

Keeping the Crown

Henry married Elizabeth of York, the daughter of his enemy. This marriage meant that the fighting between the two families ended as they were now one.

This was a political marriage, not done out of love but out of a desire to end the War of the Roses. Elizabeth gave Henry two sons; Arthur and Henry.

Henry forced rich nobles to pay him a lot of money. He sent out people to find expensive-looking homes, where they would force the owners to pay a 'loan' to the king that was never paid back. This had the effect of giving him more money to spend on guards and giving the nobles less money to cause trouble with.

Henry forced France to give him money to prevent England invading, giving Henry even more money.

At the same time, he increased taxes for the nobles with the excuse of needing it to fight the French!

Henry showed everyone that he was rich and powerful. He wore expensive clothes and threw expensive parties to impress people, and to let them know he was the boss.

As king, Henry VII passed a law banning private armies in England. This meant that rich lords and ladies could no longer have their own armies and so the king was much safer. Henry had seen the damage the War of the Roses had caused and figured this move would prevent such future wars.

Henry invested a lot of money in the military. He was especially fond of modern technology and made sure he had the best cannons money could buy.

People knew well that Henry had the best army going.

Henry made friends with England's powerful neighbour Spain by marrying his son, Arthur, to the Spanish princess Catherine of Aragon.

When Arthur died, Henry instead married his other son (Henry VIII) to her instead.

