

# History Knowledge Organiser

**Year: 8**

**Topic: Tudor Life: Black Tudors**

**Half term: Spring 1**

This unit is an introduction to Historical Scholarship. You will learn to analyse extracts from Kaufmann's book in order to learn about the lives of 4 Black people living in England during the Tudor and early Stuart period.

Think you know the Tudors? We know what they wore. We know what they ate. We know the details of their monarchs' sex lives, and how they caused seismic changes in our country's religious and political history. But what about *Black Tudors*? Until now, the story of the Africans who lived and died in sixteenth-century England has remained untold.

From long-forgotten records emerge the remarkable stories of Africans who lived free in Tudor England...

They were present at some of the defining moments of the age. They were christened, married and buried by the Church. They were paid wages like any other Tudors. The untold stories of the Black Tudors, dazzlingly brought to life by Kaufmann, will transform how we see this most intriguing period of history.



John Blanke was a black musician in London in the early 16th century. He probably came to England as one of the African attendants of Catherine of Aragon in 1501. He is one of the earliest recorded black people in England after the Roman period.

Mary Fillis was born in Morocco in 1577. She was the daughter of Fillis of Morisco, a basket-weaver and shovel maker. She had arrived in England when she was 7 or 8 years old and lived in London for 13 or 14 years before becoming a Christian. She was a servant to the Barker family before later becoming a seamstress.



Diego was enslaved by the Spanish and taken to Panama where he came across Sir Francis Drake's raiding party and begged to be taken aboard. Diego was probably from Senegambia originally and was owned by the High Admiral and Captain General of Nombre de Dios. Once Diego joined Drake on his journey, he became Drake's assistant and may have travelled with Drake many more times.

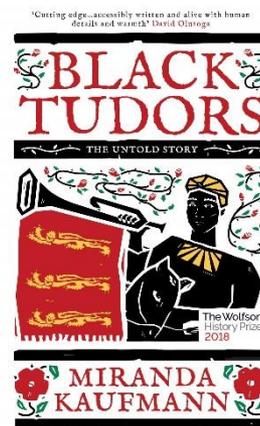
The majority of Africans in Tudor and early Stuart England were not recorded as having a master or mistress. Many made a living in cities such as London, but what about those who lived in the countryside? The only record of Cattelena of Almondsbury is the inventory of her belongings after she died. She did not have many belongings and likely lived with a widow named, Helen Ford before her death. Cattelena had a cow and likely made butter and cheese to support herself.

## Key Terms

<b>Diverse</b>	A great deal of variety, very different
<b>Trumpeteer</b>	Someone who plays the trumpet
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	an official performing various mainly administrative duties concerned with the Church or with a civil parish.
<b>Circumnavigator</b>	Someone who sails or travels all the way around the world
<b>Historical Scholarship</b>	Studying history at a high level

**Dr Miranda Kaufmann**

- Studied her thesis, *Africans in Britain 1500-1640*, at Oxford University.
- Kaufmann is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, part of the School of Advanced Study, University of London.
- Author of the critically acclaimed *Black Tudors: The Untold Story*.



**Suggested Reading:**