

## The Wars of the Roses

The *Wars of the Roses* were a prolonged series of dynastic civil wars in England fought between rival branches of the royal Plantagenet family — the House of Lancaster and the House of York — from 1455 to 1487. The struggle was rooted in competing claims to the English throne, political instability, and the broader socio-economic troubles of the 15th century that followed decades of war with France.

The Lancastrians had occupied the throne since 1399, but by the 1450s King Henry VI's reign had become weak and unstable. Henry suffered from bouts of mental illness that left him incapable of effective rule. This breakdown created a power vacuum in government and encouraged noble factions to vie for control. Richard, Duke of York, a powerful cousin of the king with his own claim to the throne through descent from Edward III, became the focal point of opposition to Lancastrian dominance.

The conflict began in earnest on 22 May 1455 at the First Battle of St Albans, traditionally marked as the outbreak of the Wars of the Roses. Yorkist forces, led by the Duke of York and his ally Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick — later known as the “Kingmaker” — routed the Lancastrians, capturing Henry and killing key Lancastrian nobles. Although few were killed in the fighting, the victory was politically significant: York was named *Lord Protector*, effectively placing him in charge of rule.

Following St Albans, hostilities ebbed and flowed as both sides sought advantage. In 1460, the Yorkists scored another major victory at the Battle of Northampton, capturing Henry VI once more. York sought to press his claim further and negotiated the Act of Accord, decreeing that he — not Henry's heir — would succeed to the throne. This blatant disinheritance incensed the Lancastrians, particularly Queen Margaret of Anjou, who continued the fight in defence of her young son Edward, Prince of Wales.

The Lancastrians struck back at Wakefield late in 1460, killing Richard of York and several of his allies. York's claim then passed to his son, Edward, Earl of March. Early in 1461, the Yorkists captured Henry again but finally secured decisive victory at the Battle of Towton, often cited as the bloodiest battle on English soil. Edward marched into London and was proclaimed King Edward IV, ending the first phase of the conflict and sending Henry and Margaret into exile.

Edward's reign seemed stable for much of the 1460s, but internal conflict, especially between Edward and Warwick, reignited war. Warwick briefly restored Henry VI to the throne in 1470–1471, but Edward returned from exile, defeated Warwick at Barnet, and crushed the Lancastrians at Tewkesbury, where Prince Edward was killed. Henry VI died soon after, likely imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Edward IV ruled until his death in 1483, leaving his young son Edward V as king. The boy was soon deposed by his uncle, Richard III, amid controversy and the disappearance of the “Princes in the Tower.” Richard's reign lasted only until 22 August 1485, when Henry Tudor, a Lancastrian claimant, defeated and killed him at the Battle of Bosworth Field. Henry then married Elizabeth of York, uniting the feuding houses and founding the Tudor dynasty.

Though minor Yorkist resistance continued until the Battle of Stoke Field in 1487, Bosworth is usually taken as the symbolic end of the Wars. The union of Lancaster and York under Henry VII's rule brought lasting stability and closed one of England's most turbulent chapters.

Answer the following questions using full sentences.

You can and should use the words of the question to help you form your answer.

(The first one is done for you)

**1. What were the Wars of the Roses?**

**The Wars of the Roses were** a series of civil wars fought in England between 1455 & 1487.

**2. What were the two factions in the Wars of the Roses?**

**3. Where was the first battle of the Wars of the Roses fought?**

**4. Why did many nobles consider King Henry VI to be unfit as King?**

**5. Was Edward the IV a Yorkist or a Lancastrian?**

**6. Was Richard III supposed to become king?**

**7. What do you think happened to Edward V and his brother?**

**8. Which 1485 battle ended the Wars of the Roses?**

**9. How did Henry Tudor unite both sides of the conflict?**



## HL3 UK Rock Types

### Types of Rocks

Rocks are naturally occurring materials that make up the Earth's crust. There are three main types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic.

**Igneous rocks** are formed when magma or lava cools and solidifies. These rocks are often hard and may contain crystals, but they usually do not contain fossils. Examples of igneous rocks include granite, which is found in many mountain areas, and basalt, often seen in volcanic regions.

**Sedimentary rocks** are formed from small pieces of other rocks, minerals, and organic material that are pressed together over long periods of time. These rocks are often softer than igneous or metamorphic rocks and can contain fossils of plants and animals. Sedimentary rocks usually have a layered appearance, showing how sediments were deposited over millions of years. Examples include sandstone and limestone, which are commonly used in buildings and monuments.

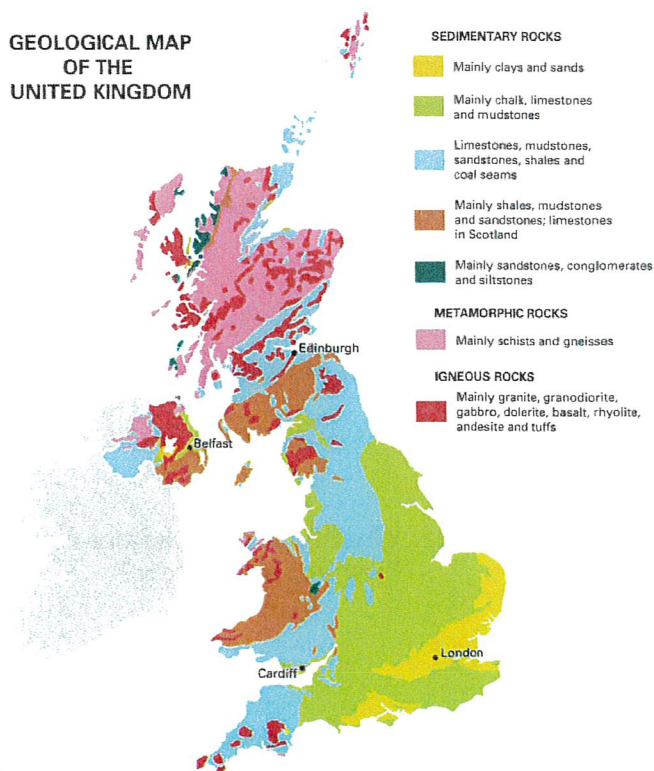
**Metamorphic rocks** develop when existing rocks are changed by heat, pressure, or chemical processes, usually deep within the Earth. These rocks are generally hard and may show bands or layers caused by pressure. Fossils are rarely found in metamorphic rocks because of the extreme conditions that form them. Examples include marble, which forms from limestone, and slate, which forms from shale.

### Geology of the UK

The geology of the United Kingdom is very diverse, with all three types of rocks represented. Scotland contains some of the oldest rocks in the world, including Lewisian gneiss, which is over 3 billion years old. These are mostly metamorphic rocks found in the Highlands and islands. Wales features mountains made up of metamorphic rocks like slate, along with some igneous rocks, such as granite in Snowdonia.

In England, sedimentary rocks are more common. The south of England has extensive chalk deposits, which were formed around 100 million years ago, while the north has limestone and sandstone, created over 300 million years ago. Northern Ireland has a mixture of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks. The variety of rocks across the UK has influenced the landscape, soil types, and natural resources, such as coal in northern England and Wales, and granite quarries in Scotland.

GEOLOGICAL MAP  
OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM



Based on a map by the British Geological Survey

© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.



## HL3 - UK Rock Types Questions

1. What are the three main types of rocks mentioned in the text?
2. How are igneous rocks formed?
3. Name two examples of igneous rocks?

---

4. Why do igneous rocks usually not contain fossils?
5. How are sedimentary rocks formed?
6. What is one feature of sedimentary rocks that shows how they were formed?
7. Give two examples of sedimentary rocks found in the UK.
8. How are metamorphic rocks formed?
9. Give one example of a metamorphic rock and the type of rock it formed from.
10. How old are the rocks in Scotland, and what type are they mainly?
11. What type of rocks are most common in southern England, and how old are they approximately?
12. Give two ways the variety of rocks in the UK has influenced the landscape or human activity.