

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School

Topic: The Cornish Rebellion

Year 5/6

Strand: Local History Study



The Cornish Rebellion was based around a tax demand. In January 1497, Parliament voted for a tax to finance the campaign against James IV and Perkin Warbeck. The Cornish refused to contribute to a tax that was to pay for a campaign in the north and which, to them, had no impact on Cornwall. Led by Michael Joseph (An Gof) and Thomas Flamank, the rebels set out from St Keverne in May 1497. They marched east and gained their recognised leader, the impoverished Lord Audley, at Wells. On June 16th, the rebels reached the outskirts of London and 15,000 of them camped on Blackheath. The Battle of Blackheath took place on the 17th June. Henry VII had an army of some 25,000 men and the Cornish lacked the supporting cavalry and artillery arms essential to the professional forces of the time. At 2pm, Henry VII had returned to the City in triumph.

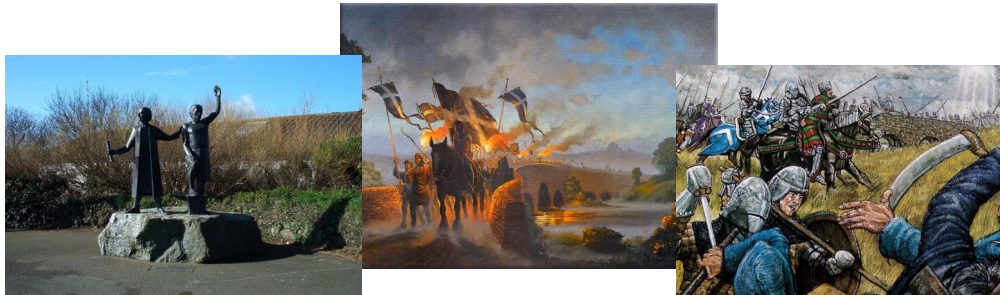


Key vocabulary

Primary source	a document, first-hand account, or other source that constitutes direct evidence of an object of study.
Secondary source	a book, article, or other source that provides information about an object of study
Rebellion	an act of armed resistance to an established government or leader
Stannary law	the body of English law that governs tin mining in Devon and Cornwall.
Tax	is money that people have to pay to the government
Revolt	take violent action against an established government or ruler.
Victory	A defeat of an enemy or opponent.

What you should already know:
In Year 3 and 4, you will have done some local history studies including Charlestown and Tin Mining.

By the end of this topic:
You will know who the leaders of the Cornish Rebellion were, know some of the cause of the Rebellion as well as have an understanding of the march to Blackheath and what it would have been like to be part of the battle.



1. The march started from ST Keverne.

3. From Taunton, they marched on to Wells where an able soldier (the seventh Baron of Audley) joined their cause.

5. They marched on to Kent (where many other revolts had marched from). However, part of the army decided to go back home and not much support came from Kent.

7. Henry VII was shocked by the support, but had the foresight to organise 8000 soldiers.

The March to Blackheath

2. 15,000 people marched on to Exeter, where they gained some support.

4. From Wells they marched to Winchester, via Bristol and Salisbury.

6. From Kent, they marched to Surrey. The Cornish tinnars arrived on Tuesday 13th June 1497.

8. The Cornish marched on to Blackheath and prepared for battle.