

FEARSOME FAMILIES

Ever wished you could lock your brother or sister in a tower? Well for some of the prisoners at the Tower of London, it was members of their own family that were holding them captive!



UNBELIEVABLE UNCLE

In 1483 the sons of King Edward IV, 12-year-old Edward and his younger brother Richard, were imprisoned in the Tower. They were never seen again. This left the way clear for their uncle to become king, so it seems likely that the brothers were murdered. In 1674 two boy-sized skeletons were found when a building at the Tower was demolished.

SUSPICIOUS SISTER

Before Elizabeth I became queen she was imprisoned in the Tower by her sister Mary. She was accused of plotting to seize the throne, but there was so little evidence against her that she was released. Elizabeth hated the Tower because it was the place where her mother, Anne Boleyn, had been executed, but in 1559 she returned there to celebrate her own coronation.

CRUEL COUSIN

On 10th July 1553, 16-year-old Lady Jane Grey was declared Queen of England. She ruled for only nine days before her cousin Mary, who wanted the throne herself, had Jane arrested. She was charged with high treason (a crime against your country) and sentenced to death. She was beheaded at the Tower with a single blow of the axe.

