



English History Timeline

Prehistoric & Early Periods:

The earliest known humans arrived in these lands around 900,000 years ago. Prehistory stretches from then until the Roman invasion in AD 43.

- **Stone Age (500,000 - 2500 BCE):** The earliest evidence of human presence in Britain.
- **Bronze Age (2500 - 800 BCE):** The introduction of bronze tools and weaponry.
- **Iron Age (800 BCE - 43 AD):** The rise of Celtic societies and the introduction of iron technology.
- **Roman Britain (43 AD - 410 AD):** In 55–54 BC, Julius Caesar arrived on the shores of Britain, but thanks to guerrilla resistance and bad weather, his conquest was not successful. Almost 100 years later, in AD 43 the emperor Claudius launched a full-scale invasion, and Britain's Roman era began. The Romans stayed in Britain for almost four centuries. In some parts of the country, they were met with rebellion and resistance, but in more peaceful areas cities were founded, villas constructed, and a network of roads developed that can still be traced today. And in AD 122, the emperor Hadrian, visiting Britain, ordered the building of his famous wall.

Early Medieval Period:

- **Anglo-Saxon England (410 - 1066):** The six and a half centuries between the end of Roman rule and the Norman Conquest are among the most important in English history. This long period is also one of the most challenging to understand – which is why it has traditionally been labelled the 'Dark Ages'. Yet a kingdom of England emerged in these centuries, and with it a new 'English' identity and language.

Medieval Period:

- **Norman Conquest (1066 - 1485):** Duke William of Normandy's resounding triumph over King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 marked the dawn of a new era. The overthrow of the Saxon kingdom of England was to transform the country the Normans conquered, from how it was organised and governed to its language and customs – and perhaps most visibly today, its architecture. This was also a period of upheaval and change, a time of revolt, civil war, devastating plague and royal unrest.
 - **Magna Carta (1215):** A significant legal document limiting the power of the monarch.
 - **Black Death (1348):** A devastating plague that killed a significant portion of the population.
 - **Hundred Years' War (1337 - 1453):** A series of conflicts between England and France.
 - **Wars of the Roses (1455 - 1487):** A civil war between rival noble families.



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Early Modern Period:

Tudor Dynasty (1485 - 1603):

- The reign of Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I, marked by significant religious and political changes. Henry VII's victory against Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth ended the turbulent Wars of the Roses and began the Tudor dynasty – possibly the most famous royal family in English history. The country underwent huge changes during the reigns of three generations of Tudor monarchs. Henry VIII ushered in a new state religion, and the increasing confidence of the state coincided with the growth of a distinctively English culture.

Stuart Dynasty (1603 - 1714):

- The reign of James I, Charles I, Charles II, James II, William and Mary, and Anne, including the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution. The Stuart era began when James I, who was also James VI of Scotland, succeeded Elizabeth I. She had died childless in 1603. James's ascension to the throne brought together the two long-warring nations of England and Scotland. The Stuart period witnessed intense religious and political conflicts, which shifted power from the monarchy to parliament. Meanwhile, discoveries and innovations transformed science, architecture and everyday life. In 1688 saw the overthrowing of James II and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy called the Glorious Revolution (1688-89). The Stuarts also instigated the union of England and Scotland (1707) and the creation of the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Modern & Contemporary Period:

Georgian Dynasty (1714 - 1837):

- When Queen Anne died in 1714 with no surviving children, the German Hanoverians were brought in to succeed her. This began the Georgian age – named after the first four Hanoverian kings, all called George. This period saw Britain establish itself as an international power at the centre of an expanding empire, and accelerating change from the 1770s onwards made it the world's first industrialised nation. The Georgians also instigated the Union of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801.

Victorian Era (1837 - 1901):

- Queen Victoria came to the throne when she was just 18 years old. She would rule Britain for over 60 years. During this long reign, the country acquired unprecedented power and wealth. Britain's reach extended across the globe because of its empire, political stability, and revolutionary developments in transport and communication. Many of the intellectual and cultural achievements of this period are still with us today.