



*Good day to you and welcome to my home - Ordsall Hall. The Hall is 700 years old and I lived in the time of the Tudor Royal family. Let me show you my home.*

## ***Prithee, come into THE GREAT HALL***



This is where the family and their servants lived and ate their meals.

The Lord and his family sat at the top table to show how important they were.

The rich people sat at the top table, the poor people sat at the low table.

The Lord ate meals from silver or pewter plates.

The poorer people ate from a wooden board called a trencher.

There were only spoons and knives to eat with. Did you know there were no forks until the 1600s!

Good table manners began to be important 500 years ago

### **ACTIVITY 1**

**Look at the napkins or ask the staff:** Write TWO things Elizabethans said to do at the table:

1

2

What did Elizabethans say to do at the table?

## ACTIVITY 2

### After dinner fun

How do you think the Elizabethans had fun after a meal?

Play football

Watch TV

Listen to musicians

Playstation games

Read books

Put frogs on the floor

## ACTIVITY 3

These were important symbols in Tudor times:

Can you find

Match the name

Where is it?



grapes

on the window



Quatrefoil  
(Four leaves)

on the table



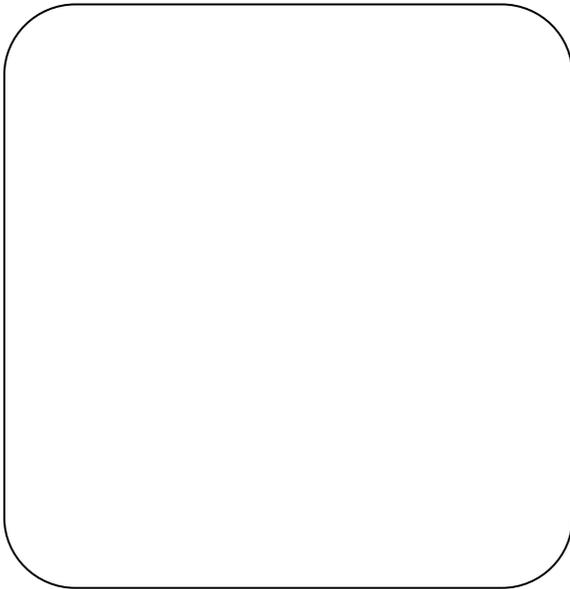
Welsh Dragon

on the ceiling

Look on the next page for the  
answers

## ANSWERS

### ACTIVITY 1 and 2



#### **Listen to musicians**

Musicians, or minstrels, were popular in Tudor times. They travelled from place to place and played in rich people's houses. The Tudors also liked dancing.

#### **Put frogs on the floor**

They put out the candles and put frogs on the floor to scare each other. Great fun!

### ACTIVITY 3



The quatrefoil was a new design in Tudor times. **It is on the ceiling.**



The Welsh dragon was important because the Tudor family came from Wales. **It is on the table.**



The grapes are a Catholic symbol. When Henry VIII divorced his wife he argued with the Catholic church and banned\* the religion. Rich families paid the king so they could pray as Catholics. **They are on the window.**

\*banned = not allowed

**Before you go, look at the cupboards.**

The heavy wooden cupboards are called **dressers**. The family kept clothes, bedding and other possessions in them. Families did not have a lot of furniture in those days.



*The two dressers in the dark wood are original Tudor furniture. This means they are over 500 years old!*

*Don't touch them!*



***An it please thee, go down three steps into  
THE STAR CHAMBER***

1 Why do you think it is called the STAR CHAMBER?

- a) the head of the family slept here
- b) special visitors stayed here
- c) there are gold stars on the ceiling

2 What do you think the style of bed is called?

- a) a four poster bed
- b) a state bed
- c) a canopy bed



**The bedroom was not just a place for sleeping. The master of the house used it as an office and took care of his business here. Only rich people could read and write in Tudor times, most people signed their name with an X.**



**3 On the desk: What did the Tudors use to write with?  
What is the special name?**

- a) a feather
- b) a quill
- c) a tickler



The metal clothing is a suit of armour. This is what the master of the family put on to fight enemies in battle.

**4 Who had armour?**

- a) rich men
- b) poor men

**Heigh Ho, let us *ascend* the stairs to the Lady's room**

Go through the door next to the desk and climb the stairs.  
Talk to your classmates. Guess the answers to the questions.  
Check with your teacher



**1 How many baths did a lady have in one year?**

- a) one a week
- b) one a month
- c) one every six months





The curtains on the bed are decorated with the pattern of a pomegranate\*.

\*Pomegranate = a fruit with many seeds

## 2 Why did the Elizabethans like this pomegranate pattern?

- a) they were very sweet
- b) they represent fertility (lots of babies!)
- c) only the very rich people ate them



## 3 What is the collar of the dress called?

- a) a frill
- b) a truffle
- c) a ruff

Can you see the original part of the wall?

What do you think it is made of?

It is called 'wattle and daub'.



## Pray, mount the stairs to The Coat of Arms room

Go up the stairs near the fire.

In the next room, talk to your classmates. Find the coat of arms.



The Coat of Arms was the sign of a rich and powerful family. John Radclyffe was the head of the family at Ordsall.

**Can you see the Tudor roses?**

Which TWO modern letters can you see carved on it?

a) **J R**

b) **I R**

c) **I K**

Remember Tudors  
wrote some letters  
differently!

**Did you know.....**



**The green wallpaper is *an exact copy* of some wallpaper from Victorian times.**

**Would you like it in *your* bedroom?**



## Perchance you might like to see the kitchens?

Follow the instructions to find the kitchen:

Go back down the stairs through the Star Chamber and through the Great Hall.  
Go through the door to the reception area.

Walk straight ahead to the kitchen.

The Elizabethans loved food so the kitchen was an important room. In Tudor times English cooking was the best in the world – even the French loved our food.

*Tick which birds you think the family ate:*



*Look for clues in the kitchen and hall*

*Peacock*

*Goose*

*Blackbird*

*Duck*

*Swan*

*Pigeon*



**Look for the glass circle on the floor.**

**1 What do you think was here?**

- a) A well
- b) A toilet
- c) A hiding place from enemies

## 2 What did people drink in Tudor times?

- a) tea
- b) water
- c) beer

Remember to check  
your answers with your  
teacher.

## 3 What colour are the carrots on the table?

- a) white
- b) purple
- c) orange

The Tudors cooked meat over a fire on a stick called a *spit*. Someone had to turn the meat all the time to stop it burning.



Look at the pig on the table.

**Is there anything unusual about it?**

It is the front of a pig with the legs of a hen. It is called a cockentrice. The Tudors liked to play with food!

## 4 What is the name of this fish?

- a) pike
- b) eel
- c) cod



The Tudors ate anything they could find. The Radclyffe family kept eels alive in their moat\* outside the house.

\*moat = a piece of water next to the house

**Go through the door behind the fire and look left.** This is the *smoke room* where the Tudors used the smoke from the fire to make meat last longer and stop it from rotting.



**Hey nonny nonny, let us finish our visit by climbing to the attic**

**Go past the fire, along the corridor and through the door on the right. Climb the stairs to the attic.**

The servants slept up here. The Radclyffes were a rich family and had a lot of servants.



**Talk to your classmates:**

Was there a bathroom up here?

What do you think it smelled like?

Please leave this page at the exit.

**What do you think?**

We need your help to make our visit better!

What TWO things do you like best and why?

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

What question do you want to ask about the hall?

\_\_\_\_\_

Where are you from? \_\_\_\_\_

How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you come again? \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS to questions after the Great Hall.

The Star Chamber

1 – c: gold stars on the ceiling

2 – a: four poster

3 – b: a quill

4 – a: rich men

The Lady's room

1 – c: every 6 months

2 – b: fertility

3 – c: a ruff

The Coat of Arms room

1 – c: the lady's servant

2 – b: I R (J was written like I  
in Tudor times)

The Kitchen

They ate ALL the birds

1 – a: a well

2 – c: beer (this was a common drink for everyone. Even children drank 'small beer'. *Tea was used as a medicine by the Tudors, not as a hot drink. Water was not clean enough to drink in Tudor times*)

3 –

4 – b: eel

Elizabethan speech

<http://ringofsteel.org/reference/elb03.jpg>