York descended in the male line from Edmund of Langley, 1st Duke of York, the fourth surviving son of Edward III.



Glossary

- **Insignia:** 1 : a badge of authority or honor. 2 : a distinguishing mark or sign. An insignia is a cultural symbol.
- **King Arthur:** King Arthur was a mythical English monarch who, according to medieval histories and romances, led the defense of Britain against Saxon invaders in the late 5th and early 6th centuries.
- **Linguistics:** The branch of anthropology that specializes in the study of language formation. Linguists use science to study among other things individual gestures, vocal sounds, words, and phrases to trace their origins, enabling linguists to tie them to a specific cultural group.
- **Ricardians:** People who have an active interest with the legacy of Richard III. Most donate not only money, but time and professional support to see Richard's historical veneration.

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