



HISTORY OF BRITAIN  
PART FOUR

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# INTRODUCTION

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The History of Britain is a five pack series which in total considers 101 topics from British history. The format for pages is mostly one page one topic, with a short description of a particular event, followed by questions and exercises. It would be easily possible to have covered more than 200 topics and to have devoted several pages to each topic. This would probably have left the packs too big and difficult to use. This selection, therefore, represents 'snapshots' rather than being comprehensive. Teachers are advised to use the sheets as an introduction from which students may develop the topic in one of several different ways. They can be asked to answer one or more of the questions posed, or the teacher may direct the student in a specific way. The topics are suitable for use as classroom material, homework, or as a basis for longer project type assignments.

Teachers are advised at all times to link the topics back to the events which precede and forward to the implications and effect that the event had on related matters. It is also important to link the topics to the underlying trends in the history of the time. Many of the events happened as a result of the complicated accession claims made by the aristocracy, or as a result of religious competition between Protestants and Catholics. There is also the link between the Scottish and English fight for independence and/or supremacy.

One of the difficulties in teaching British history, especially before 1900, is the ability to keep the interest of the student in a topic which seems to have little relevance to their needs and expectations today. It is important, therefore, to try to maintain interest by direct comparisons to events today or to the historical implications that the events had which can be seen today. An example of this could be the Roman road networks which are still visible today, or the Union with Ireland, the effects of which still cause friction today. Another highly recommended tool is the building of short biographies of historical figures. A number of biographies can be built up which can then be displayed or used as a reference resource.

The History of Britain pack has been widely tested and comes highly recommended for use with students between the ages of 11 and 16. The language may be difficult for some students but in an attempt to cater for a wide ability range and in order to explain the topics fully it has been necessary to use quite complicated language at times. Teachers are reminded to assess whether their students are likely to be confused by some words. The development of a classroom glossary may be of use here.

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VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART GEORGIAN **VICTORIAN** 20TH CENTURY

Please note: in the date line which appears at the bottom of each page, the Victorian era is omitted except for the period for which it is relevant. This is only because in this series it features only a few times and should be noted by teachers and students as an important era in British history study generally.

# THE GREAT PLAGUE

TOPIC  
66

This was an epidemic of plague that ravaged London from late 1664 to early 1666, killing more than 75,000 of a total population estimated at 460,000.

The Great Plague was not an isolated event; 40,000 Londoners had died of the plague in 1625; but it was the last and worst of the epidemics. It began in the late autumn of 1664 in London's suburb of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, and the greatest devastation remained in the city's outskirts, at Stepney, Shoreditch, Clerkenwell, Cripple-gate, and Westminster, quarters where the poor were densely crowded. The epidemic was severe in the winter and revived and spread again in May 1665. The king and court fled from London in June and did not return until the following February; Parliament had a short session at Oxford. The total number of deaths from plague in 1665 was 68,596; but this number is probably an underestimate, since many of the 6,432 deaths attributed to spotted fever were really caused by plague.

In December 1665 the mortality rate fell suddenly and continued down through the winter; in 1666 only 2,000 deaths were recorded. From London the disease spread widely over the country, but from 1667 on there was no epidemic of plague in any part of England, though some cases appeared up to 1679. This disappearance of plague from London has been attributed to the Great Fire in September 1666, but it also subsided in other cities without such cause. The decline has also been ascribed to quarantine, but effective quarantine was actually not established until 1720.



ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR **STUART** GEORGIAN 20TH CENTURY

What was the Great Plague and how did it spread across Europe?

What was the effect of the population decline?

Write a letter to a friend describing what the Great Plague was like. Imagine you had a part in it.

# THE FIRE OF LONDON

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TOPIC  
67

Occurring on Sept. 2-5, 1666 this was the worst fire in London's history. It destroyed a large part of the City of London, including most of the civic buildings, old St. Paul's Cathedral, 87 parish churches, and about 13,000 houses.

On Sunday, Sept. 2, 1666, the fire began accidentally in the house of the king's baker in Pudding Lane near London Bridge. A violent east wind encouraged the flames, which raged during the whole of Monday and part of Tuesday. On Wednesday the fire slackened; on Thursday it was extinguished, but on the evening of that day the flames again burst out at the Temple. Some houses were blown up by gunpowder to create a gap and in this way the fire was finally controlled. Many interesting details of the fire are given in Samuel Pepys's Diary. The river swarmed with vessels filled with persons carrying away as many of their goods as they were able to save. Some fled to the hills of Hampstead and Highgate, but Moorfields was the chief resort of the houseless Londoners.

Within a few days of the fire three different plans were presented to the king for the rebuilding of the city, by Christopher Wren, John Evelyn, and Robert Hooke; but none of these plans was adopted, and the old lines were in almost every case retained. Nevertheless, Wren's great work was the erection of St. Paul's Cathedral and the many churches ranged around it as satellites. Hooke's task was the humbler one of arranging as city surveyor for the building of the houses.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR **STUART** GEORGIAN 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to the Fire of London. Consider the way buildings were constructed and the closeness of buildings to each other.

What were the effects of this event?

Write a letter to a friend describing what the Fire of London was like. Imagine you had a part in it.

# THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION

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TOPIC  
68

These were the events of 1688-89 that resulted in the deposition of James II and the accession of his daughter Mary II and her husband William III.

After the accession of James II in 1685, his Roman Catholicism was opposed by the majority of the population. The birth of a son to James's Roman Catholic queen, promised a continuance of his policy and brought discontent to a head. Seven important Englishmen, wrote inviting William of Orange to come over with an army to redress the nation's grievances.

William accepted their invitation. Landing at Torbay (November 5), he advanced slowly on London, as support fell away from James II. James's daughter Anne and his best general, John Churchill, were among the deserters to William's camp; James fled to France.

William was now asked to carry on the government and summon a Parliament. When this Convention Parliament met (Jan. 22, 1689), it agreed, after some debate, to treat James's flight as an abdication and to offer the Crown, with an accompanying Declaration of Right, to William and Mary jointly. Both were accepted. The convention turned itself into a proper Parliament and the Declaration into a Bill of Rights. This bill gave the succession to Mary's sister, Anne and barred Roman Catholics from the throne.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR **STUART** GEORGIAN 20TH CENTURY

Why did William of Orange bring an army to oppose James II?

Why was there discontent between Catholics and Protestants?

What was the effect of the victory of William?

Write a short biography of William of Orange.

# BATTLE OF THE BOYNE

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TOPIC  
69

Occurring in July 1690 this was a victory for the forces of King William III of England over the former king James II, fought on the banks of the River Boyne in Ireland. James, a Roman Catholic, had been forced to abdicate in 1688 and, with the help of the French and the Irish, was attempting to win back his throne.

James, failing to take Londonderry and Enniskillen, had left Ulster as a bridgehead to William and had wasted his best Irish regiments in England and France. In the Oldbridge area, south of the Boyne, he assembled about 7,000 French infantry, some Irish cavalry, and untrained Irish infantry, altogether about 21,000 men. William led the Dutch Blue Guards, two regiments of French Huguenots, some English, and contingents of Danish, Prussian, Finnish, and Swiss mercenaries, totalling about 35,000 men. Fearing encirclement by William's cavalry, which crossed the Boyne at Rosnaree on the left and at Oldbridge on the right, James fled hastily from the battle and from the country. The battle was William's, but the Jacobite army successfully withdrew to carry on the war for another year in Ireland. The Battle of the Boyne is celebrated in Northern Ireland as a victory for the Protestant cause on July 12.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR **STUART** GEORGIAN 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to this event in British history.

Why is this event important in the history of Britain?

What were the effects of this event?

Write a letter to a friend describing what the event was like. Imagine you had a part in it.

# THE ACT OF UNION

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TOPIC  
70

On May 1, 1707, this was the treaty that effected the union of England and Scotland under the name of Great Britain. Since 1603 England and Scotland had been under the same monarchs. After the Revolution of 1688 and again in 1702-03, projects for a closer union miscarried, and in 1703-04 international tension provoked a dangerous legal warfare between the separate parliaments of England and Scotland. On both sides of the border statesmen were beginning to realize that a union offered the only acceptable solution to a problem that had suddenly become urgent: Scotland's need for economic security and assistance and England's need for political safeguards against French attacks and a possible Jacobite restoration. England's bargaining card was freedom of trade; Scotland's was acquiescence in the Hanoverian succession. Both points were quickly accepted by the commissioners appointed by Queen Anne to discuss union, and within three months they had agreed on a detailed treaty (April-July 1706).

The two kingdoms were to be united, the Protestant succession was adopted, and trade was to be free and equal throughout Great Britain and its dominions. Subject to certain concessions, taxation, direct and indirect, would also be uniform; and England compensated Scotland for undertaking to share responsibility for England's national debt. Scots law and the law courts were to be preserved. In the united Parliament Scotland, because of its relative poverty, was given the inadequate representation of 45 commoners and 16 lords. By separate statutes annexed to the treaty, the Presbyterian Church of Scotland and the Episcopal Church of England were secured against change.

With only minor amendments the Scottish Parliament passed the treaty in January 1707, and the English passed it soon after. The royal assent was given on March 6, and the union went into effect on May 1, 1707.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR **STUART** GEORGIAN 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to this event in British history.

Why is this event important in the history of Britain?

What were the effects of this event on the Monarchy?

The Industrial Revolution refers to the process of change from an agrarian, handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacture. This process began in England in the 18th century and from there spread to other parts of the world. The term Industrial Revolution was first popularized by the historian Arnold Toynbee to describe England's economic development from 1760 to 1840. Since Toynbee's time the term has been more broadly used.

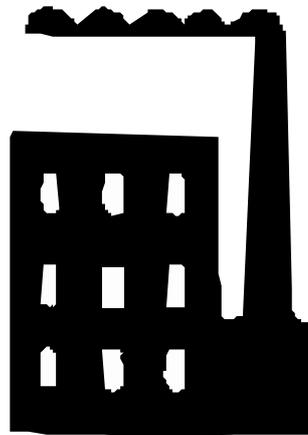
The main features involved in the Industrial Revolution were technological, socio-economic, and cultural. The technological changes included the following: (1) the use of new basic materials, chiefly iron and steel, (2) the use of new energy sources, including both fuels and motive power, such as coal, the steam engine, electricity, petroleum, and the internal-combustion engine, (3) the invention of new machines, such as the spinning jenny and the power loom that permitted increased production with a smaller expenditure of human energy, (4) a new organization of work known as the factory system, which entailed increased division of labour and specialization of jobs (5) important developments in transportation and communication, including the steam locomotive, steamship, automobile, aeroplane, telegraph, and radio, and (6) the increasing application of science to industry. These technological changes made possible a tremendously increased use of natural resources and the mass production of manufactured goods.

There were also many new developments in non-industrial spheres, including the following: (1) agricultural improvements that made possible the provision of food for a larger non-agricultural population, (2) economic changes that resulted in a wider distribution of wealth, the decline of land as a source of wealth in the face of rising industrial production, and increased international trade, (3) political changes reflecting the shift in economic power, as well as new state policies corresponding to the needs of an industrialized society, (4) sweeping social changes, including the growth of cities, the development of working-class movements, and the emergence of new patterns of authority, and (5) cultural transformations of a broad order. The worker gained new skills, and the relation of the worker to the task shifted; instead of being a craftsman working with hand tools, he became a machine operator, subject to factory discipline. Finally, there was a psychological change: man's confidence in his ability to use resources and to master nature was heightened.



In the period 1760 to 1830 the Industrial Revolution was largely confined to Britain. Aware of their head start, the British banned the export of machinery, skilled workers, and manufacturing techniques. The British monopoly could not last forever, especially since some Britons saw profitable industrial opportunities abroad, while continental European businessmen sought to lure British know-how to their countries. Two Englishmen, William and John Cockerill, took the Industrial Revolution to Belgium by developing machine shops at Liège (c. 1807), and Belgium became the first country in continental Europe to be transformed economically. Like the English, the Belgian Industrial Revolution centred in iron, coal, and textiles.

France was more slowly and less thoroughly industrialized than either Britain or Belgium. While Britain was establishing its industrial leadership, France was immersed in its Revolution, and the uncertain political situation discouraged large investments in industrial innovations. By 1848 France had become an industrial power, but, despite great growth under the Second Empire, it remained behind England.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART **GEORGIAN** 20TH CENTURY

What were the main features of the Industrial Revolution in Britain?

What social changes occurred because of the changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution?

How did other European countries adopt features of the British Industrial Revolution?

Despite considerable overlapping with the "old," there is mounting evidence for a "new" Industrial Revolution in the late 19th and 20th centuries. In terms of basic materials, modern industry has begun to exploit many natural and synthetic resources not utilized before: lighter metals, new alloys, and synthetic products such as plastics, as well as new energy sources. Combined with these are developments in machines, tools, and computers that have given rise to the automatic factory. Although some parts of industry were almost completely mechanized in the early to mid-19th century, automatic operation, as distinct from the assembly line, first achieved major significance in the second half of the 20th century.

Ownership of the means of production also underwent changes. The ownership of the means of production that characterized the Industrial Revolution in the early to mid-19th century gave way to a wider distribution of ownership through purchase of common stocks by individuals and by institutions such as insurance companies. In the 20th century, many countries of Europe socialized basic sectors of their economies. There was also a change in political theories: instead of the laissez-faire ideas that dominated the economic and social thought of the classical Industrial Revolution, governments generally moved into the social and economic realm to meet the needs of their more complex industrial societies.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART **GEORGIAN** 20TH CENTURY

How did the Industrial Revolution develop into the 20th century?

What evidence is there that instead of a gradual development of the original Industrial Revolution, there have in fact been other revolutions as discussed above?

# THE YOUNG PRETENDER

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TOPIC  
74

In full CHARLES STUART, or BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE (b. Dec. 31, 1720, Rome, d. Jan. 31, 1788, Rome), he was the last serious Stuart claimant to the British throne and leader of the unsuccessful Jacobite rebellion of 1745-46. Charles's grandfather was the exiled Roman Catholic king James II (ruled 1685-88).

Charles decided to set off on his own to regain the crown. He landed with a tiny force of about a dozen men on the west coast of Scotland in July 1745 and raised the Highlands in revolt. On September 17, with about 2,400 men, he entered Edinburgh. Four days later he routed Sir John Cope's army at Prestonpans, near Edinburgh; early in November, with 5,500 men, he crossed the English border and headed toward London. Charles advanced as far as Derby before his officers, discouraged by lack of French and English support and frightened by the prospect of facing 30,000 government troops, forced him to retreat into Scotland. His troops melted away, and on April 16, 1746, William Augustus, duke of Cumberland, decisively defeated him at Culloden Moor, Inverness-shire. For the next five months Charles was pursued by British soldiers. Finally, helped by loyal supporters (in particular, Flora Macdonald), he escaped by ship to France (September 1746).

Charles wandered around Europe trying to revive his cause, but his bad drunken and violent behaviour alienated his friends. After he settled in Italy in 1766, the major Roman Catholic powers refused to recognise his title to the British throne. Romanticized through ballads and legends, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" became a national hero of Scotland.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART **GEORGIAN** 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to this event in British history.

Why is this event important in the history of Britain?

What were the immediate effects of this event?

Find out about and write a short biography of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

# AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

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TOPIC  
75



The British government decided to make its North American colonies pay more of the costs of governing and defending them. Over 12 years from 1763 Britain imposed a series of new taxes and other revenue-raising measures on the colonies that aroused heated opposition. The American colonists resented the trade regulations by which Britain made use of American economic resources to its own advantage, and they likewise resented their lack of representation in the British Parliament. There was a growing desire for independence on the Americans' part. Open fighting broke out between the British and Americans in 1775, and the next year the American colonies declared their independence from Britain.

The conflict began as a civil war within the British Empire over colonial affairs, but, with America being joined by France in 1778, Spain in 1779, and the Netherlands in 1780, it became an international war. On land the Americans assembled both state militias and the Continental (national) Army, with approximately 20,000 men, mostly farmers, fighting at any given time. By contrast, the British army was composed of reliable and well-trained professionals, numbering about 42,000 regulars, supplemented by about 30,000 German mercenaries. There were many battles between 1775 and 1783.

The Treaty of Paris (Sept. 3, 1783) ended the US War of Independence. Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States (with western boundaries to the Mississippi River) and ceded Florida to Spain. Other provisions called for US use of the Newfoundland fisheries, and fair treatment for American colonials loyal to Britain.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART **GEORGIAN** 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to this event in British history.

Why is this event important in the history of Britain?

How important was the loss of America to the British?

# BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

TOPIC  
76

Occurring on Oct. 21, 1805 this was a naval engagement of the Napoleonic Wars, which established British naval supremacy for more than 100 years; it was fought west of Cape Trafalgar, Spain, between Cádiz and the Strait of Gibraltar. A fleet of 33 ships (18 French and 15 Spanish) under Admiral Pierre de Villeneuve fought a British fleet of 27 ships under Admiral Horatio Nelson.

At the end of September 1805, Villeneuve had received orders to leave Cádiz and land troops at Naples to support the French campaign in southern Italy. On October 19-20 his fleet slipped out of Cádiz, hoping to get into the Mediterranean Sea without giving battle. Nelson caught him off Cape Trafalgar on October 21.

Villeneuve ordered his fleet to form a single line heading north, and Nelson ordered his fleet to form two squadrons and attack Villeneuve's line from the west, at right angles. By noon the larger squadron, led by Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood in the Royal Sovereign, had engaged the rear 16 ships of the French-Spanish line. At 11:50 Nelson, in the Victory, signalled his famous message: "England expects that every man will do his duty." Then his squadron, with 12 ships, attacked Villeneuve's line, which included Villeneuve in the Bucentaure. The majority of Nelson's squadron broke through and shattered Villeneuve's lines in the pell-mell battle. Collingwood completed the destruction of the rear, and the battle ended about 5:00 PM. Villeneuve himself was captured, and his fleet lost 19 or 20 ships, which were surrendered to the British, and 14,000 men, of whom half were prisoners of war. Nelson was mortally wounded by a sniper, but when he died at 4:30 PM he was certain of his complete victory. About 1,500 British seamen were killed or wounded, but no British ships were lost. Trafalgar shattered forever Napoleon's plans to invade England.



ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART **GEORGIAN** 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to this event in British history.

Why is this event important in the history of Britain?

What were the immediate effects of this event?

Write a letter to a friend describing what the event was like. Imagine you had a part in it.

Find out about and write a short biography of Admiral Nelson.

# BATTLE OF WATERLOO

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TOPIC  
77

This battle, (June 18, 1815), was Napoleon's final defeat, ending 23 years of warfare between France and the other powers of Europe. It was fought 3 miles (5 km) south of Waterloo village (which is 9 miles [14.5 km] south of Brussels), between Napoleon's 72,000 troops and the combined forces of the Duke of Wellington's Allied army of 68,000 (with British, Dutch, Belgian, and German units) and about 45,000 Prussians. At Waterloo, Napoleon made a major mistake in delaying the opening of his attack on Wellington from morning until midday, to allow the ground to dry; this delay gave Prussian troops exactly the time they needed to reach Waterloo and support Wellington.

The four main French attacks against Wellington's army prior to 6:00 PM on June 18 all failed in their object, to decisively weaken the Allied centre to permit a French breakthrough, because they all lacked coordination between infantry and cavalry. The Prussians arrived at Waterloo gradually and put pressure on Napoleon's eastern flank. To prevent the Prussians from advancing into his rear, Napoleon was forced to move several Imperial Guard battalions from his main battle against Wellington.

The decisive hour had arrived: Wellington's heavy losses left him vulnerable but Napoleon released some of his soldiers too late; by then Wellington had reorganized his defenses, aided by the arrival of more Prussians. The fire-power of the Allied infantry shattered the tightly packed guard infantry. Allied advance and further Prussian attacks in the east, threw the French army into a panic; a disorganized retreat began. The pursuit of the French was taken up by the Prussians. Napoleon lost 25,000 men killed and wounded and 9,000 captured. Wellington's casualties were 15,000 and Prussian losses were about 8,000. Four days later Napoleon abdicated for the second time.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART **GEORGIAN** 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to the Battle of Waterloo.

Why is this event important in the history of Britain?

What were the effects of this event on the power of Britain in Europe?

Write a letter to a friend describing what the battle was like. Imagine you had a part in it.

# SLAVERY IS ABOLISHED

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TOPIC  
78

The exportation of slaves from England was challenged by a group of humanitarians led by Granville Sharpe. Chief Justice Mansfield ruled in 1772 that James Somerset, a fugitive slave from Virginia, could not be forcibly returned to the colonies by his master. The fate of slavery in most of the rest of the world depended on the British abolition movement, which was initiated by the English Quakers in 1783 when they presented the first important antislavery petition to Parliament. They were following the Pennsylvania Quakers, who had voiced opposition to slavery in 1688. The Vermont constitution of 1777 was the first document in the United States to abolish slavery. Another sign of the spread of antislavery feeling was the declaration in the US Constitution that the importation of slaves could be forbidden after 20 years (in 1808). An act of March 2, 1807, forbade trading in slaves with Africa. Well before the rise of cotton some people hoped that natural processes combined with a prohibition on new slaves would put an end to slavery.

In 1807 the British abolished the slave trade with their colonies. In the Caribbean, slavery was abolished on July 31, 1834, when 776,000 slaves in the British plantation colonies were freed. The British imperial emancipation can be attributed to the growing power of the liberal movement and a double switch in the focus of the British Empire, geographically from west (the Caribbean) to east (India) and economically from protectionism to free trade.



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ROMAN SAXON VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART **GEORGIAN** 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to the abolition of slavery.

Why is this event important in the history of Britain?

What were the effects of this event on British trade?

Write a letter to a friend describing what the event was like. Imagine you had been a slave who was now free.

# QUEEN VICTORIA

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TOPIC  
79

Victoria served as the queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 until 1901. In 1876 she also became empress of India. During her reign the English monarchy took on its modern ceremonial character.

Victoria first learned of her future role as a young princess during a history lesson when she was 10 years old. The future queen reacted to the discovery by declaring, "I will be good." The queen, rejected important Victorian values and developments. A mother of nine who hated pregnancy and childbirth, detested babies, and was uncomfortable in the presence of children, Victoria reigned in a society that idealized motherhood and the family. She had no interest in social issues, yet the 19th century in Britain was an age of reform. She resisted technological change even while mechanical and technological innovations reshaped the face of European civilization.

Victoria was a queen determined to retain political power; yet unwillingly and unwittingly she presided over the transformation of the sovereign's political role into a ceremonial one and in this way preserved the English monarchy. When Victoria became queen, the political role of the crown was by no means clear; nor was the permanence of the throne itself. When she died and her son Edward VII moved to Buckingham Palace, the change was one of social rather than of political focus; there was no doubt about the monarchy's continuance. That was the measure of her reign.



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VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART GEORGIAN **VICTORIAN** 20TH CENTURY

What were the main achievements of Queen Victoria's reign?

What are the advantages of having the same monarch for such a long time?

Find out about and write a short biography of Queen Victoria.

# PRINCE ALBERT

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TOPIC  
80

Prince Albert was the prince consort of Queen Victoria and father of King Edward VII. Although Albert himself was unpopular, the domestic happiness of the royal couple was well known and helped to assure the continuation of the monarchy, which was by no means certain on the Queen's accession. On his death from typhoid fever, the British public, which had regarded him almost as an enemy alien, finally recognized his exceptional qualities. Throughout almost 40 years of widowhood, the Queen decided important questions on the basis of what she thought Albert would have done.

Albert soon became, in effect, Victoria's private secretary and chief confidential adviser. Following his example, the Queen became almost as hard-working as he. At his urging she adopted a political neutrality. Disputes with Prussia in 1856 and the United States in 1861 ended peacefully, at least in part because Albert suggested rewording Foreign Office dispatches so that they could not be construed as ultimatums.

Albert's vigilance was unwelcome to various government ministers, especially Lord Palmerston. The British aristocracy did not care for the moral tone of the royal household, for Albert's professorial manner, or for his artistic versatility. With the London contractor Thomas Cubitt, Albert designed Osborne House (1845-51), the royal residence on the Isle of Wight. He was also an accomplished musician. He successfully managed the Great Exhibition of 1851 at the Crystal Palace, London, and was planning the South Kensington Exhibition of 1862 when he became fatally ill.



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VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART **GEORGIAN VICTORIAN** 20TH CENTURY

How did Prince Albert help Queen Victoria before his death?

How important was Prince Albert, in British history?

Find out about and write a short biography of Prince Albert.

The 19th century marked the full flower of the British Empire. Administration and policy changed during the century from the haphazard arrangements of the 17th and 18th centuries.

New Zealand became officially British in 1840. British control was extended to Fiji, Tonga, Papua, and other islands in the Pacific Ocean. Britain's acquisition of Burma (Myanmar) was completed in 1886, while its conquest of the Punjab (1849) and of Balochistan (1854-76) provided substantial new territory in the Indian subcontinent. Britain established a protectorate in Somaliland (now Somalia), and extended its influence in the sheikhdoms of southern Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Cyprus, which was, like Gibraltar and Malta, a link in the chain of communication with India through the Mediterranean, was occupied in 1878. Elsewhere, British influence in the Far East expanded with the development of the Straits Settlements and the federated Malay states, and in the 1880s protectorates were formed over Brunei and Sarawak. Hong Kong island became British in 1841, and an "informal empire" operated in China by way of British treaty ports and the great trading city of Shanghai.

The greatest 19th-century extension of British power took place in Africa. Britain was the acknowledged ruling force in Egypt from 1882 and in the Sudan from 1899. In the second half of the century, the Royal Niger Company began to extend British influence in Nigeria, and the Gold Coast (now Ghana) and The Gambia also became British possessions. The Imperial British East Africa Company operated in what are now Kenya and Uganda, and the British South Africa Company operated in what are now Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia), Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia), and Malawi. Britain's victory in the South African War (1899-1902) enabled it to annex the Transvaal and the Orange Free State in 1902 and to create the Union of South Africa in 1910. The resulting chain of British territories stretching from South Africa northward to Egypt realized an enthusiastic British public's idea of an African empire extending "from the Cape to Cairo." By the end of the 19th century, the British Empire comprised nearly one-quarter of the world's land surface and more than one-quarter of its total population.



VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART GEORGIAN **VICTORIAN** 20TH CENTURY

Trace the British Empire from its beginnings until 1900.

How powerful was Britain because of its Empire?

# THE BRITISH EMPIRE - MAP

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TOPIC  
82



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VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART GEORGIAN **VICTORIAN** 20TH CENTURY

Using different colours mark the areas controlled under the British Empire and the dates that they came under British control.

# THE ACT OF UNION WITH IRELAND

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TOPIC  
83

Agreed on Jan. 1, 1801, this was a legislative agreement uniting Great Britain (England and Scotland) and Ireland under the name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Irish Rebellion of 1798 brought the Irish question forcibly to the attention of the British Cabinet; and William Pitt the Younger, the British prime minister, decided that the best solution was a union. By legislative enactments in both the Irish and the British parliaments, the Irish Parliament was to be abolished, and Ireland was to be represented at the Parliament in Westminster, London, by 4 spiritual peers, 28 temporal peers, and 100 members of the House of Commons. A union, Pitt argued, would both strengthen the connection between the two countries and provide Ireland with opportunities for economic development. It would also, he thought mistakenly, make it easier to grant concessions to the Roman Catholics, since they would be a minority in a United Kingdom. Naturally the union met with strong resistance in the Irish Parliament, but the British government, by the undisguised purchase of votes, either by cash or by bestowal of honours, secured a majority in both the British and Irish Houses that carried the union on March 28, 1800. The Act of Union received the royal assent on Aug. 1, 1800, and it came into effect on Jan. 1, 1801. Henceforth, the monarch was called the king (or queen) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART GEORGIAN **VICTORIAN** 20TH CENTURY

List the factors which led up to this event in British history.

Why is this event important in the history of Britain?

How did the Union contribute to the problems in Ireland up to this day?

# VICTORIAN ACHIEVEMENT AND THE GREAT EXHIBITION

TOPIC  
84

In 1851 Britain was the workshop of the world and the main influence on the industrialization of other nations. The Great Exhibition of 1851 in London symbolized this economic supremacy. The exhibition was housed in a huge glass and iron building called by a journalist "the Crystal Palace." There people from all parts of the world could examine machines of every kind, "England's arms of conquest . . . the trophies of her bloodless war." Part of the success of the exhibition was political as much as economic. The objects on display came from all parts of the world, including India and the countries with recent white settlements, such as Australia and New Zealand, that constituted the new empire. Many of the visitors who flocked to London came from European cities.

The exhibition was a triumph not only for the economy but also for Victoria and her German husband, Albert, whom she had married in 1840. "In England," wrote a continental observer, "loyalty is a passion." Despite outbursts of opposition to Albert by the press, particularly in the patriotic mid-1850s, the family life of the Victorian court began to be considered increasingly as a model for the whole country. The fact that Albert put his trust in the advancement of industry and science was as important as the fact that Victoria herself established monarchy on respectable foundations of family life. It was during the mid-1850s that the word "Victorian" began to be employed to express a new self-consciousness, both in relation to the nation and to the period through which it was passing.



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VIKING NORMAN MEDIEVAL TUDOR STUART GEORGIAN **VICTORIAN** 20TH CENTURY

Write a report describing the greatest achievements of Victorian Britain. Consider factors including:

**The Industrial Revolution,  
The British Empire, Social  
Reform,  
Place In The World.**

