



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

KSI-KS3

## TIMELINE

# Eltham Palace

This resource pack has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to Eltham Palace, which provides essential insights into the royal medieval and Tudor courts and 1930s Art Deco interior design. Use these resources on site or in the classroom to help students get the most out of their learning at the palace.



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Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** and **Discovery Visit Risk Assessments** to help with planning.

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Step into England's story

**NORMANS**  
 1066 – 1154

1066

William the Conqueror was victorious at the Battle of Hastings. The Norman Conquest of England began.

1086

The Domesday Book was completed.


**MEDIEVAL**  
 1154 – 1484

1272

Edward I was crowned king.

1307

Edward I died and his son, Edward II, became king.

1327

Edward II was forced to give up his crown. His son, Edward III, became king.

1348

Edward III founded the Order of the Garter.

1377–99

Reign of Richard II.

1399–1413

Reign of Henry IV.

1455

The War of the Roses began.

1461

Edward of York defeated the Lancastrians at the Battle of Towton and took the throne as Edward IV.

**TUDORS**  
 1485 – 1603

1491

Prince Henry (later Henry VIII) was born. He spent a lot of his childhood at Eltham Palace.

1491–47

Reign of Henry VIII.



1558–1603

Reign of Elizabeth I.


**STUARTS**  
 1603 – 1714

1603–25

Reign of James I.

1625

Charles I was crowned king.

1642

The English Civil War began.

1649

Charles I was executed.



1660

The monarchy was restored. Charles II was crowned king.

**GEORGIANS**  
 1714 – 1830

1820

George, the Prince Regent was crowned George IV.

1830–37

Reign of William IV.

**20TH CENTURY**  
 1901 – 1999

1936

Edward VIII was crowned king. The largest British cruise ship ever built, the **Queen Mary**, sailed for the first time. Edward VIII abdicated the throne. His brother, George VI, was crowned king.



1939–45

The Second World War.

1000

1200

1300

1400

1500

1600

1800

1900

2000

1086

Eltham Palace was recorded in the Domesday Book as Eltham manor. It belonged to Bishop Odo of Bayeux, the half-brother of William the Conqueror.


**11TH**  
 CENTURY

1295

Antony Bek, Bishop of Durham, became owner of Eltham manor.

c.1295

Bishop Bek built a large manor house, with a great hall, a defensive wall surrounded by a moat and a hunting park.


**13TH**  
 CENTURY

1311

Bishop Bek died and Edward II gave Eltham manor to his queen, Isabella.

1316

Edward and Isabella's son, Prince John of Eltham, was born at Eltham manor.

c.1340s

Edward III extended Eltham manor and it became a large royal palace.

c.1380s

Richard II created a garden, a dancing chamber and rebuilt the north bridge in stone.

**14TH**  
 CENTURY

c.1400

Henry IV built new apartments for himself with stone chimney stacks and stained-glass windows.

1475–80

Edward IV built the great hall.

1482

Edward IV hosted Christmas celebrations for 2,000 people at the palace.

**15TH**  
 CENTURY

1517

A tiltyard was built near the palace.

c.1520s

The palace was extended for Henry VIII, including a new chapel and a new privy garden.

1525

Cardinal Wolsey wrote the Eltham Ordinances at the palace.

**16TH**  
 CENTURY

1603

James I described Eltham Palace as 'farre in decay'. He made repairs to the buildings.

1617–1632

Parts of the palace started to collapse.

1648

Parliamentary troops destroyed many of the palace buildings.

1651

Eltham Palace was sold to Nathaniel Rich, a parliamentarian colonel. He knocked down many of the remaining buildings.

**17TH**  
 CENTURY

1828

The great hall was repaired by the Office of Works (more work was carried out in 1903 and 1911–14).

c.1830

Two gentlemen's residences were built in the grounds of the palace. The great hall was used as a tennis court.


**19TH**  
 CENTURY

1936

Stephen and Virginia Courtauld moved in to Eltham Palace. They built a modern Art Deco-style house and restored the great hall.

1940

Four German bombs damaged the roof of the great hall during the Battle of Britain.

1944

Stephen and Ginie left Eltham Palace for Scotland.

1945–92

The palace was used by the Royal Army Educational Corps.

**20TH**  
 CENTURY