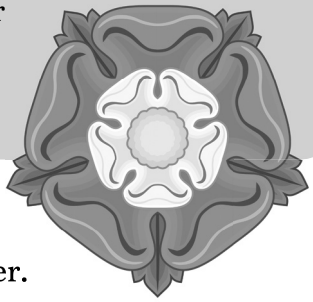
BathAbbey

Tudor rose

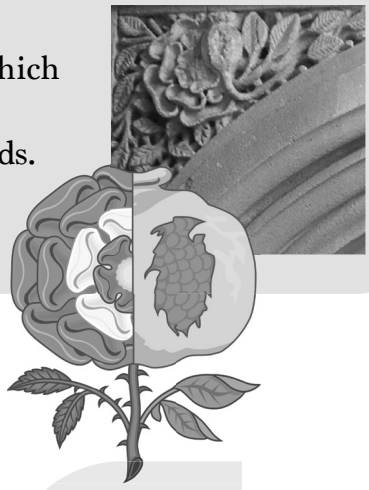
The Tudor rose appears as a stone carving both inside and on the outside of Bath Abbey. It is the traditional floral heraldic emblem of England. It symbolises the joining of the House of Lancaster and the House of York by the Tudor King Henry VII. He won the War of the Roses between the two Houses in 1485.



The Tudor rose consists of five white inner petals, representing the House of York, and five red outer petals to represent the House of Lancaster.

Henry VII did not use the emblem a lot but Henry VIII used it more often. It appears in the Chantry Chapel in Bath Abbey. The construction of the Chapel started in approximately 1515, during Henry VIII's reign.

There is another version in the Chantry Chapel which shows the rose joined with Katherine of Aragon's emblem, a pomegranate split open to show the seeds. Possibly it commemorated their marriage in 1509.



A third version appears on the outside of the Abbey. It has a crown above the rose and is more worn as it has been exposed to the weather.

On the next page are some Tudor rose art and craft ideas.

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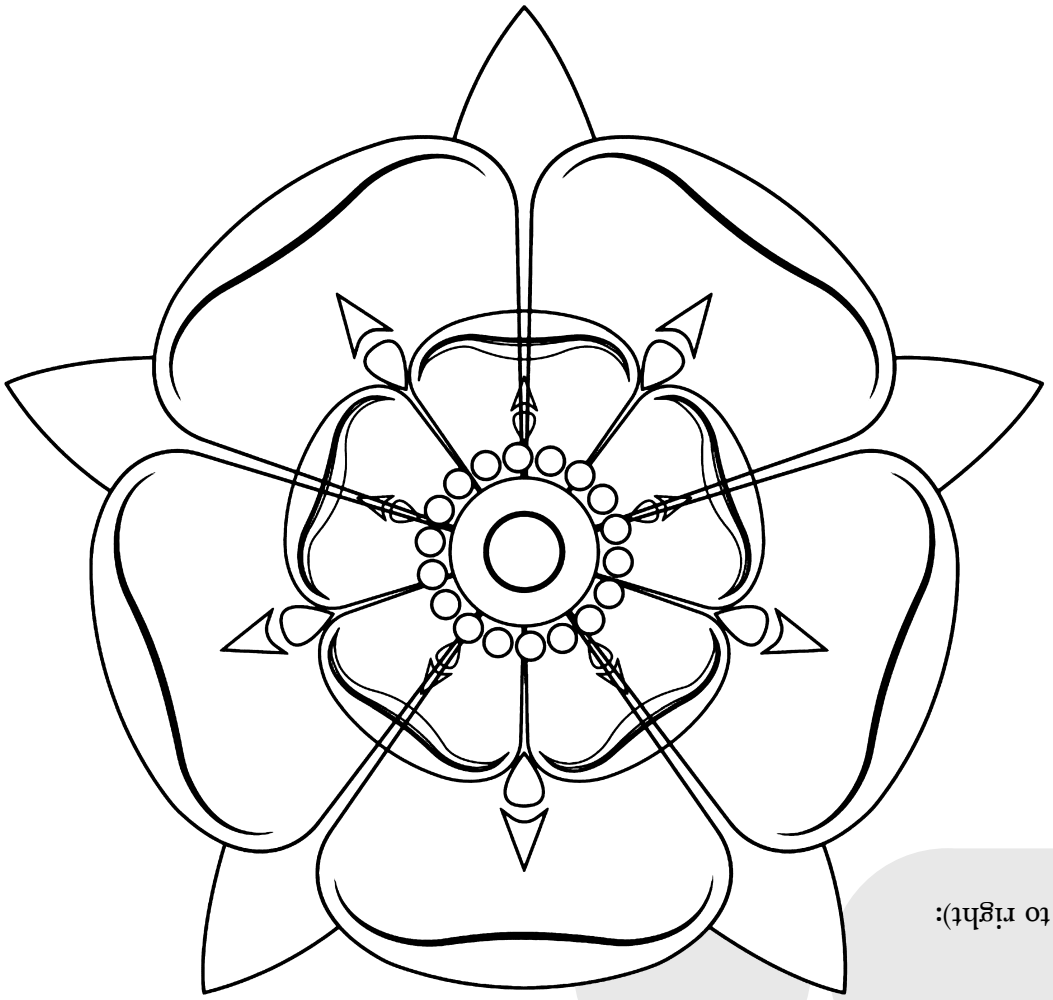
Activity ideas

1. Colour in the rose below. Perhaps you would like to change the colours to your favourite ones.
2. Why not design your own flower which you feel represents your family. What kind of petals will you choose? Will you add a crown on top?
3. Model your own Tudor Rose using plasticine or clay if you have any in your house or school.
4. See if you can find out which Tudor Kings or Queens had these royal emblems (answers below).

Phoenix

Crowned harp

Altar and sword



Answers (left to right):
Elizabeth I
Edward VI
Mary I

Images author: Wikipedia/Sodacan.

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