



# Henry VII: A Decision Making Game

If you can do this via chat or something in pairs or small groups that would be great as then you could discuss the options properly like we would in class

# Henry VII's Survival Game



You can use the Survival Game in two ways:

1. As an introduction to the events and issues of Henry VII's reign. Completing this game will give you an outline of the main events and this will help you start reading with more confidence.
2. For revision – to revise the key issues and events of Henry VII's reign.

# Your Task



Your task is to take the kinds of decisions that Henry faced. You're not trying to guess what Henry did, but make your choice of the best decisions.

You start with 6 crowns but you lose them if you make a bad decision.

If you lose all 6  
... you'll have lost your throne  
..... failed your dynasty  
..... and probably be dead!



Cross  
these off  
as you go  
through  
the games

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August/September 1485

# FIRST DECISIONS

# Marriage



You have already promised to marry Edward IV's daughter Elizabeth, to win the support of Yorkists who opposed Richard III.

But English kings usually marry foreign princesses to cement diplomatic links. Edward IV's marriage to an Englishwoman created rivalries and jealousies.

It's time for you to decide.

# Marriage: Options



- a. **Marry Elizabeth of York** – unite the families of York and Lancaster and reduce the chance of rebellion
- b. **Marry a French princess** – France gave you aid in 1485 and might give powerful support against English rebels
- c. **Marry a Spanish princess** – this will warn France that you won't be easily dominated

# Councillors



You need advisers. You have not been trained as king and you know hardly any of the important landowners.

But who will serve you best?

Experienced men who served Richard III

or

Friends who joined you in exile?

The next screen shows you options.



# Councillors: Options



- a. Make a **clean sweep of Richard's council** and administrators, replacing them with men who were in exile with you
- b. **Replace those closest to Richard III** with your men but retain the majority of the existing councillors
- c. As the **first choice but also giving extensive lands** and rewards to your supporters for their loyalty

# Foreign Policy



The French helped you in 1485. But you are now King of England – and, for the last 150 years, Kings of England have claimed to be King of France.

The most successful kings have been warriors but France caused trouble for Edward IV and Richard III to stop their aggression.

What will be your policy towards France?

# Foreign Policy: Options



- a. **Claim the French throne** and plan an invasion, uniting the nobility behind you
- b. **Sign a short-term truce**, omitting any reference to your claim to France
- c. **Sign a peace treaty**, give up your claim to France in return for a French promise to support you against any rebels.

# Earls of Warwick and Lincoln



How will you deal with the Earls of Warwick and Lincoln?

Both are nephews of Edward IV and Richard III.

Warwick has the better claim to the throne but is still a child. Lincoln is in his 20s.

What should you do?

# Warwick & Lincoln: Options



- a. Imprison both to prevent them becoming involved in rebellions?
- b. Imprison Warwick but allow Lincoln to join the council to show that he is supporting you?
- c. Free both but keep watch for their involvement in plots?

# Marriage: Outcomes



Elizabeth

This was Henry's decision, honouring his earlier promise. This was the best way of preventing rebellions. **Crowns unchanged.**

French

Potentially helpful but it means going back on a promise and you might be portrayed as a French puppet. **Lose 1 crown.**

Spanish

No practical benefit. It means going back on a promise and you might be portrayed as a Spanish puppet. **Lose 2 crowns.**

First  
Decisions: 2

# Councillors: Outcomes



Clean sweep

You need experienced men for your administration to work efficiently. This option leaves you short of experienced officials. **Lose 1 crown.**

Half way

This was Henry's choice and is the best option. You keep the experienced advisers while removing the discontented. **Crowns unchanged.**

Give away

Bad choice. You need experienced men for your administration to work efficiently. And you've given away money and land you need. **Lose 2 crowns.**

First  
Decisions: 3

# Foreign Policy: Outcomes



Claim throne

Attractive option but very expensive – taxes for war will not win friends. France might also support Yorkist claimants against you. **Lose 1 crown.**

Truce

Sensible option, using the link established in 1485 but not appearing to bow down to France. Avoids creating French enmity. This was Henry's action. **Crowns unchanged.**

Give up  
claim

A disastrous choice, encouraging French aggression against you and providing excellent propaganda for your enemies. **Lose 3 crowns.**



First  
Decisions: 4

# Warwick & Lincoln: Outcomes



Prison both

A harsh but sensible option, having the fewest dangers.

**Crowns unchanged.**

Prison  
W'ick

Henry's choice, very logical but a risk in relation to Lincoln. In 1487 Lincoln joined a rebellion.

**Lose 1 crown.**

Free both

Dangerous option — Warwick might be the figurehead for a rebellion. Even someone pretending to be Warwick was a danger in 1487. **Lose 2 crowns.**



1485 - 1487

# THE EARLY YEARS

# Controlling the North



Richard III had been popular in the north, especially in the city of York.

Many northern lords and gentry had been well-rewarded by Richard and might join a rebellion.

What will you do to control the north?

# The North: Options



- a. **Visit York quickly** to establish your presence as King and ensure that local lords know that they will be held responsible for any trouble?
  
- b. **Stay safe in the south**, leaving the government of the north to the local lords as this will not provoke them to rebellion?
  
- c. Appoint a **southern lord as governor** of the north, with orders to deal savagely with any trouble?

# Rebellion, 1487



In Ireland a boy has been crowned King of England.

His supporters say he is one of Edward IV's nephews.

They plan to invade England with a mercenary army and take the throne.

What will you do?

# Rebellion, 1487: Options



- a. **Imprison potential Yorkist supporters**, such as Lincoln, to prevent the rebellion winning influential support?
  
- b. **March immediately to the north-west**, the most likely landing area, summoning your lords to raise troops and meet you there?
  
- c. **Await more detailed news** while ordering your lords to muster their men in the Midlands?

# France and Brittany



French forces have invaded the independent duchy of Brittany.

French control would give them the whole coastline facing England.

What will you do?

# France and Brittany: Options



- a. **Ignore the French** moves because it is too dangerous to act while England is still unsettled after the rebellion?
  
- b. Use the army that put down the rebellion to **invade Brittany** to protect its independence?
  
- c. **Seek European allies** to pressure France into withdrawing from Brittany and encourage English volunteers to fight 'unofficially' in Brittany?



Early Years: 4

# Earl of Surrey



Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey, fought for Richard at Bosworth.

He was imprisoned but refused the chance to escape and join the 1487 rebellion.

He is a capable and experienced nobleman.

What will you do?

# Earl of Surrey: Options



- a. **Keep him in prison** to show your harshness to opponents and potential rebels?
- b. **Release him** and make him responsible for keeping peace in the north, where he has no lands and supporters and therefore no power of his own?
- c. **Restore him** to his family lands in East Anglia where his influence should ensure law and order?

Early Years: 1

# The North: Outcomes



Visit York

Henry's choice although it came close to disaster when Ricardians tried to attack him in York. At least he was demonstrating his power and position as king. **Crowns unchanged.**

Stay south

Abdication by another name! People want a strong king, not another Henry VI who left everything to others. **Lose 3 crowns.**

South Gov'nor

Half a good scheme. Several years later Henry did appoint Surrey to head the Council of the North but an over-harsh response would have stirred the revolt you want to avoid. **Lose 1 crown.**

Early Years: 2

# Rebellion, 1487: Outcomes



Imprison

Good plan. Henry wasn't quick enough and Lincoln fled to head the rebellion. Weeks of worry followed. Henry's victory at the Battle of Stoke was easier than expected. **Crowns unchanged.**

March

What if they don't join you or move to join the rebels? You would be isolated and lacking support. **Lose 2 crowns.**

Wait

Another sensible move. Henry did this – a pity he didn't link this to the first option! **Crowns unchanged.**

Early Years: 3

# France and Brittany: Outcomes



Ignore

A signal to the King of France that he can do whatever he wishes. Not the action of a king! **Lose 1 crown.**

Invade

Leaving the country is a dangerous gamble, even if you can raise the taxes and cope with the ensuing hostility. Too much on top of the rebellion. **Lose 1 crown.**

Allies

A reaction without risking immediate over-commitment. Henry's choice. **Crowns unchanged.**

Early Years: 4

# Earl of Surrey: Outcomes



Prison

The safest option but not a good use of a capable man. His support for you would be useful. **Crowns unchanged.**

Release

Henry's action – calculated to make the best use of Surrey with the smallest risk. **Crowns unchanged.**

Restore

Too much of a risk if Surrey doesn't prove to be loyal. **Lose 1 crown.**



1487 - 1497

# **MORE PROBLEMS**

More  
Problems: 1

# Danger from France, 1491



The King of France has married Anne of Brittany and won control of Brittany.

What should you do?



# France, 1491: Options



- a. **Ignore this** because even an invasion cannot overturn the marriage.
- b. Mount a **major invasion** of France? Only full control of France will end the danger from France.
- c. Stage a **limited invasion**, designed to show that you will fight seriously if France ever threatens England?

More  
Problems: 2

# Perkin Warbeck



Perkin Warbeck, who claims to be one of Edward IV's sons, has been accepted in the Netherlands as King of England.

What should you do?

More  
Problems: 2

# Perkin Warbeck: Options



- a. **Ignore this** because you have already beaten one pretender?
- b. **Ban trade with the Netherlands** so that foreign merchants will put pressure on their rulers to abandon Warbeck?
- c. **Invade the Netherlands?**

More  
Problems: 3

# A Traitor, 1495



You rewarded Sir William Stanley for his vital help at Bosworth by making him Chamberlain of your Household.

Now spies report that Stanley has been negotiating with Warbeck.

What should you do?

# A Traitor, 1495: Options



- a. Put Stanley under **house arrest**, sparing him because of his past record?
- b. **Execute Stanley** for treason?
- c. **Imprison Stanley** for life?

More  
Problems: 4

# Cornish Rebellion, 1497



Rebellion has started in the south-west while you are preparing to invade Scotland, which has been helping Warbeck.

What should you do?

# Cornish Rebellion: Options



- a. **Continue the invasion of Scotland**, relying on local lords to end the rebellion?
- b. **Send your army to crush the rebels**, but stay well away from the trouble yourself?
- c. **Lead your army yourself** to crush the rebels?

More  
Problems: 1

# France, 1491: Outcomes



Ignore

No-one in Europe will respect you or England with this decision. It will hearten potential rebels. **Lose 2 crowns.**

Major  
invasion

What if you lose or get caught in a long, expensive campaign that will force you to back down to France or critics of the expense at home. **Lose 1 crown.**

Limited  
invasion

Sensible, showing your strength without the danger of over-commitment. Henry invaded France in the autumn, but indicating he did not intend conquest. The King of France made a treaty and paid Henry a pension, allowing him to claim success. **Crowns unchanged.**



More  
Problems: 2

# Perkin Warbeck: Outcomes



Ignore

Dangerous and foolish optimism – this pretender has more support internationally. **Lose 2 crowns.**

Ban trade

A shrewd practical move, even if some merchants at home will object. It's the only practical step possible. Henry's choice. **Crowns unchanged.**

Invade

By the time you have an army and the finance he'll have fled elsewhere. Impractical and very costly financially. **Lose 2 crowns.**

More  
Problems: 3

# A Traitor, 1495: Outcomes



House  
arrest

Understandable but risky. This won't stop him plotting and may make him more desperate. Richard III depended on him and look what happened to Richard. **Lose 2 crowns.**

Execute

The only safe course of action. Henry's choice. **Crowns unchanged.**

Prison

Will this appear weak to others as he is guilty of treason? He could continue to correspond with others or will you ban visitors and correspondence? The second option is better. **Lose 1 crown.**

More  
Problems: 4

# Cornish Rebellion: Outcomes



Scotland

What if they join the rebellion instead of stopping it on your behalf? **Lose 3 crowns.**

Send army

What kind of king are you? Your job is to lead and inspire not hide, even if this does seem the safest policy! **Lose 1 crown.**

Lead army

Good choice. Many rebels might desert if they realise they will have to face the king himself and it will ensure your men stay loyal. Henry did this successfully, remaining in clear control. **Crowns unchanged.**



1497 - 1509

# PEACE AND QUIET?

Peace  
and Quiet: 1

# Warbeck and Warwick



Both are imprisoned in the Tower.

You are seeking a marriage alliance with Spain but the King of Spain is unsure whether there is still a Yorkist threat.

How should you end the danger?

# Warbeck, Warwick: Options



- a. **Execute both** on a false charge of conspiracy.
- b. **Execute Warwick** because he does have a claim to the throne.
- c. **Execute Warbeck** as a warning to Warwick.
- d. **Leave both in prison.**

# The Earl of Oxford



Oxford led your army at Bosworth.

When you visit his lands he has all his men lining your route in welcome, wearing his badge and looking like his private army.

This is breaking your laws.

What should you do?

# The Earl of Oxford: Options



- a. **Ignore it** because he is a loyal supporter?
- b. **Charge him** with breaking the law?
- c. **Warn him** but let him off this time?



# Marriage for Prince Henry



Your eldest son, Prince Arthur, married Katherine of Spain but died young.

What should you do about the marriage of your new heir, Henry?

# Marriage for Henry: Options



- a. **Marry him immediately to Katherine** to preserve the alliance?
- b. **Send Katherine back** and reconsider the possibilities?
- c. **Promise that Henry will marry Katherine** but delay the marriage while you weigh up other possibilities?

# A Foreign Treaty



You have the chance to make a treaty with Philip, the ruler of Burgundy.

Which of the following three elements of the treaty would be most important to you?

# A Foreign Treaty: Options



- a. A **marriage agreement** for you, now that your first queen is dead.
- b. A **trade agreement** that will please the London merchants.
- c. Philip's agreement to **surrender Edmund de la Pole**, a Yorkist heir and potential rebel.

Peace  
and Quiet: 1

# Warbeck, Warwick: Outcomes



Execute  
both

By far the safest plan. Henry chose this partly because the death of Warwick helped reassure Spain that Yorkist threats were at an end. **Crowns unchanged.**

Execute  
W'wick

He's done nothing wrong. Faking a plot involving both men is a better idea and allows you to get rid of both. **Lose 1 crown.**

Execute  
W'beck

But Warwick is the real danger! **Lose 1 crown.**

Prison

Fairly safe after all these years but you have missed an opportunity. **Lose 1 crown.**

# The Earl of Oxford: Outcomes



Ignore

And encourage other people to break the laws?  
**Lose 1 crown.**

Charge him

Quite right. Punishing Oxford will show that no-one is above the law. Henry's choice. **Crowns unchanged.**

Warn him

Understandable but too weak. You seem to have favourites who are above the law. **Lose 1 crown.**

Peace  
and Quiet: 3

# Marriage for Henry: Outcomes



Marry  
now

Sensible – it preserves the Spanish alliance but doesn't really take full advantage of the new situation. Loyalty isn't always the best policy amongst rulers. **Crowns unchanged.**

Return  
her

Insulting to Spain and liable to make any other potential ally think twice. Not a very diplomatic move. **Lose 1 crown.**

Vague  
promise

The policy of a good diplomatist – you win all round. Henry's choice. **Crowns unchanged.**

Peace  
and Quiet: 4

# A Foreign Treaty: Outcomes



Marriage

Useful if it leads to other agreements but not a top priority. It will also stop you using your marriageability as a diplomatic weapon. **Lose 1 crown.**

Trade

Useful but merchants will not influence your security. **Lose 1 crown.**

de la Pole

The most important element. Any free Yorkists seem a danger and it is best to have them secure. **Crowns unchanged.**



# Conclusions



Did you do well, or badly?

Whatever the outcome, the objective wasn't just to get the right answers or to guess what Henry did.

The purpose of the game was to introduce you to some of the key issues and events and the problems Henry had to grapple with.

# Conclusions



The game will have really been successful if you can suggest the answers to these questions:

- ❖ What have you learnt about the reign of Henry VII?
- ❖ What were the main concerns of Henry VII as king?
- ❖ What have you learned about Henry himself as a person?
- ❖ Why do you think he survived?
- ❖ What questions do you now want to ask about his reign?
- ❖ How would you summarise his reign?
- ❖ How successful was his reign ? Give it a mark out of 10 and explain this.

# TASK



Using the decision making exercise and the internet if needed, make a timeline of the reign of Henry VII from 1485 - 1509