

The Battle of Bosworth

King Richard III of England

The Wars of Roses began in the middle of the 1400s. It was called this because each side of the battle was represented by a rose.

Richard III was a Yorkist king, but he was not popular with everybody. He may have been a good king, but some people thought that he had killed members of his own family!

After Richard's older brother died (King Edward IV), his son, also called Edward, should have been the next king. However, he was only 12 years old so Richard made important decisions about the country until the child was old enough to be crowned king.

Eventually Richard was crowned king and he had his brother's sons put in the Tower of London. They were never seen again. There are rumours that he had them killed so that he could always be king.



Henry Tudor

Henry Tudor also had a claim to the English throne so he wanted to get Richard off it! This meant that Henry needed money if he was going to get a strong enough army together to fight Richard and his army.

Henry had about 500 loyal followers and 1500 French soldiers but he needed more. He sailed from France to Wales and then Henry's army marched to the English border.

Henry managed to get the support and money of some of the most important landowners in South Wales, and made promises about what he would give them as a reward if they helped him and he became king.

Then Henry turned to his stepfather, Lord Stanley, and his brother, Sir William Stanley, for support. Both of these men owned land and gave Henry money.

