

WILLIAM I

(the Conqueror)

1066-1087

(died aged 59)



WAR: 10

Defeated rivals in France and conquered England

PEACE AT HOME: 4

Lots of rebellions in England though he punished rebels savagely

FAMOUS FOR: 10

Battle of Hastings; Domesday Book; building castles

DRAMATIC DEATH: 7

Killed by his horse - it reared up and rammed the iron pommel on the saddle into William's stomach

WILLIAM II

(Rufus)

1087-1100

(died aged 40)



WAR: 6

Won battles in France and Wales and won Cumbria from the Scots

PEACE AT HOME: 7

Worked well with his lords so few rebellions

FAMOUS FOR: 3

Red face and hair, bad language and cruelty

DRAMATIC DEATH: 8

Shot by an arrow while hunting. Probably an accident but it could have been murder organized by his brother Henry

HENRY I



1100-1135

(died aged 67)

WAR: 8

Won back Normandy from his brother Robert

PEACE AT HOME: 8

Improved government and kept peace through ruthless violence

FAMOUS FOR: 2

Keeping one brother in prison for life and possibly murdering the other, William II

DRAMATIC DEATH: 2

Went hunting all day aged 67, then ate too many eels and collapsed

STEPHEN



1135-1154

(died aged 58)

WAR: 1

A good soldier but not ruthless enough.

PEACE AT HOME: 0

Civil war against his cousin Mathilda and her son, Henry, lasted almost all his reign. England in chaos. He lost.

FAMOUS FOR: 2

Calling his eldest son Eustace. Fortunately Eustace never became king.

DRAMATIC DEATH: 0

In bed, defeated.

HENRY II



1154-1189

(died aged 56)

WAR: 7

Ruled a huge empire energetically and kept control. Invaded Ireland

PEACE AT HOME: 6

Made lots of good laws but had to fight rebellions by his son

FAMOUS FOR: 6

Terrible temper, murder of Becket

DRAMATIC DEATH: 2

Died in bed during a war against his sons. When Richard, the eldest, came to see Henry's body blood gushed from its nose.

RICHARD I



(the Lionheart)

1189-1199

(died aged 42)

WAR: 9

A magnificent soldier who won stunning victories on crusade and defeated any enemies who dared attack him at home

PEACE AT HOME: 7

Richard spent little time in England and rebellions broke out in his absence

FAMOUS FOR: 8

Fighting, Crusading and nearly capturing Jerusalem, being held prisoner on his way home

DRAMATIC DEATH: 10

He saw an archer shoot at him and clapped the bowman's shot. Sadly Richard was too busy clapping to move out of the way of the arrow.

JOHN

(Lackland or Soft-sword)

1199-1216

(died aged 49)



WAR:

1

Lost the Empire in France but did quite well against the Welsh.

PEACE AT HOME:

2

He worked hard but quarrelled with the bishops and the barons, leading to civil war and a French invasion after he didn't keep his word to obey Magna Carta.

FAMOUS FOR:

8

Magna Carta, losing the crown jewels and angering everybody

DRAMATIC DEATH:

5

Just after losing the crown jewels in the Wash he ate too many peaches, drank too much beer, got dysentery and died

HENRY III

1216-1272

(died aged 65)



WAR:

3

No great victories and no great losses

PEACE AT HOME:

2

Quarrelled with his barons who were led by Simon de Montfort and this started a civil war

FAMOUS FOR:

2

Holding the first Parliaments; keeping an elephant and a polar bear in the Tower of London

DRAMATIC DEATH:

0

Died in bed, very boring

EDWARD I

Longshanks

1272-1307

(died aged 68)



WAR: 8

Conquered Wales, battered the Scots, beat the French and even went on Crusade

PEACE AT HOME: 9

Nobody dared cause trouble, even when he called his eldest son Alphonso. But Alphonso died young & the next son was called Edward.

FAMOUS FOR: 7

Fighting! Winning the civil war for his father & being sad when his wife died; he built 12 crosses where her body rested for her funeral.

DRAMATIC DEATH: 3

Died of illness on yet another campaign against Scots.

EDWARD II

1307-1327

(died aged 43)



WAR: 0

So bad he was beaten by the Scots at Bannockburn. He preferred farming to war.

PEACE AT HOME: 1

Got on badly with his nobles and this led to civil wars until his wife and her lover put him in prison and took over ruling the country.

FAMOUS FOR: 4

Losing to the Scots and being horribly Murdered.

DRAMATIC DEATH: 8

Murdered - perhaps with a red hot poker, although a rumour said he escaped and lived abroad as a monk.

EDWARD III



1327-1377

(died aged 65)

- WAR:** 8
Won famous victories over French and Scots but things went wrong in last few years
- PEACE AT HOME:** 7
Made the country more peaceful and no civil wars - and he couldn't do anything about the Black Death
- FAMOUS FOR:** 5
Winning battles such as Crecy and Poitiers
- DRAMATIC DEATH:** 2
Died of old age. As he lay dying his rings were stolen from his fingers by his lover, Alice Perrers

RICHARD II



1377-1399

(died aged 32)

- WAR:** 1
French troops burned English towns while he tried to make peace
- PEACE AT HOME:** 1
He distrusted his nobles and this led to civil wars
- FAMOUS FOR:** 3
Bravely ending the Peasants' Revolt in 1381; inventing the handkerchief
- DRAMATIC DEATH:** 7
Probably murdered in Pontefract castle on the orders of his cousin who had taken the crown

HENRY IV



1399-1413

(died aged 47)

WAR: 4

Went on Crusade to Russia; fought well against Welsh rebels but no other successes

PEACE AT HOME: 4

Civil wars and rebellion after he took the throne

FAMOUS FOR: 2

Being the first king since 1066 who spoke English as his first language

DRAMATIC DEATH: 6

A prophecy said he would die in Jerusalem. Henry collapsed in Westminster Abbey and when he came round he asked "where am I?" The reply was "You are in the Jerusalem Chamber". End of Henry.

HENRY V



1413-1422

(died aged 35)

WAR: 9

Dramatic victory over France at Agincourt and conquered half of France

PEACE AT HOME: 9

Forced lords to obey laws - or else!

FAMOUS FOR: 9

Agincourt, made by Shakespeare into a great play and then into films

DRAMATIC DEATH: 4

Died of dysentery still fighting the French

HENRY VI



1422-1461 &

1470-1471

(died aged 50)

WAR: 0
Lost all the lands Henry V won

PEACE AT HOME: 1
Useless king - lawlessness turned into civil wars called the Wars of the Roses

FAMOUS FOR: 3
Becoming king aged 9 months. Being slightly mad and the only king deposed twice

DRAMATIC DEATH: 7
Murdered in Tower on Edward IV's orders

EDWARD IV



1461-1483

(died aged 40)

WAR: 5
Invaded France but took money to go away without fighting.

PEACE AT HOME: 5
Bad start when civil war put dodderly Henry VI back on the throne but did a lot better when he won the crown back.

FAMOUS FOR: 4
Tall, blonde and handsome; brilliant soldier in Wars of the Roses; being lazy and drinking and eating too much.

DRAMATIC DEATH: 3
Died after going out fishing. Left young son to take over - a mistake.

EDWARD V



April-June 1483

(probably died aged 12)

WAR: 0

No time to fight anybody!

PEACE AT HOME: 0

No time to rule the country!

FAMOUS FOR: 8

Disappearing along with his brother - known as the Princes in the Tower they became one of the great murder mysteries in history.

DRAMATIC DEATH: 10

Nobody knows - were they really murdered by their uncle Richard?

RICHARD III



1483-1485

(died aged 32)

WAR: 5

Frightened Scots and French so much they sent troops to help Henry Tudor depose him.

PEACE AT HOME: 4

Could have been good but taking the crown from his nephew caused rebellions.

FAMOUS FOR: 10

Murdering people - although he didn't do most (all?) of the murders the Tudors said he did.

DRAMATIC DEATH: 8

The last English king to be killed in battle, at Bosworth.

HENRY VII



1485-1509

(died aged 52)

WAR: 7

Avoided wars and made alliances to keep England secure

PEACE AT HOME: 5

Struggled to stop rebellions but eventually made country more peaceful

FAMOUS FOR: 5

Being the first Tudor king; his eldest son Arthur died young leaving another Henry to be king

DRAMATIC DEATH: 0

Died in bed

HENRY VIII



1509-1547

(died aged 55)

WAR: 3

His generals beat the Scots for him, but he himself failed dismally against France

PEACE AT HOME: 3

Peaceful at first but closing the monasteries and changing the country's religion led to rebellions and significant long term problems

FAMOUS FOR: 10

Six wives; executing two, and numerous friends; destroying all the monasteries; being unpleasant and selfish

DRAMATIC DEATH: 0

Died in bed

EDWARD VI



1547-1553

(died aged 15)

WAR: 3

Armies beat Scots

PEACE AT HOME: 1

Religious changes caused rebellions

FAMOUS FOR: 3

Only son of Henry VIII; very religious and got rid of statues, colour and decorations in churches. A royal vandal!

DRAMATIC DEATH: 2

Died young. Plotters tried to make Jane Grey queen. They failed.

MARY



1553-1558

(died aged 42)

WAR: 1

Lost Calais, last English town in France

PEACE AT HOME: 3

Surprisingly few rebellions when she changed country's religion. 20% people died from influenza and poverty after poor harvests

FAMOUS FOR: 5

Made everyone become Catholic and executed over 300 people by burning who refused. Therefore known as 'Bloody Mary'

DRAMATIC DEATH: 0

May have died of influenza

ELIZABETH I



1558-1603

(died aged 69)

WAR: 9

Stayed at peace as long as she could. Beat Spanish Armada

PEACE AT HOME: 7

Some religious rebellions but they had little support

FAMOUS FOR: 10

Not marrying and being the 'Virgin Queen'; executing Mary, Queen of Scots; beating Armada; not persecuting people over their religion

DRAMATIC DEATH: 0

Died in bed peacefully

JAMES I



1603-1625

(died aged 59)

WAR: 5

Preferred peace to war but involved in religious wars

PEACE AT HOME: 8

Gunpowder Plot failed; peaceful

FAMOUS FOR: 7

Being James VI of Scotland and King of England; united England and Scotland; nearly blown up by Gunpowder Plot; King James Bible; very messy eater

DRAMATIC DEATH: 0

Died in bed

CHARLES I



1625-1649

(died aged 48)

WAR: 0

Too busy fighting his own people

PEACE AT HOME: 0

Tried to rule without Parliament for 11 years;
this led to Civil War

FAMOUS FOR: 9

Bravery when executed; belief that God gave
him Divine Right to rule; not keeping his word

DRAMATIC DEATH: 10

Executed after being convicted of treason
against his own people