



J. SELYE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Culture and History of Great Britain

A textbook for university students
of English as a foreign language

Renáta Lengyel-Marosi

2021

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Komárom

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J. Selye University

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ISBN 978-80-8122-393-8

Table of contents

Acknowledgements.....	7
Introduction.....	9
1. The Geography of Great Britain	11
1.1. Basic terminology.....	11
1.2. A Brief Overview of Highland and Lowland Britain	13
2. Places of interest in Great Britain	16
2.1. London.....	16
2.2. Some Places of Interest in Southeast England	22
2.3. Some Places of Interest in East Anglia.....	23
2.4. Some places of interest in the Midlands.....	24
2.5. Some Places of Interest in North East England.....	26
2.6. Some Places of Interest in Southwest England	27
2.7. Some Places of Interest in Scotland	29
2.8. Some Places of Interest in Wales.....	30
3. History of Great Britain	33
3.1. Early settlements, Celts, and Romans (Prehistory to ca. 450 BC)	34
3.2. Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings (ca. 450–ca. 850).....	39
3.3. Great Britain in the Late Middle Ages (1272–1529).....	48
3.4. The Birth of the Nation State: the Tudors (1485–1603).....	52
3.5. The Stuarts.....	57
3.6. The Eighteenth Century.....	62
3.7. Great Britain in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century	65
3.8. Great Britain in the twentieth century	71
3.9. Contemporary historical, cultural and other events in Great Britain	80
4. British Culture.....	86
4.1. Holidays.....	86
4.2. British superstitions	101
4.3. Sport	102
5. The British Constitution and the Royal Family	107
6. A short list of films and series on or inspired by British history and culture..	113
7. Pieces of advice for people visiting Britain	115
8. Resource bank.....	118
Works Cited.....	137

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to many people without whose help I would not have been able to finish this book. First and foremost, I would like to thank my family for supporting me emotionally during the compilation of this book. Also, I am grateful to my friends for encouraging me, especially Gergő Fűri, who shared his experience about living in Great Britain with me and thus provided the reader with several valuable pieces of advice on what a tourist or a foreign citizen should know when going to Great Britain.

In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to all my colleagues, whose ideas and insights made it much easier to proceed in the right direction and complete the book successfully, in particular Dr. habil. Barnabás Vajda, PhD., Dr. habil. Anna Litovkina, PhD. and PaedDr. Andrea Puskás, PhD. who have contributed to the proofreading of this textbook and/or encouraged me in publishing.

Last but not least, I wish to thank all my students who inspired me to write this book and design continually updated course materials, which will constitute a part of this book.

Renáta Lengyel-Marosi

Introduction

The objectives of the textbook are fourfold. The first priority is to familiarize university students of English language and literature with British history from the Ice Age to the twenty first century. The second purpose of the book is to provide information about British geography, holidays, sports, and customs. Also, at the same time, the textbook aims at helping university students develop their language skills (speaking, reading, writing and listening) through various interactive exercises on the aforementioned topics – included in the resource bank.

The textbook is mostly meant for first-year university students of English language and literature, who want to pass their course entitled *History and Culture of Great Britain* successfully. The book might also come in handy for secondary grammar teachers of English, who prepare their students for their school leaving exam or for English/History teachers teaching at bilingual (English-Slovak, English-Hungarian) high schools. The textbook might be also useful for everyone who is eager to find out more about the culture and history of Great Britain.

As for the content of the present book, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 deal with the geography of Great Britain as it is a must to locate the countries whose culture and history we want to get to know. Chapter 1 clarifies basic terminology in this field (e.g., the UK, GB and the British Isles), takes a closer look at the characteristic feature of climate and the geographical division of the island. Chapter 2 introduces significant places of interest (historical and religious monuments and towns and cities, e.g., Stonehenge and Canterbury) with a special focus on London, the capital of the UK and England.

Chapter 3 scrutinizes the history of Great Britain. By studying various historical periods, the reader will get to know the (pop)culture and understand the background of particular holidays and customs in Great Britain. For example, aspects of Celtic, Roman, Norman, Victorian Britain will be introduced. Also, one will be provided with information on the most famous and significant English kings and queens such as William the Conqueror, Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I; political

leaders such as William Pitt, Winston Churchill, and Theresa May. Finally, the chapter closes with an overview of contemporary historical and political events such as the Scottish Independent Memorandum, the Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic in Britain.

Chapter 4 takes a closer look at British culture including holidays, costume and sport. Chapter 5 introduces the Royal Family with its traditions and interesting etiquette. Chapter 6 recommends a short list of films and series on or inspired by British history and culture whereas Chapter 7 enumerates several pieces of advice on what a tourist or a foreigner living in Britain should know when coming to Great Britain for the first time in his/her life.

Finally, Chapter 8 shows a short collection of exercises, which are based on the topics discussed in the previous chapters and which require the students' speaking, reading, writing and listening skills along with their problem solving, - decision making skills and creativity. Added to this, the collection of exercises might help English major teacher trainees to deepen their knowledge on the history and culture of Great Britain in an interesting and interactive way. The exercises – some of which can be easily done by studying the present book – are available for students with a wide range of language level from A2 to B2.

1. The Geography of Great Britain

1.1. Basic terminology

It is necessary to clarify basic terms with regard to the geography of Great Britain in order to avoid referring to it incorrectly as the United Kingdom or the British Isles. The following introduction aims at explaining these expressions¹:

Great Britain is a geographical expression. “The name “Britain” comes from the word ‘Pretani’, the Greco-Roman word for the inhabitants of Britain. The Romans mispronounced the word and called the island ‘Britannia’”² The island is made up of England, Scotland and Wales. In everyday speech, Britain refers to the UK.³ Great Britain is the biggest of the group of islands, which lie between the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean; it is the largest island in Europe and the eighth largest in the world. Great Britain is surrounded by over one thousand smaller islands and islets within the Atlantic Ocean, North Sea,



Figure 1 - Great Britain and borders

1 The sources of maps in order are the following: <https://mapsvg.com/blog/blank-map-of-uk> ; <http://lenamamikonyan.blogspot.com/2012/02/are-united-kingdom-great-britain-and.html> <https://www.britannica.com/place/British-Isles>

2 McDowall, David. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*. Longman, 2006, 8.

3 Sheerin et al. *Spotlight on Britain*, 2.



Figure 2 - The United Kingdom

Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, and the English Channel.⁴ “It is separated from France and continental Europe by a 34 km gap. However, they are physically connected to each other by the Channel Tunnel, the longest under-sea tunnel in the world.”⁵ Also, The North Channel, Irish Sea, St George’s Channel and Celtic Sea separate the island from the island of Ireland to its west.⁶

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (often abbreviated to *UK*) is a political expression. The long name mirrors a complicated history. “Wales had become part of the English administrative system by the sixteenth century. Scotland was not completely united with England until 1707. The United Kingdom is a name which was introduced in 1801 when Great

Britain became united with Ireland. When the Republic of Ireland became independent of London in 1922, the title was changed to its present form.”⁷

It comprises four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Several islands off the British coast are also part of the UK such as the Isle of Wight, The Orkneys, Hebrides, Shetlands, the Isles of Scilly. Although the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are not the part of the UK, they recognize the Queen.⁸

The British Isles consists of the island of Ireland and Great Britain. More specifically, the term refers to all the islands of the North West coast of the European continent: Great Britain, the whole of Ireland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man.

4 Harvey, Paul and Rhodri Jones. *Britain Explored*, 12; https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Great_Britain

5 Briney, Amanda. “Geography Facts About England.” ThoughtCo, Aug. 28, 2020, [thoughtco.com/geography-of-england-1435706](https://www.thoughtco.com/geography-of-england-1435706).

6 Whitelock, Dorothy, et.al.. “United Kingdom”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, <https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom>. Accessed 5 July 2021.

7 Harvey, Paul and Rhodri Jones. *Britain Explored*. Longman, 1996, 12.

8 Sheerin, Susan, Seath, Jonathan, and Gillian White. *Spotlight on Britain*. Oxford University Press, 1990, 2.

The British Isles are separated into two independent states: The Republic of Ireland/Eire (with its capital, Dublin) and The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (with its capital, London).⁹

The nations on the island of Great Britain are called English, Scottish and Welsh, and in everyday speech ‘Britain’ and ‘British’ corresponds both to Great Britain alone and the UK whereas ‘England’ and ‘English’ are frequently improperly used to refer to the whole of Great Britain.¹⁰



Figure 3 - The British Isles

1.2. A Brief Overview of Highland and Lowland Britain

The countryside of Great Britain is varied and can be divided into high- and low lands.¹¹ The north and west are mountainous or hilly. Much of the south and east is fairly flat or low-lying. This means that the south and east on the whole have better agricultural conditions. That is why southeast Britain has always been the most populated part of the island.¹²

The main areas of highland include Scotland, Wales and Cumbria. The most precise distinct between ‘highland’ and ‘lowland’ is geological. “The creation of the highlands was a long process, yet elevations, compared with European equivalents, are low, with the highest summit, *Ben Nevis*, only 1,343 metres above sea level... The core of the Highlands is the *Grampian Mountains*, 300–1,100 metres

9 Sheerin et al. *Spotlight on Britain*, 2.

10 Harvey, Paul and Rhodri Jones. *Britain Explored*, 12.

11 Source of the maps (figure 4 and 5): <https://garsidej.wordpress.com/gcse-aqa-new/physical-landscape-in-the-uk/the-physical-diversity-of-the-uk/>

12 Harvey, Paul and Rhodri Jones. *Britain Explored*, 4.

above sea level.”¹³ In comparison with the Scottish Highlands, the Southern Uplands of Scotland present a more subdued relief, with elevations that never exceed 850 metres; the main hill masses are the *Cheviots, Merrick and Broad Law*.¹⁴

The highland zone of England and Wales consists, from north to south, of four broad upland masses: *the Pennines, the Cumbrian Mountains, the Cambrian Mountains*, which form the core of Wales, (and which includes the famous *Lake District* and England’s highest point, *Scafell Pike*), and *the South West Peninsula*. Many topographic features derive from glacial processes, and some of the most striking scenery stems largely from former volcanism. The mountain areas above 610 metres are most extensive in North Wales, e.g., *Snowdonia*, the highest point in Wales.¹⁵

Much of the coalfields, which were the home of the industrial revolution, lie along the dividing line between highland and lowland.

Gauged by the 210-metre contour line, the lowland zone starts around the Solway Firth in the northwest and continues southward along the flat landscapes bordering the lower *River Severn*, the longest river in Great Britain (354 km). In the south and east there are hills; soils are deeper and richer; climate is drier and better suited to farming. The human settlement is dense and more evenly spread.¹⁶



Figure 4 - Upland and lowland areas

As for the climate, the surrounding sea gives the whole island a varied climate.¹⁷ According to the Royal Meteorological Society, “Britain generally has cool summers and relatively mild winters... The latitude of the British Isles means that they are influenced by predominantly westerly winds with depressions and their associated fronts (bands of cloud and rain), moving to the

13 Whitlock, Dorothy. “United Kingdom.”

14 Whitlock, Dorothy. “United Kingdom.”

15 Whitlock, Dorothy. “United Kingdom.”

16 Harvey, Paul and Rhodri Jones. *Britain Explored*, 4.

17 <http://projectbritain.com/climate.html>

east or north-east across the North Atlantic, from the eastern coast of North America, bringing with them unsettled and windy weather, particularly in winter.”¹⁸ As for regional variations concerning climate, “the south is warmer than the north, while the west is wetter than the east. In general, the more extreme weather tends to occur in the mountainous and hilly areas where it is often cloudy, wet and windy.”¹⁹ The average temperature in England and Wales varies from 4 °C in January to 16 °C in July and August. In Scotland the weather is 1-2 degrees cooler. The wind brings rain from the Atlantic to the hills of the west; consequently, the western part of Britain is wetter than that of the east.²⁰



Figure 5 - Major rivers



Figure 6 - Climate of the British Isles

18 <https://www.metlink.org/resource/uk-climate/>

19 <https://www.metlink.org/resource/uk-climate/>

20 Harvey, Paul and Rhodri Jones. *Britain Explored*, 8.; source of the map of the climate: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpykxsg/revision/3>

2. Places of interest in Great Britain

2.1. London

London, the capital of the UK and England, is situated on the tidal River Thames in south-eastern England.²¹ The evidences show that there was only little settlement prior to the Roman conquest, but from AD 43 onwards, “the development of early Londinium was clearly closely linked to the significance of its riverside location as a port for the importation and exportation of produce.”²²

Since 1965 London has been divided into 32 London boroughs in addition to the ancient City of London. The *City of London* is the main financial district, and *Canary Wharf* has recently developed into a new financial and commercial hub in the Docklands to the east. Places within London’s vast urban area are identified using district names, such as Mayfair, Southwark, Wembley and Whitechapel.

Mayfair, or “the Village,” is one of the most expensive districts in (the *West End of London*)²³ and in the world. It comprises the eastern edge of *Hyde Park*, *the City of Westminster*, *Oxford Street*, *Regent Street*, *Piccadilly* and *Park Lane*.²⁴

Southwark (/ˈsʌðərk/) is a district of Central London. Local points of interest include *Southwark Cathedral*, *Shakespeare’s Globe* theatre, *The Shard*, *Tower Bridge* and the *City Hall* offices of the *Greater London Authority*.²⁵

Wembley (/ˈwɛmblɪ/) is the principal suburban town in north west London, about 13 km west-northwest of *Charing Cross* (a junction in London, where six

21 Whitelock, D. “United Kingdom”

22 Richard Hingley. *Londinium. A Biography. Roman London to its Origins to the Fifth Century*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2018, 13, 27.

23 “The West End is the name given to the area of central London north from The Mall to Oxford Street. It includes Trafalgar Square, the main shopping areas of Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street, and the entertainment centres of Soho, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square and Shaftesbury Avenue. Its name is associated with glamour and bright lights.” Sheerin et al. *Spotlight on Britain*, 22.

24 Cox, Hugo. “Mayfair: London’s most expensive ‘village’”. *Financial Times*, 11 November 2016. <https://www.ft.com/content/936ee878-a12c-11e6-891e-abe238dee8e2>

25 Mills, David A. *Oxford Dictionary of London Place Names*. Oxford University Press, 2000, 231.

routes meet: the east side of Trafalgar Square, St Martin's Place and then Charing Cross Road; the Strand leading to the City; Northumberland Avenue leading to the Thames Embankment; Whitehall leading to Parliament Square; The Mall leading to Admiralty Arch and Buckingham Palace; and two short roads leading to Pall Mall). "The estate of Wembley Park was used as pleasure grounds as the Metropolitan Railway reached this part in 1894. Eventually the area was chosen to host the British Empire Exhibition in 1924, resulting in the development of landmarks including the Empire Stadium, later known as *Wembley Stadium*, which in later years became an iconic football stadium."²⁶

Whitechapel is part of the East End of London. The area hosted the London Jewish community in the late-Victorian and Edwardian period,²⁷ and the Whitechapel murders (1888–91) also took place here, some of which were attributed to Jack the Ripper, the mysterious serial killer.²⁸ In the latter half of the 20th century, Whitechapel became a significant settlement for the British Bangladeshi community, so much so that the area was named 'Banglatown.'²⁹ The Royal London Hospital and East London Mosque are also located here.

Some places of interest in London

• The Palace of Westminster/Houses of Parliament

This is the meeting place of the parliament. King Edward the Confessor built it in the eleventh century. The House of Parliament was rebuilt in 1835 after a fire. Parts of the Palace:

Big Ben: "The name Big Ben is often used to describe the tower, the clock and the bell but the name was first given to the Great Bell which was first struck on the 7 September 1859." Probably it takes its name from Benjamin Hall who oversaw the installation of the Bell. It is the largest of the five bells at the top of the tower. The

26 Napier, Alistair. "How the British Buried Their Imperial History Along With Wembley Stadium." <https://failedarchitecture.com/2019/12/how-the-british-buried-their-imperial-history-along-with-wembley-football-stadium/>

27 O'Day, Rosemary. "The Jews of London: From Diaspora to Whitechapel." <http://fathom.lse.ac.uk/Features/122537/>

28 <https://whitechapeljack.com/the-whitechapel-murders/>

29 The Bengali Influence in the Streets of Whitechapel. <https://landmarksinlondonhistory.wordpress.com/2017/11/30/the-bengali-influence-in-the-streets-of-whitechapel/> 30 November 2017.

tower is officially known as Elizabeth Tower, renamed to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II in 2012; previously, it was known simply as the Clock Tower. It has 334 stairs, but no lift.³⁰

“**Westminster Hall** is the oldest building on the Parliamentary estate.”³¹

“**St Stephen’s Chapel** is the forgotten heart of the Palace of Westminster. For seven centuries St Stephen’s was at the centre of the political and religious life of the nation, and its influence is still detected today.”³²

• **Westminster Abbey**

The Abbey stands opposite the Westminster Palace. “The Abbey has been the coronation church since 1066, and is the final resting place of 17 monarchs. The church we see today was begun by Henry III in 1245. It is one of the most important Gothic buildings in the country, and has the medieval shrine of an Anglo-Saxon saint at its heart.”³³ There is the Poet’s Corner: more than 100 poets and writers are buried or have memorials here, such as Shakespeare, T. S. Eliot, Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters.³⁴

• **Buckingham Palace**

It “has served as the official London residence of the UK’s sovereigns since 1837 and today is the administrative headquarters of the Monarch...George III bought Buckingham House in 1761 for his wife Queen Charlotte to use as a comfortable family home,” so soon it became known as the Queen’s House, but later in 1826 it was rebuilt into a palace. “Buckingham Palace is open to the public during the summer months and for a limited number of tours in December, January and at Easter each year”³⁵ Its peculiarity is the **changing of the guard**, “a ceremony where The Queen’s Guard hands over responsibility for protecting Buckingham Palace and St. James’s Palace to the New Guard... It starts at 11:00 and lasts for approximately 45 minutes. Musical support is provided by a Regimental Band or Corps of Drums with pipers occasionally taking part in the ceremony. Watching the Changing of the Guard is free of charge and no tickets are required. The usual warning that they shout out if someone is in the way is “Make way for the Queen’s Guard.”³⁶

30 <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/building/palace/>

31 <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/building/palace/>

32 <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/building/palace/>

33 <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey>

34 <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey/history/poets-corner#i17241>

35 <https://www.royal.uk/royal-residences-buckingham-palace>

36 <https://changing-guard.com/changing-the-guard-buckingham-palace.html>

• **Saint Paul's Cathedral**

It was built between 1675 and 1710, after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of London. The Anglican church was consecrated in 1697. This was the first Cathedral to be built after the English Reformation in the sixteenth-century. It is the seat of the Bishop of London and the mother church of the Diocese of London. This is the second largest church building in the UK after Liverpool Cathedral.³⁷

• **The Tower of London/Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London**

William the Conqueror built it in 1066. The Tower served as a prison (1100-1952) and royal residence. It has been the house of the crown jewels from 1216. "The famous Yeoman Warders, recognised as symbols of the Tower all over the world, have been here for centuries. They were originally part of the **Yeomen of the Guard**, the monarch's personal bodyguard who travelled with him."³⁸ Also, according to the tradition, a group of captive **ravens** live **at the Tower of London**. Their presence is traditionally believed to protect the Crown and the tower; a superstition holds that "if the Tower of London ravens are lost or fly away, the Crown will fall and Britain with it". John Flamsteed, Charles II's astronomer asked the king to remove the ravens from the tower. King, fearing the legend, ordered that the 6 ravens must remain there, and he moved the Royal observatory to Greenwich. At sunset they return to their night cages. The raven master's job is to feed the birds, doctor them and talk with them if they are stressed. There are 9 ravens in the Tower today.³⁹

• **The Royal Albert Hall**

It has been a concert hall since 1871. Regular events take place here: Royal Choral Society, BBC proms, classical music concerts, tennis, Cirque du Soleil, English National Ballet.⁴⁰

• **British Museum**

"The British Museum was founded in 1753 and opened its doors in 1759. It was the first national museum to cover all fields of human knowledge, open to

37 <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/history-collections/history>

38 <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/history-and-stories/the-story-of-the-tower-of-london/#gs.51aqwm>

39 "The Ravens: Guardians of the Tower of London." Historical Royal Palaces. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GkR4XBHkRo>

40 <https://www.royalalberthall.com/about-the-hall/our-history/explore-our-history/time-machine>

visitors from across the world.”⁴¹ It is located in the Bloomsbury area of London. Its permanent collection numbering over 8 million works – as the consequence of the British colonial inheritance. The Museum charges no admission fee, except for loan exhibition.

- **Trafalgar Square**

It has been a public sphere in the City of Westminster, Central London, since the 1840s. Its name commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar, a British naval victory in the Napoleonic Wars with France and Spain; it took place on 21 October 1805 off the coast of Cape Trafalgar, Spain.⁴²

- **Madame Tussauds**

It is a wax museum, displaying waxworks of famous people (actors, singers, politicians, sportsmen and even Marvel super heroes).

- **10 Downing Street**

Number 10 has more functions. It has been the official residence of the British Prime Minister since 1735: it is his/her office, and it is also the place where the Prime Minister entertains guests from Her Majesty The Queen to presidents of the United States and other world leaders.⁴³

- **Hyde Park**

The Park is one of the largest parks in London and one of its Royal Parks. “Henry VIII acquired Hyde Park from the monks of Westminster Abbey in 1536; he and his court were often to be seen on thundering steeds in the hunt for deer... It was Charles I who changed the nature of the park completely.” In 1637, he opened the park to the general public. “Hyde Park became a venue for national celebrations. In 1814 the Prince Regent organised fireworks to mark the end of the Napoleonic Wars, in 1851... the Great Exhibition was held and in 1977 a Silver Jubilee Exhibition was held in honour of Queen Elizabeth II’s 25 years on the throne.”⁴⁴ Sites of interest in the park include: Speakers’ Corner (free speeches are held), Serpentine Bridge, the Joy of Life (an oval stone ring fountain), Diana Princess of Wales memorial, Holocaust Memorial, 7 July Memorial (commemorates the victims of 2005 London Bombing).⁴⁵

41 <https://www.britishmuseum.org/about-us/british-museum-story>

42 <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/our-building-and-squares/trafalgar-square>

43 <https://www.gov.uk/government/history/10-downing-street>

44 <https://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/hyde-park/about-hyde-park/history-and-architecture>

45 <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/place/610718-hyde-park>

The Park is divided by the *Serpentine* and the *Long Water*. The Serpentine takes its name from its snakelike, curving shape, although it only has one bend. The Serpentine and the Long Water are generally considered to be part of one lake. For the 2010 Summer Olympics, it hosted the triathlon. Hyde Park is contiguous with *Kensington Gardens*. Although during daylight, the two parks merge seamlessly into each other, Kensington Gardens closes at dusk and Hyde Park remains open throughout the year from 5 a.m. until midnight.

- **London Eye/Millennium Wheel/Coca-Cola London Eye**

“At 135m, The London Eye is the world’s largest cantilevered observation wheel.” It is located on the South Bank of the River Thames. Since mid-January 2015, it has been known as the Coca-Cola London Eye. The wheel has 32 sealed and air-conditioned ovoid passenger capsules – each of them representing one of the London Boroughs and holds up to 25 people, who are free to walk around inside the capsule, though seating is provided. One revolution takes about 30 minutes. On 2 June 2013 a passenger capsule was named the Coronation Capsule to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.⁴⁶

- **The Gherkin/30 St Mary Axe: (2004)**

It is located in London’s primary financial district, the City of London. “London’s most instantly recognisable tower. Totalling 500,000 sq. ft. The Gherkin is an iconic structure housing a flourishing community and is called ‘the most civilised skyscraper in the world’”⁴⁷

- **Harrods**

It is an upmarket department store advertising itself as The World’s Leading Luxury Department Store; located in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.⁴⁸

- **Piccadilly Circus**

Since 1819 it has been located in London’s West End in the city of Westminster. “Piccadilly Circus is one of London’s most popular tourist destinations, home to the iconic Piccadilly screens and the statue of Eros.”⁴⁹

46 <https://www.londoneye.com/our-company/about-us/>; Wells, Matt. “London Eye begins its millennium revolution” The Guardian. 2 February 2000.

47 <https://www.thegherkinlondon.com/>

48 https://www.harrods.com/en-hu/harrods-group?icid=footer_about-us_harrods-group

49 <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/place/77552-piccadilly-circus>

2.2. Some Places of Interest in Southeast England



Figure 7 - Southern areas of England

The Southeast area is the most densely-populated region of England.⁵⁰

Windsor: its castle is one of the Queen’s official residences. The Order of the Garter (an order of chivalry) was founded in the castle in 1348. Edward chose as members of the order twenty-four knights; the same number the legendary Arthur had chosen. They met once a year on St George’s Day at Windsor Castle, where King Arthur’s Round Table was supposed to have

been, and where his knights sat as equals in holy brotherhood.”⁵¹

The main **airports** are located here (Heathrow) and **Channel Tunnel** starts here too.⁵²

Kent has been known as the Garden of England since the seventeenth century when during the economic development it started to grow more fruit and vegetables to export to other regions.⁵³

Canterbury: a town in Kent and the religious capital of England. Its Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Since the twelfth century, it has been a place of pilgrimage as Thomas Becket was murdered and buried here.⁵⁴

The Stockbroker Belt: “is the popular name for the country of Surrey, which has become a residential area (or ‘belt’) for London commuters... Although the word ‘stockbroker’ refers to a particular occupation – it is someone who works at the Stock Exchange – many different professional groups live here.”⁵⁵

Brighton: houses a conference centre; it is a popular holiday and seaside resort⁵⁶ (e.g., Brighton Pier since 1901).

50 Source of map: <https://www.picturesofengland.com/mapofengland/south-east-map.html>

51 McDowall, David. *An Illustrated History of Britain*. Longman, 2006, 45.

52 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 32.

53 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 103.

54 Burns, William, E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, Facts On File, 2010, 61. Learn more about the murder of Becket on page 46.

55 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 39.

56 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 128.

2.3. Some Places of Interest in East Anglia

East Anglia⁵⁷ is flat and dominated by agriculture. It was not affected by the industrial revolution. The black fertile soil produces sugar-beet, potatoes, celery, cereals. An area known as the **Ouse Washes** is allowed to flood naturally and provides a perfect area for ducks, geese, swans.

Sandringham: a country retreat of the monarch, and “has been the private home of four generations of British monarchs since 1862”; it is usually visited at Christmas.⁵⁸

Cambridge: it has been housing Cambridge university since the late-twelfth century. The university was open only for men until 1871, when the first women’s college was established. Together with Oxford University, by “the 1220s these universities were the intellectual leaders of the country.”⁵⁹

The Fens Country covers 3 counties: Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. A fen is a low-lying and wet land which is often partly covered with water. The small fenland towns and villages used to be islands before the area was drained in the 1630s; many of their names show this – Whittlesey, Ramsey, Thorney, Manea (ey, ea=island). Oliver Cromwell, the well-known figure of the English Civil War, was born in the Fens.⁶⁰

Norwich: it has a large shopping centre and a wide variety of shops, e.g., Mustard Shop. Norwich is famous for the Colman’s mustard (the Colmans were a famous Norwich family who started a mustard-making business over 150 years ago).⁶¹

Colchester (Essex): Britain’s oldest recorded town with one of the most pre-



Figure 8 - Eastern areas

57 Source of map: <https://www.picturesofengland.com/mapofengland/east-anglia-map.html>

58 <https://sandringhamestate.co.uk/>

59 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 41.

60 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 44.

61 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 46.

served gateways in Britain. In the Roman times it was the place for retired Roman soldiers. Original Roman walls are still apparent. “The town has been famous for its oysters from the River Colne since the time of the Romans.” In October, Oyster Feast commemorates this feature.⁶²

2.4. Some places of interest in the Midlands



Figure 9 - Midlands

Pennines are also called “the backbone of England.”⁶³ “The development of industry led to the sudden growth of cities like Birmingham..., Manchester and Liverpool and other centres in the north Midlands.”⁶⁴ Today, some of the best-known clubs in England are here: Manchester United and Liverpool FC.

Liverpool: it has an important port- and ship-building industry; the city is the home of the Beatles.⁶⁵ Later, in the 1980s economic problems (e.g., bad housing and unemployment) led to riots in Liverpool – like in Bristol and London – “worse than any seen in Britain since the nineteenth century.”⁶⁶

Birmingham: “the most important city in the Midlands, one of England’s most productive area called the **Black Country** in the West Midlands” covering most of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, and only some minor parts of Walsall and Wolverhampton.⁶⁷ “The Black Country gained its name in the mid nineteenth century due to the smoke from the many thousands of ironworking found-

62 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 46, 48.

63 Source of the map: <https://www.picturesofengland.com/mapofengland/west-midlands-map.html>

64 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 107

65 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 59.

66 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 177.

67 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 50.

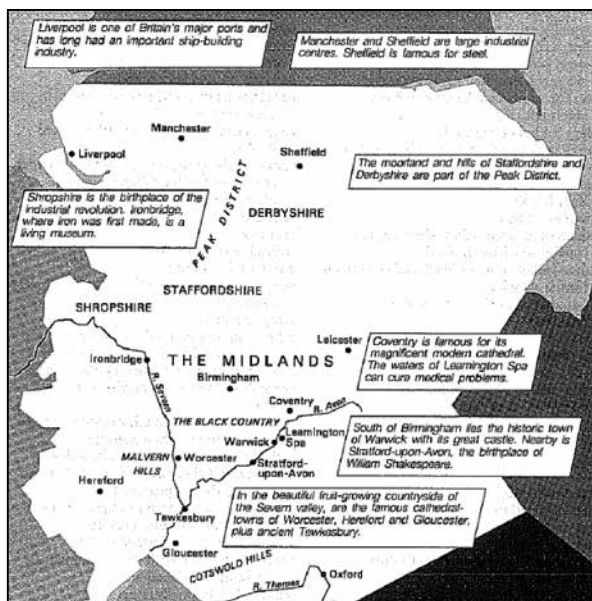


Figure 10 - Midlands

ries and forges plus also the working of the shallow and 30ft thick coal seams.”⁶⁸

Stratford-upon-Avon: the birthplace of Shakespeare (the Swan of Avon) and the place where his plays are performed at the Shakespeare Memorial (or Swan) Theatre.⁶⁹

Oxford: “In England two schools of higher learning were established, the first at Oxford and the second at Cambridge, at the end of the twelfth century.”⁷⁰ Relations between the students and townspeople was bad as the university controlled the town for 600 years. It has been famous for its motor industry (The Rover Group), medical centre and Oxfam-charity, which raises money to help poor people. Europe’s leading air-training school is in Oxford as well. Oxford English Dictionary has special Oxford words like bulldog (university policemen) and punt (boat).⁷¹

68 What and where is the Black Country? BBC Home. 24 September 2014, http://www.bbc.co.uk/blackcountry/uncovered/what_is.shtml

69 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 85; <https://www.rsc.org.uk/your-visit/royal-shakespeare-theatre>

70 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 41.

71 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 55.

2.5. Some Places of Interest in North East England



Figure 11 - Northumbria

There are 4 counties in Northumbria: Tyne, and Wear, Cleveland, Durham, and Northumberland.⁷² Fishing and ship-building industry has been dominant since the thirteenth century. During the nineteenth century, the Northeast of England led the world in many types of heavy industry: iron steamship, railway engineering, bridge building, iron and steel production and of textile industry: Yorkshire-wool,

Lancashire-cotton. This region was badly affected by the post-industrial recession (unemployment, hunger march). Modern industries include: electrical engineering, plastics, fine chemicals, computers, North Sea oil and gas.⁷³

Northumberland: “The region’s numerous castles and manor houses, the forest and lake area in the northwest, and Northumberland National Park (which contains a portion of Hadrian’s Wall)” attract visitors.⁷⁴

Cumbria: “administrative county in the northwest of England.”⁷⁵ **The Lake District** is the central mountainous area of Cumbria in the Northwest and has some of England’s most beautiful scenery. The Lake District, England’s largest National Park is now a World Heritage Site, home to Scafell Pike, its highest mountain, and Wastwater, its deepest lake.⁷⁶

Lindisfarne/Holy Island: its monastery is the birthplace of Christianity in England; “Irish monks settled here in AD 635 and the monastery became the centre of a major saint’s cult celebrating its bishop, Cuthbert. The masterpiece now known as the Lindisfarne Gospels was created here in the early 8th century. The ruins now

72 Source of map: <https://www.picturesofengland.com/mapofengland/north-east-map.html>

73 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 63–64.

74 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Northumberland”. Encyclopedia Britannica, 21 January 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Northumberland-county-England> Accessed 6 July 2021.

75 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Cumbria”. Encyclopedia Britannica, 1 May. 2017, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Cumbria>. Accessed 6 July 2021.

76 <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/>

visible are those of a 12th-century priory, which claimed direct descent from the early monastery.”⁷⁷

Newcastle-upon-Tyne – It began life as a Roman fort on Hadrian’s Wall in 122 AD. It was the first town to export coal, and was the centre of shipbuilding.⁷⁸

York: it was the capital of a Viking kingdom whereas in medieval time it was the second city of the land. In Georgian time York was the social centre of the North, in the Victorian period, a railway centre, and in the twentieth century, it was the home of world-famous chocolate.⁷⁹

Haworth is one of the loneliest parts of the wild Yorkshire moors. The Bronte sisters’ novels take place here (Jane Eyre, Wuthering Height, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall).⁸⁰

Whitby: Yorkshire seaside town. It is famous for its association with the explorer Captain Cook. Its church of St Mary inspired Bram Stoker to write his book *Dracula* in 1897: a vampire from Transylvania travelled to England and lived in Whitby in the shape of a dog.⁸¹

2.6. Some Places of Interest in Southwest England

The **West Country** includes Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset, Whitshire, and Gloucestershire. People go there on holiday and surfing. Devon is famous for its cream tea, Cornwall, for its Pasty, Somerset, for Cheddar cheese and cider (known otherwise as Scrumpy).⁸²



Figure 12 - Southern areas

77 <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/lindisfarne-priory/History/>

78 <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryMagazine/DestinationsUK/NewcastleuponTyne/>

79 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 68.

80 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 66.

81 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 67.

82 Source of map: <https://www.picturesofengland.com/mapofengland/south-west-map.html>

The West Country has its own character, different from the North and the South. The country is still unspoiled by industry. The only larger towns here are **Plymouth, Bath, Bristol and Exeter**.

- **Plymouth** has a proud maritime heritage. In 1588 Sir Francis Drake set out from Plymouth to beat the Spanish Armada;⁸³ in 1620 a group of Puritans who wanted to escape from religious persecution sailed from here to settle the American continent.⁸⁴
- **Bath** is famous for the remains of its Roman bath, built cc. 2,000 years ago.⁸⁵
- **Exeter** is the starting point for **Dartmoor**, the moorland in Devon. It is the home of many national parks (Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks). The agriculture is centred around dairy products with sheep and beef-cattle breeding.⁸⁶
- **Bristol**: became the second largest city after London early in eighteenth century, based on the triangular trade between Britain, West Africa and the New World (goods, slaves, sugar, cotton, tobacco). Ship-building and oil refining industry is dominant today.⁸⁷
- **Portsmouth**: is the home of the Royal Navy and a civilian port for continental ferries, big liners, oil and general cargo. Ship-building and oil refining industry is also dominant here.⁸⁸
- **Wiltshire**: the county is most famous for the great stone monuments of **Stonehenge and Avebury**.⁸⁹
- **The Isle of Wight**: the largest island off the south coast. There is a prison here (Parkhurst) and a famous festival has been organized since the 1970s (The Isle of Wight Pop Festival).⁹⁰

83“The Planting of English America, 1500–1733,” 26. In *The American Pageant, A History of the Republic*, eds. David M. Kennedy, Lizabeth Cohen, Thomas A. Bailey. 13th edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006, 26-42.

84 “Settling the Northern Colonies, 1619–1700”, 33, 44-45. In *The American Pageant, A History of the Republic*, 43-65.

85 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 116.

86 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 70.

87 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 107.

88 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 70.

89 Find more information about Stonehenge on page 120.

90 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Isle of Wight”. Encyclopedia Britannica, 1 May. 2017, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Isle-of-Wight>. Accessed 6 July 2021.

- **Lundy:** “Lundy’s past is peopled with crazed pirates, renegade knights and crooked MP.” Today it is a bird sanctuary with 26 people who live there.⁹¹
- **Offshore Islands:** 120–130 islands. Some are privately owned, some are inhabited, whole others are only known to lighthouse-keepers, sailors and naturalists.⁹²

2.7. Some Places of Interest in Scotland

Numerous “places in the Highlands have not always been as deserted as they are today. Many people left their small houses (called crofts) in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to find work in the large towns. But others were told to leave by cruel landlords who wanted to use their land for sheep-farming and deer-hunting. They were not protected against these ‘clearances’ until a law was introduced in 1886. Scotland’s most important industries, steel making and engineering, are concentrated in the central lowlands.”⁹³

- **Whisky Distilleries in Scotland:**⁹⁴ whisky was first produced in Scotland in 1494, and for many years there was a lot of smuggling to avoid paying taxes. There are more than 100 malt whisky distilleries in the Highlands. Therefore, it is not surprising that the word ‘Scotch’ (Scottish is used to describe someone or something from Scotland) is used to mean whisky throughout the world.
- **John O’ Groats:** the most northern part of mainland Britain. Popular with tourists: castle, wild life, surfing and guided walks.⁹⁵
- **Forties:** Scotland’s oil field in the North Sea. Men working on the North Sea Oil rigs off Scotland’s east coast can earn large salary (£55,850 a year, which is more than twice the national salary average of £26,244), but it is a dangerous work (due to likely explosion).⁹⁶

91 https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20210523-lundy-the-tiny-isle-with-a-wild-lawless-past?ocid=global_travel_rss

92 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 75.

93 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 91.

94 Whisky is common in Scotland to differentiate the Scotch whisky from Irish and American whiskey. Dalloway, Leon. Whisky or whiskey: What’s the difference? <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/whisky-or-whiskey-whats-difference>

95 <https://www.visitjohnogroats.com/information/history-john-ogroats/>

96 Goodway, Nick. “Britain’s North Sea rig workers are in the money as oil pay gushes up.” Independent,

- **Dundee:** Dundee marmalade (Mackays) has been world-famous since the nineteenth century.⁹⁷
- **Glasgow** is Scotland’s largest city and the centre of ship-building trade. It had leading role during the industrial revolution (hence its nickname ‘dear dirty city’). It is the home of the Scottish National Orchestra, The Scottish Opera, the Scottish Ballet. Glasgow is also the home of football clubs such as Glasgow Rangers, Celtic.⁹⁸
- **Edinburgh:** Scotland’s capital. It organizes an international festival, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which takes place every August; for 90 minutes, 5-6 nights a week; performed by British Armed Forces, Commonwealth and international military bands, and artistic performance teams of Edinburgh Castle. The festival takes its name from soldiers who return each night by a beat of the drum which sounds like ‘tat-too’. “2020 marked the Platinum Anniversary of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo as it celebrated 70 years. For the first time in its 7-decade history the Tattoo had to cancel as a result of the COVID pandemic.”⁹⁹
- **Gretna Green:** young people from England have come here to get married since 1754 as marriage is allowed in Scotland without the parent’s permission at 16.¹⁰⁰

2.8. Some Places of Interest in Wales

Wales is approximately 242 km from north to south. About two-thirds of the total population of cc. 3 million people live in the South Wales coastal area (data from the 2019 census),¹⁰¹ where the three biggest towns are located: Swansea, Cardiff and Newport. “The Welsh are very proud of their language and culture. These

18 February 2012, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/britain-s-north-sea-rig-workers-are-money-oil-pay-gushes-7079722.html>

97 Merten, Claire. “Why is Dundee famous for marmalade?” <https://www.seedundee.com/news/why-is-dundee-famous-for-marmalade/>

98 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 88.

99 <https://www.edintattoo.co.uk/history>

100 In 1754, the English Marriage Act of Lord Hardwicke came into force, under which those under the age of 21 could not marry without the permission of their parents. <https://www.gretnagreen.com/why-flee-to-gretna-green-a739>

101 <https://www.ukpopulation.org/wales-population/>

are best preserved in the north and west of the country, for in the south and east they have been more challenged by industrialization.”¹⁰² During the industrial revolution, “the valleys of South Wales became the iron and steel capital of the world. When people speak of life in the valleys they are usually thinking of a particular Welsh way of life where families stay very close together and villagers are very proud of their traditions. In particular, the valleys are famous for producing male voice choirs, and rugby-players.” Rugby Union is the national game of Wales. The Welsh National anthem is the Land of my Fathers.¹⁰³

There are three National Parks in Wales which cover approximately one-sixth of the whole country. The most famous of the parks is **Snowdonia** in the north-west. The highest mountain range in Wales is in this area. **Snowdon**, the highest peak, is 1,085 m.¹⁰⁴

- **Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch** ([lan-vair, pułgwin, gŷlgo, gɛrə, χwɛrn, drobuł, łanti, siljo, gogo'go:χ])¹⁰⁵: it has the longest place-name in the UK.
- **Caernarfon** (/kær'nɑ:rvən/): the ancient capital of Wales. The Prince of Wales has been crowned in its castle since 1301.
- **Cardiff**: it has been the modern capital of Wales since 1955.¹⁰⁶ Cardiff became a major industrial town and an important port in the industrial revolution. Llandaff Cathedral, National Museum of Wales, famous national concert hall, St David's Hall, or the New Theatre, which is the home of the Welsh National Opera Company, are all located here. “After London, the University of Wales is the largest university in the United Kingdom” incorporated three existing colleges at Aberystwyth, Bangor and Cardiff:
North of Cardiff- heart of the Welsh coal and steel industry.
Aberystwyth ([abɛ'rəstɔiθ]) - centre of Welsh education.
Caerphilly ([kə'fili/, /kɑ:r'fili])- has one of the biggest castles of Europe including the famous leaning tower.¹⁰⁷

102 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 95.

103 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 98.

104 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 102.

105 Check how it is pronounced at: <https://www.bbcamerica.com/anglophenia/2015/09/how-to-pronounce-the-longest-place-name-in-the-u-k>

106 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 259; Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 105.

107 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 106.

- **Hay-on-Wye** is a Welsh border town on the River Wye. Although its total population is only cc. 2002 (estimated data from 2019),¹⁰⁸ The Welsh town “has fourteen bookshops which contain well over a million antiquarian and second-hand books. In fact, it is the largest second-hand book-selling centre in the world.”¹⁰⁹

108 https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/wales/powys/K05000002__hay_on_wye/

109 Sheerin, S. *Spotlight on Britain*, 108.

History of Great Britain

As land and climate affect social and economic life, population and even politics in every country,¹¹⁰ so “[t]he earliest history of Britain is marked by its physical separation from the European continent.”¹¹¹ The history of the island and its cultural and political division have been influenced by various external invasions. “Great Britain has been divided into three political and cultural units: England in the south; Wales, a peninsula to the west of England; and Scotland in the north.”¹¹² As for the brief history of origin of these country-names and their union, the “term England comes from the Germanic tribes known as Anglo- Saxons and does not apply to the southern area of Great Britain before the first Anglo-Saxon invasions in the fifth century. Even then the Anglo-Saxons, or ‘English,’ were not politically united, and the Kingdom of England was not formed until the 10th century.”¹¹³

“Wales is a term applied by the English, meaning ‘strangers’ or ‘foreigners.’ Unlike England and Scotland, Wales never became a united kingdom. Its poverty and mountainous terrain made it impossible to establish a centralized government ... England conquered the country in the late 13th century, adopting the title Prince of Wales for the English king or queen’s eldest son and heir. Wales was legally united with England, forming the Kingdom of England and Wales, in the 16th century, though the kingdom was usually referred to simply as ‘England,’ emphasizing Wales’s subject position.”¹¹⁴

“Scotland remained a separate state through the Middle Ages and into the dawn of the 18th century...The conjunction of good harbors and fertile lowland with relative ease of transportation has made England (and Ireland) much more vulnerable to invasion by sea than Wales and Scotland, which were usually invaded from England.”¹¹⁵

110 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 3.

111 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 1.

112 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, xviii.

113 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, xviii.

114 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, xx.

115 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, xx.

3.1. Early settlements, Celts, and Romans (Prehistory to ca. 450 BC)

The first evidence of human life, that is a few stone tools, dating dates back to the Ice Age, about 250,000 BC. Around 10,000 BC, as the Ice Age was nearing to an end, Britain was inhabited by small groups of hunters, fishers and gatherers. Afterwards, about 3000 BC Neolithic (or New Stone Age) people, who crossed the sea from Europe, settled down, kept animals, grew corn crops and made pottery.¹¹⁶

The most significant physical remnants of these Britons are the great stone or megalithic circles (“hengese”) laid out across South and East Britain. More than 900 Stone Age circles are known in the British Isles, but the most famous ones are firstly, the 2.8 km long and 128 m wide Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain, which dates to about 3000 BC and was built in separate stages over a period of more than a thousand years; secondly, Avebury, which was built around the same time or a little earlier about 32 kilometres to the north. These *hengese* were centres of religious, political and economic power. However, the exact purpose of Stonehenge is unknown.¹¹⁷ Its alignment to the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset has led many to suggest a religious or astro-calendrical function.”¹¹⁸ Other theory is that the stone circle was used to store terrestrial energy, which was then generated across the country, possibly through ‘ley lines.’ ‘Ley lines’ is the name given to straight alignments drawn between historic structures and landmarks. They were thought to be tracks by which prehistoric man travelled about the country, but now many people believe that they are mysterious channels for a special kind of power. Ley lines are international: in Ireland, they are known as ‘fairy roads,’ in Australia, the Aborigines make ceremonial journeys for hundreds of miles along these secret tracks.

“Contrary to popular belief, there was no original connection between Stonehenge and the Druids, who came along much later.”¹¹⁹ This suggestion might have occurred because the greatest festivals of Druidism (the Iron Age British religion) likewise took place at the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset.¹²⁰ People built

116 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 3-4.

117 Dyer, James. *Ancient Britain*. Routledge, 1990, 50. Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 2,

118 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 5.

119 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 3.

120 Dargie, Richard. *A History of Britain. The Key Events that Have Shaped Britain from Neolithic Times to the 21st century*, Arcturus, 2007, 41.

copies of the great Stonehenge in Orkney and Cornwall.¹²¹

The society continued to be centred on a number of henges across the countryside until the 1300 BC, but then a new form of society appeared in southern England: a farming society developed in order to feed the people at the henges.¹²²

Celtic invasion

“In the Iron Age, Britain came to be dominated by a group of people known in modern times as the Celts, who are a difficult group to define. The term *Celt* was originally associated with peoples on the European continent, but there is little evidence of a common Celtic identity straddling the English Channel.”¹²³

Around 700 BC, the Celts arrived probably from central Europe or southern Russia with peace or with the intention of invasion. They were able to work with iron and had relatively more advanced ploughing methods. It is possible that they drove many of the older inhabitants westwards into Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Celts began to control the lowland areas of Britain. They continued to arrive in one wave after another over the next seven hundred years. The Celts are the ancestors of many of the people in Highland Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Cornwall today.¹²⁴

As for their economic influence and legacy, the present-day capitals of England and Scotland stand on or near the two ancient trade centres where the Celts traded. Much trade, both inside and beyond Britain, was conducted by river and



Figure 13 - Iron Age Celtic Tribes of Britain

121 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 5.

122 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 6.

123 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 4.

124 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 6–7; source of the map: Dyer, J. *Ancient Britain*, 167.

sea. They exported corn and animals, hunting dogs and slaves. As for their society, the Celtic tribes were led by the chieftain or king. There was an equality between the sexes among the richer Celts, so women could become rulers as well, as in the case of Boudica of the Iceni and Cartimandua of the Brigantes. The powerful nobles were bound to the king as military leaders. To a similar class belonged the priests (druids), who memorised all the religious teachings, the tribal laws, history, medicine and other knowledge, and the bards, who were singers and poets who learnt by heart the history and folklore of the tribe and transmitted it orally at times of celebration. Amongst the commoners were the highly skilled craftsmen such as the potters, carpenters, and metalsmiths who were held in the greatest regards.¹²⁵

As far as Druidism, is concerned, it is “fragmentary due to the lack of written sources. The British were polytheists, worshipping a variety of local goddesses... They venerated animals associated with the gods, particularly horses and pigs, and plants, particularly oak and mistletoe. They sacrificed animals, and sometimes humans, to their gods and goddesses.”¹²⁶

Roman invasion



Figure 14 - Julius Caesar about Britain

The Romans invaded Celtic Britain for two reasons. On the one hand, because “the Celts of Britain were working with the Celts of Gaul against them” by ensuring the latter with food and shelter, and, on the other hand, due to the “richer, heavier land” of Britain.¹²⁷ It was Julius Caesar who first came to Britain in 55 BC, but only later in AD 43 could Claudius formally annex Britain to his Empire.¹²⁸ “The brutality of Roman rule led to the largest revolt in the history of Britannia shortly after

125 Dyer, J. *Ancient Britain*, 165.

126 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 6.

127 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 8.

128 Shotton, David. *Roman Britain*. Routledge, 2004, 6, 15.

the initial conquest,¹²⁹ namely to Boudica's Revolt (AD 60–61): the British Celtic Iceni tribe occupied the land of modern East Anglia. Although, 70 000 inhabitants died at the hands of the Iceni, finally, they were trapped and killed. Boudicca, the leader, was fogged, and her daughters were violated. Sources differ regarding her death: she either poisoned herself or died of illness. Consequently, East Anglia was pacified, and southern Britain got under Roman control.¹³⁰



Figure 15 - Roman Britain

“Areas were watched from the towns of York, Chester and Caerleon in the western peninsula of Britain that later became known as Wales. Each of these towns was held by a Roman legion of about 7,000 men. The total Roman army in Britain was about 40,000 men. The Romans could not conquer Caledonia, as they called Scotland, although they spent over a century trying to do so.”¹³¹ At last, the Romans built a strong wall along the northern border (Hadrian's Wall, AD 122) to keep out raiders from the north.¹³² “By the late third century, Roman writers were referring to the people on the other side of the frontier as Picts, a term meaning “painted people” and possibly referring to Pictish use either of body painting or tattooing. Celtic-speaking peoples referred to the Picts as Cruithne, and the official Roman name was Caledones”¹³³

129 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 14.

130 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 22–23.

131 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 9.

132 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 15; source of map: <https://www.worldhistory.org/image/575/map-of-roman-britain-150-ad/>

133 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 19; source of the Picts: Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 55.

The Romanization of Britain (AD 43–409)

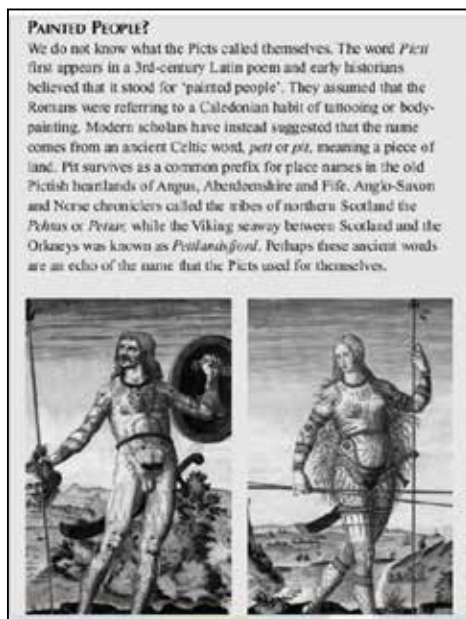


Figure 16 - Picts

The Romans have influenced Britain economically, politically and culturally. Firstly, they “brought the skills of reading and writing to Britain... While the Celtic peasantry remained illiterate and only Celtic speaking, a number of town dwellers spoke Latin and Greek, and the richer landowners in the country almost certainly used Latin... Latin disappeared when the Anglo-Saxons invaded Britain in the fifth century AD.”¹³⁴ Some English words with Latin origin are: genius, incredible, legal, prosecute, solar.¹³⁵

Secondly, the Romans introduced much of the infrastructure of civilization. For example, the first British cities were Roman foundations – London (*Londinium*) was made the capital of Britannia.¹³⁶ “Many of these towns were at first army camps, and the Latin word for camp, *castra*, has remained part of many town names to this day (with the ending *chester*, *caster* or *cesrer*): Gloucester, Leicester, Doncaster, Winchester, Chester, Lancaster and many others besides.”¹³⁷

Thirdly, in the countryside, the biggest change during the Romanization was the growth of large cottage farms, called *villas*, which belonged to the richer Britons who were, like the townspeople, more Roman than Celt in their manner or by soldiers discharged from the Roman army.¹³⁸

Finally, the Romans influenced fashion and popular culture with introducing

134 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 8.

135 Kurtán, Zsuzsa. *Linguistics and the English Language*. Pannon Egyetemi Kiadó, 2007, 114.

136 Hingley, Richard. *Londinium. A Biography. Roman London from its Origins to the Fifth Century*. Bloomsbury, 2018, 9.

137 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 9.

138 Shotton, D. *Roman Britain*, 76, 102.

chariot-racing, bathing as a social activity; toga, the Roman cloak, also came into fashion.¹³⁹

Roman control of Britain came to an end as the empire began to collapse and experienced attacks from various directions: from the Picts in AD 367 and Germanic groups, such as Angles, Saxons and Franks.

3.2. Anglo-Saxons, Scots and Vikings (ca. 450–ca. 850)

“We owe our knowledge of this period mainly to an English monk named Beda, who lived three hundred years later. His story of events in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* has been proved generally correct by archaeological evidence.”¹⁴⁰

The Germanic tribes, the Saxons, Angles and Jutes, occupied Britain because of its wealth and mild climate. More specifically, the *Jutes* settled in Kent and along the south coast. The *Angles* settled in the east, and in the north Midlands, while the *Saxons* settled between the Jutes and the Angles in a band of land from the Thames Estuary westwards. The Anglo-Saxon migrations gave the larger part of Britain its new name, England, “the land of the Angles.” Thus, the British Celts were driven into the mountains in the far west, which the Saxons called “Weallas”, or “Wales”, meaning “the land of the foreigners” whereas the Welsh called themselves *cymry*, “fellow countrymen”. In the north, other Celts were driven into the lowlands of the country which became known as Scotland. The strength of Anglo-Saxon culture is obvious even today. The ending –ing meant *folk* or *family*, thus “Reading” is the place of the family of Rada, “Hastings” of the family of Hasta. *Ham* means farm, *ton* means settlement – hence the place names: Birmingham, Nottingham or Southampton.¹⁴¹

In the sixth and seventh century, the Anglo-Saxons established a number of kingdoms, some of which still exist in county or regional names to this day: Kent, Essex (East Saxons), Sussex (South Saxons), Wessex (West Saxons), East Anglia (East Angles), Mercia, Northumbria. Wales and Scotland were also divided. By the

139 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 33; McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 8.

140 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 11.

141 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 11–12.

middle of the seventh century, Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex were the most powerful. It was not until a century later that one of these kings, *King Offa of Mercia* (757–96), made himself King of the English (*Rex Anglorum*) and claimed “kingship of the English” which resulted in the unity of these kingdoms.¹⁴²

Administration: The Saxons created institutions which made the English state strong for the next 500 years. One of these institutions was the *King’s Council* (*Witan*) consisting of senior warriors and churchmen, whose responsibility were to choose kings and to agree the use of the king’s laws. Even today, the king or queen has a Privy Council, a group of advisers on the affairs of state. By the end of the tenth century, the Saxons divided the land into new administrative areas, based on *shires* (Saxon word) or *counties* (Norman word). Over each shire was appointed, the king’s local administrator the *sheriff* (shire reeve).

Agriculture, trade: the following Anglo-Saxon pattern was the basis of English agriculture for a thousand years until the eighteenth century: one of the fields was used for planting spring crops, and another for autumn crops. The third area was left to rest for a year and with the other areas after harvest was used as common land for animals to feed on. Anglo-Saxon England became well known in Europe for its exports of woolen goods, cheese, hunting dogs, pottery and metal goods. It imported wine, fish, pepper, jewelry and wheel-made pottery.¹⁴³

A Short History of the Spread of Christianity on the British Isles

Christianity appeared on the Isles in the second century and spread among the Celts and the Romans. In the end of the fourth century, pagan Celts attacked the Romanised areas, which pushed back the practice of Christianity for a while. When, in the fifth century, the Romans left and the Anglo-Saxons arrived, the Christian Celts began to fight the pagan barbarians, which is partly commemorated in the Arthurian tradition.¹⁴⁴

From 597, Benedictine monks shared the Word, and in 664 in the Synod of Whitby the English Church accepted the leading role of Rome as well as Latin as the language of liturgy. It is in the sixth century when St Patrick, the present patron saint of Ireland, and St Columba placed an important role in spreading Christi-

142 Herber, Attila, et al. *Történelem 2*, Reáltanoda Alapítvány, 2005, 316. Source of the map of Germanic tribes (figure 18): Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 48.

143 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 12–13.

144 Herber A. *Történelem 2*, 314; source of King Arthur: Burnes, W.E. *Brief History Great Britain*, 32.

anity on the Isles. Thus, by 680 the whole Britain converted to Christianity. The English Church established *monasteries*, or *minsters* (e.g., Westminster) which were places of learning and education.¹⁴⁵ This process gave power into the hands of those who could read and write, and in this way class divisions were increased. The power of landlords, who had been given land by the king, increased because their names were written

down. Peasants, who could neither read nor write, could lose their traditional rights to their land because their rights were not registered. The Anglo-Saxon kings also preferred the Roman Church to the Celtic Church for economic reasons. Villages and towns grew around the monasteries and increased local trade. Many bishops and monks in England were from the Frankish lands (present France and Germany) and elsewhere. In the eighth century, the mission flourished again with St Boniface and, as mentioned before, Beda Venerabilis who recorded the history of the Church in Latin and thus laid the foundation of the Anglo-Saxon historiography.¹⁴⁶

The Christian conversion and pilgrimages contributed to the opening of England – which was until then a rather isolated culture – to a variety of foreign influences. During this period, called the **Northumbrian Renaissance**, the region cultivated a prominent Christian art, incorporating influences

KING ARTHUR?

One of the most mysterious figures in British history is the legendary king named Arthur. Most historians agree that if there actually was a King Arthur, he was a leader of the British resistance to the Anglo-Saxons, which is how he appears in the earliest legends. The legend of Arthur may be based on someone for whom we have a little more evidence—an Ambrosius Aurelianus who was a successful leader against the Saxons in the fifth century and a man of Roman descent—but it is not even certain that Ambrosius existed. The earliest mention of Arthur is in passing in a Welsh poem, “Y Goddodin,” supposedly dating from around 600, but the earliest surviving manuscript version is in a collection, the *Book of Aneirin*, dating from the 13th century, when the legend of Arthur was already firmly established. Merlin, the wizard, is also a legendary figure from the post-Roman period, although the stories associating the two come from later periods. Another legendary figure, Old King Cole, that “merry old soul” of the nursery rhyme, also seems to have been a post-Roman British king.

Figure 17 - About King Arthur



Figure 18 - Germanic tribes of Britain

145 Herber. *Történelem*, 315.

146 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Britain*, 13-14.

from Anglo-Saxon and Celtic art as well as from foreign countries such as the Byzantine Empire. The greatest classic of Anglo-Saxon literature is the epic poem *Beowulf*, which was probably composed in Northumbria in the first half of the eighth century. It sets its story of a heroic monster killing among the Germanic Danes. Finally, the Anglo-Saxons dominance also marked “the beginning of the establishment of a unique culture in England and lowland Scotland differentiating itself from the speakers of Celtic languages in other parts of the British archipelago”¹⁴⁷

As for Wales, thanks to the bonds of language, localized Christian traditions (that owed more to Celtic tradition than Roman administrative pattern), and a feeling of separateness from their neighbours, the Welsh developed a sense of unique identity. Welsh began to replace Latin as the language of business and law.

As far as the northern inhabitants of the island are concerned, the Scots, Picts, Angles, Britons all wanted the lands that would become Scotland. By the mid-eight century, the Picts ruled most of Scotland, but in **843** a union of the Picts and Scots was proclaimed under *Kenneth MacAlpin* and the kingdom Alba/Scotia was born, where the dominant language became Gaelic.

Viking Invasion

“The term Viking denotes a profession or activity rather than an ethnic group; it essentially means “sea raider.” The Scandinavians initially came in search of loot and slaves, both for personal exploitation and for sale in the active Mediterranean slave markets. The Scandinavians were divided into three main groups: Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians. Danes and Norwegians were the most prominent in Britain. Danes led the invasion of England, while Norwegians led the invasions of Ireland and Scotland”¹⁴⁸

They burnt churches and monasteries, e.g., Lindisfarne in 793 and Iona in 802, 806 – the remaining monks fled to Kells, Ireland with a gospel-book (‘Book of Kells’).¹⁴⁹ From cc. 860 onwards, the Vikings stayed, settled and prospered in Britain and even gradually converted to Christianity. Their legacy is found in the language. For example, the days of the week were named after Norse gods: Tig/Tiw

¹⁴⁷ Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 27, 31, 36, 37.

¹⁴⁸ Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 41.

¹⁴⁹ James, Edward. “Overview: The Vikings, 800 to 1066,” http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/vikings/overview_vikings_01.shtml

(Tuesday), Woden/Odin in (Wednesday), Thor (Thursday), Frei (Friday). Many other words have also become part of English, for example egg, steak, law, die, bread, down, fog, muck, lump and scrawny.¹⁵⁰

In 866, the Vikings captured modern York and made it their capital. They continued to press south and west. The kings of Mercia and Wessex resisted as best they could, but with little success until the time of *Alfred of Wessex*, the only king of England to be called ‘the Great’. The same year Alfred took London from the Vikings and fortified it. The same year they signed a treaty, which divided England between Vikings and English. The Viking territory became known as the *Danelaw*, the areas where the law of the Danes ruled. It comprised the north-west, the north-east and east of England. Here, people would be subject to Danish laws. Alfred became king of the rest, and built walled settlements to secure his territory. “These were called *burghs*. They became prosperous market towns, and the word, now usually spelt *borough* is one of the commonest endings to place names, as well as the name of the unit of municipal



Figure 19 - Viking invasions



Figure 20 - British Isles at the time of the Danish conquest

150 “The Vikings in Britain: a brief history” <https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3867/the-vikings-in-britain-a-brief-history>

or administration today.” Five boroughs of Danelaw were the most important towns existing under Danish law and customs, located in the territory of Danish Mercia: Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Stamford and Lincoln, which by the ninth century were under the control of the Vikings.¹⁵¹

By 950 England seemed to be rich and peaceful again after the troubles of the Viking invasion. But soon afterwards the Danish Vikings started raiding westwards. As a consequence, finally, the English king fled to Normandy from the Viking attacks. England had four Viking kings between 1013 and 1042. For example, the Danish *King Cnut* became the English king and the king of Denmark and Norway, who anyway recognised Anglo-Saxon law and customs, and later, in 1040, the Norman *Edward the Confessor* was crowned. As he was interested in the Church, by the time Edward died there was a church in almost every village. The pattern of the English village, with its manor house and church, dates back to this time.¹⁵² Finally, in 1066, William of Normandy had landed in Kent with another invading army. The English army fought the Normans¹⁵³ at the **Battle of Hastings** on 14th October, **1066**. The Normans had won, King Harold died, and William was crowned the new king of England.¹⁵⁴

The Norman Invasion¹⁵⁵

William I the Conqueror, and the Normanization (1066–1087)

As the rest of the Anglo-Saxon society had been decapitated or killed in the battle, William the Conqueror, “brought a new aristocracy to England from Normandy and some other areas of France. He also strengthened aristocratic lordship and moved towards reform of the church.”¹⁵⁶ Also, whereas Latin and Norman

151 Brain, Jessica. “The Five Boroughs Of Danelaw” <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/The-Five-Boroughs-Of-Danelaw/> It is also the source of the map.

152 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 15–17; <https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3867/the-vikings-in-britain-a-brief-history>

153 The Normans (from Nortmanni: “Northmen”) were originally pagan barbarian pirates from Denmark, Norway, and Iceland. They settled in northern France (or the Frankish kingdom). The Normans founded the duchy of Normandy and sent out expeditions of conquest and colonization to southern Italy and Sicily and to England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Norman”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 4 Sep. 2015, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Norman-people>. Accessed 7 July 2021.

154 <https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3867/the-vikings-in-britain-a-brief-history>

155 On the succeeding pages, only the most significant kings and historical events will be introduced in chronological order.

156 https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/normans/overview_normans_01.shtml

French became the languages of government and the Church, the ordinary people spoke (but no more wrote in) English (the old Anglo-Saxon language). As for the literature and culture, the growth of literacy in England was closely connected with the twelfth-century Renaissance, a cultural movement which had first started in Italy. Schools of learning were established such as Oxford and Cambridge University. Furthermore, there was no real capital of the kingdom; the kings were crowned in Westminster, but their treasury stayed in the old Wessex capital, Winchester.¹⁵⁷

Within his policy of Normanization, William I gave the lands of the disloyal Saxons to his Norman nobles. At the same time, he kept enough land for himself to make sure he was much stronger than his nobles. His army included Norman and other French land seekers. William organised his English kingdom according to the feudal system which had already begun to develop in England before his arrival. The word **feudalism** comes from the French word *feu*, which the Normans used to refer to land held in return for duty or service to a lord. The central idea was that all land was owned by the king but it was held by others called “vassals,” in return for services and goods. In effect, the king gave large estates to his main nobles in return for a promise to serve him in war for up to forty days. The greater nobles gave part of their lands to lesser nobles, knights and other “freemen”. The noble kept “serfs” to work on his own land. At each level, a man had to promise loyalty and service to his lord in exchange for land and protection (this was called *homage*).¹⁵⁸ This “feudal system rested on a new military technology of castles and mounted knights. The Normans put up hundreds of castles all over England, and these became the new nobility’s military strongholds.”¹⁵⁹ When the king wanted to know about the worth of his lands and the name of the owners, the **Domesday Book** (or Winchester Roll/King’s Roll) was written in **1086**. The “earliest surviving public record” is a “highly detailed survey and valuation of land holding and resources in late 11th century England.”¹⁶⁰ “The title is a metaphor for the day of judgement, because its decisions, like those of the last judgement, were unalterable. For many centuries Domesday was regarded as the authoritative register of ancient landholding and was used mainly for that purpose.”¹⁶¹

157 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 41, 34.

158 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 24.

159 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 57-58.

160 <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/discover-domesday/>

161 <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/discover-domesday/>

Henry I (1100–1135)

Henry I ‘Beauclerc’ (well-learned), William I’s son, was the first Norman king to be born in England. Henry wanted to earn the nobility’s support, so he signed the Coronation Charter of Liberty (a ‘forerunner’ of the Magna Charta), which limited his rights.¹⁶² He also “centralised the administration of England and Normandy.”¹⁶³

Henry II (1154–1189)

He acquired Normandy and French lands (Touraine, Gascony, Maine, Poitou).¹⁶⁴ Henry II’s empire stretched from the Scottish border to the Pyrenees. His name is closely related to the Becket affair. **Thomas Becket** was his friend and the Archbishop of Canterbury. “Henry wanted to transfer jurisdiction over criminal clergy to secular courts, as church courts were often reluctant to convict guilty clergymen. Becket refused, and the long struggle involving the pope and the king of France ended with Becket’s murder in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. The murderers were knights carrying out what they thought was the king’s will, although Henry never gave a formal order. Becket was widely recognized as a saint and martyr across Europe, and Henry did penance for his part in the murder in 1174, being publicly flogged by monks at Canterbury.”¹⁶⁵

Richard I the Lionheart (1189–1199)

Henry II’s son “has always been one of England’s most popular kings, although he spent hardly any time in England.”¹⁶⁶ “He spent the first half of his reign on crusade and the second half struggling to regain lands appropriated by the French king in his absence” – he lost Normandy and Anjou.¹⁶⁷

John I (1199–1216)

Richard’s brother, while losing Normandy, taxed all at a higher level than ever before. As a result, he was forced to sign a new agreement: **Magna Carta Libertatum/Great Charter of Freedoms** in 1215. It was a symbol of political freedom

162 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 70.

163 <https://www.royal.uk/henry-i>

164 Source of the map: McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 26.

165 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 61.

166 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 27.

167 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 72.

because by signing the charter the king promised all “freemen” protection from his officers, and the right to a fair and legal trial;¹⁶⁸ the king was also forced to pay soldiers to fight for him (“paid fighters”/ *solidarius*, a Latin word from which the word ‘soldier’ comes).¹⁶⁹

Edward I (1272–1307)

Although Edward I’s main aim was to resolve the problem of Scottish and Welsh independence, the Scottish William Wallace defeated the English at Bannockburn in 1314. Edward I brought together the first real parliament (*parliament*, or *parlement* is a French word meaning a “discussion meeting”). Edward I was the first to establish a “representative institution” which could provide the money he needed. This institution later became the House of Commons. It contained a mixture of gentry (knights and other wealthy freemen from the shires) and merchants from the towns. Meanwhile, in Wales a new class grew up, a mixture of the Norman and Welsh rulers, who spoke Norman French and Welsh but not English. They all became vassals of the English king. In **1284** Edward united west Wales with England. From that time the eldest son of the ruling king or queen has usually been made **Prince of Wales**.¹⁷⁰

The legend of Robin Hood grew out of Saxon hatred for Norman rule. According to the tradition, Robin Hood lived in Sherwood Forest near Nottingham as a criminal or „outlaw”, outside feudal society and the protection of the law. He stole from the rich and gave to the poor, and he stood up for the weak against the powerful. His weapon was the longbow, the weapon of the common man.¹⁷¹ “In fact, most of the story is legend. The only thing we know is that a man called Robert or ‘Robin’ Hood was a wanted criminal in Yorkshire in 1230.”¹⁷²



Figure 21 -
Robin Hood

168 Chater, Andrew. “Magna Carta.” Timelines.tv <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDZBNwpYmfQ>

169 “Magna Carta and the decline of feudalism,” 1 October 2015, <https://www.worldhistory.biz/sundries/42489-magna-carta-and-the-decline-of-feudalism.html>

170 Katus, László. *A középkor története*. Pannonica–Rubicon, 2001, 270-271; McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 30–33.

171 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/history-magazine/article/origins-of-england-folklore-robin-hood> – also the source of the picture

172 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 37.

3.3. Great Britain in the Late Middle Ages (1272–1529)

Edward III (1327-1377)

During the time of his reign, Parliament had finally become organised in two parts: the Lords (upper class), and the Commons (middle class). The working class had no voice of their own in Parliament until the middle of the nineteenth century.¹⁷³ Edward III and his son, Edward, the Black Prince, who did not become a king due to his early death, were greatly admired in England for their courage on the battlefield and for their courtly manners (although the latter at the same time was feared in France for his cruelty). They became symbols of the “code of chivalry”, the way in which a perfect knight should behave. According to the code of chivalry, the perfect knight fought for his good name if insulted, served God and the king, and defended any lady in need. His order of chivalry, the Order of the Garter was founded in 1348. Chivalry was also useful way of persuading men to fight by creating the idea that war was a noble and glorious thing.²

Hundred Years’ War (1337-1453)

Opposed to its name, the war lasted for 116 years – not with continuous fighting but also with long periods of peace included. The causes of the war were:

- the French king’s growing authority in France
- The seizure of English-held Gascony (Aquitaine, south-west France) by France.
- Burgundy, England’s major trading partner, refused to recognise the French king’s overlordship.
- Edward III claimed the right to the French crown

Several English (Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, Henry VI) and French (Philip VI, John II, Charles V, Charles VI, Charles VII) kings fought one after another in the war. At first, the English won great victories at the battles of Crécy (1346), Poitiers (1356) and Agincourt (1415), but with help of such figures as **Joan of Arc**,¹⁷⁴ the French won crucial battles at Formigny (1450) and Castillon

¹⁷³ McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 61.

¹⁷⁴ Joan of Arc (Jeanne D’Arc) was a medieval peasant who, claiming to receive visions from God, turned the tide of the Hundred Years’ War in favor of a French victory. She was captured and the Church in Rouen burnt her as a witch in 1431. Later she was canonized and has been a saint since 1920. Mark, Joshua J. “Joan of Arc.” https://www.worldhistory.org/Joan_of_Arc/

(1453), which brought final victory. The English lost all of his possessions in France except Calais, a northern French port.¹⁷⁵

Scotland in the 100 Years' War: Since it supported France during war, the English repeatedly invaded the Scottish Lowlands and Edward IV's army occupied Edinburgh in 1482. The connection with France helped develop education in Scotland: universities were established at St Andrews in 1412, in Glasgow in 1451 and at Aberdeen in 1495.¹⁷⁶

The Black Death (1348–1351)

“Swedish and Danish chronicles of the 16th century described the events as ‘black’ for the first time, likely to refer to black as glum or dreadful denoting the terror of the events.” The Bubonic Plague spread from Gascony by trade; more specifically, with the rats from the ship. Best estimates now are that at least 25 million people died in Europe from 1347 to 1352. This was almost 40% of the population (some estimates indicate 60%).¹⁷⁷ As for Britain, it first reached England in June 1348. On average, between 30-45% of the general populace died in the Black Death. But in some villages, 80% or 90% of the population died. A death-rate of 30% was higher than the total British losses in WWI.¹⁷⁸

‘THE ROOTLESS PHANTOM’

The Welsh poet Jeuan Gethin, who himself died suddenly in 1349, left a chilling record of the fear that swept across Britain in the year of the plague:

‘We see death coming into our midst like black smoke, a plague which cuts off the young, a rootless phantom which has no mercy for fair countenance. Woe is me of the shilling in the armpit...the burden carried under the arms...a white lump...a small boil that spares no one... a burning cinder...an ugly eruption that comes with unseemly haste.’

Figure 22 - Black Death

Lolardism

Lolardism (Latin, means “to say prayers”) was a Proto-Protestant Christian religious movement from the mid-14th to the 16th century led by **John Wycliffe**, an

175 Cartwright, Mark. “Hundred Years’ War,” 17 March 2020, https://www.worldhistory.org/Hundred_Years'_War/

176 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 56.

177 <http://hosted.lib.uiowa.edu/histmed/plague/index.html>

178 Ibeji, Mike. “Black Death.” 3 October 2011, http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/middle_ages/black_01.shtml

Oxford professor. By the spread of writing and reading, the private religious experience and the increase of knowledge encouraged people to challenge the Church's authority. In this sense, Wycliffe believed that everyone should be able to read the Bible in English, and to be guided by it in order to save his soul. So, he translated the Bible from Latin, which is why Wycliffe was banished from Oxford. If the Lollards had been supported by the king, the English Church might have become independent from the papacy in the early fifteenth century, but **Henry IV (1399–1413)** was deeply loyal to the Church.¹⁷⁹

The Wars of the Roses (1455–1485)

In the nineteenth century, the novelist Walter Scott refers to these wars as the “Wars of the Roses” in his historical novel *Anne of Geierstein* as the House of Lancaster was represented by red rose and the House of York, by a white.¹⁸⁰ Both were descendants of the House of Plantagenet¹⁸¹ (Henry IV, V, VI from House of Lancaster; Richard, Edward IV, V, Richard III from the House of York). It stemmed from the murder of Richard II in 1399 and the usurpation of the crown by his cousin Henry IV. The first battle took place at St Alban in 1455 and the war ended at Bosworth in 1485. **Henry Tudor**, duke of Richmond, became king, and the war ended.¹⁸²

Language and culture in the late Middle Ages

French had been used less and less by the Norman rulers during the thirteenth century. In the fourteenth century Edward III had actually forbidden the speaking of French in his army to make the whole army aware of its Englishness. By the end of the fourteenth century, English was once again a written language because it was being used instead of French by the ruling, literate class. Two writers, above all others, helped in the rebirth of English literature:

1. William Langland, a mid-fourteenth century priest, whose poem “Piers

179 Stacey, John. “John Wycliffe”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 13 March 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Wycliffe>. Accessed 24 July 2021.

180 Matthews, Rupert. “Wars of the Roses” <https://www.historyextra.com/period/tudor/wars-of-the-roses/>

181 A royal house which originated from the lands of Anjou in France.

182 Wars of Roses 1455–1487 – English Civil Wars Documentary. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Do7XBxUVJsE>

Plowman” gives a powerful description of the times in which he lived.¹⁸³

2. Geoffrey Chaucer: **The Canterbury Tales**. It tells the story of a group of 31 pilgrims travelling from London to St Thomas Becket’s shrine at Canterbury Cathedral. During the journey each character tells a story. “This literary device gives Chaucer the opportunity to paint a series of vivid word portraits of a cross-section of his society, from a knight and prioress, to a carpenter and cook; a much-married wife of Bath, to a bawdy miller – an occupation regarded in Chaucer’s day as shifty and dishonest.”¹⁸⁴ The first English printing press, **William Caxton’s press**, was set up in **1476**. Among its first printed books were *The Canterbury Tales* and Thomas Malory’s **Le Morte d’ Arthur**, a prose work from 1485, which describes the adventures of King Arthur, including Arthur’s last battle, his death, and the death of other knights of the Round Table. Books suddenly became cheaper and more plentiful as the quicker printing process replaced slow and expensive copywriting by hand. Also, printing began to standardise spelling and grammar.¹⁸⁵

Population and economy in the Middle Ages

Migration to towns was strong in the Middle Ages. According to the records of Domesday Book, by the end of the thirteenth century, 4 million people lived in England (in the fourteenth century, 70 000 lived only in London), 500 000 in Wales and 3-400 000 in Scotland. Until the setback of famine and epidemics, the towns, cathedral centres such as Lincoln, Canterbury, St Andrew were growing rapidly in the twelfth and thirteenth century. The countryside was changing too between the twelfth and the fifteenth century including technical development in farming (windmills), substitution of horses for oxen (faster job) and the end to serfdom.¹⁸⁶

183 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 64.

184 <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-canterbury-tales-by-geoffrey-chaucer>

185 <https://www.bl.uk/people/william-caxton>

186 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 87.

3.4. The Birth of the Nation State: the Tudors (1485–1603)

Henry VII (1485–1509)

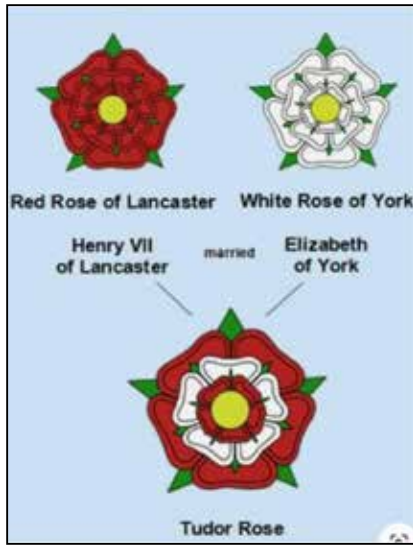


Figure 23 - Roses

After the Wars of the Roses, the half-Welsh Henry married Elizabeth of York, thereby uniting the houses of York and Lancaster.¹⁸⁷ He built the foundations of a wealthy nation state and a powerful monarchy. “Henry VII firmly believed that war and glory were bad for business, and that business was good for the state. He therefore avoided quarrels either with Scotland in the north, or France in the south.”¹⁸⁸ After the Hundred Years’ War and the Wars of the Roses, England’s trading position had been badly damaged, but Henry VII succeeded in stabilizing the kingdom’s economy (The Low Countries, the Netherlands and Belgium alone offered a way in for trade in Europe.)¹⁸⁹

He did that also through making peace by her daughters’ marriage with Scottish and French houses. Margaret, Henry’s daughter, married James IV of Scotland, which later gave James’s descendants a claim to the English throne.¹⁹⁰ Also, he tried to encourage exports, protect home industries, help English shipping by the time-honoured method of a navigation act to ensure that English goods were carried in English ships, and find new markets by assisting John Cabot and his sons in their voyages of discovery.¹⁹¹

Henry VII used the **Court of Star Chamber**, traditionally the king’s council chamber, to deal with lawless nobles. Henry VII encouraged the use of heavy fines

187 <https://www.britroyals.com/kings.asp?id=henry7>; source of the picture: <https://sk.pinterest.com/pin/107242034850174973/>

188 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 67.

189 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 68.

190 <https://www.britroyals.com/kings.asp?id=henry7>

191 Myers, Alexander Reginald and Morrill, John S.. “Henry VII”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 17 Apr. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Henry-VII-king-of-England>. Accessed 7 July 2021.

as punishment because this gave the Crown money. His aim was to make the Crown financially independent.¹⁹²

Henry VIII (1509–1547) and the Reformation of England

Henry VIII was an intelligent, well-read, pious king, the patron of the arts, but he was also cruel and wasteful of money; he was fond of hunting and playing tennis. It is improperly believed that greensleeves (English folk song) were composed by him. His lack of continual interest in government resulted in his over-reliance upon his ministers **Thomas Cornwall** and **Thomas Wolsey**. His inability to secure his lineage ensured the extinction of the Tudor dynasty.¹⁹³ Henry VIII wanted England to hold the balance of power between the two most powerful kingdoms: France and the Holy Roman Empire.

“Henry VIII’s reformation began ... by difficulties with the Catholic Church, in particular those surrounding his hopes for a divorce from his first wife, **Catherine of Aragon**” who could not give birth to a male heir.¹⁹⁴ On the other hand, he led reformation in England due to financial and despotic reason: the taxes paid to the Church reduced his income, and the Church was a great landowner. As the pope was controlled by Charles V, who was the Holy Roman Emperor and king of Spain, and also Catherine’s nephew, he forbade Henry’s divorce. As a result, the king passed the **Act of Supremacy** in **1534**.¹⁹⁵ This act invoked the authority of Parliament to proclaim the declared wishes of the convocations of clergy that had already agreed to his becoming the head of the Church of England.¹⁹⁶ Between 1536 and 1539, he dissolved 560 monasteries and other religious houses in order to make money, but he also wanted to be popular with the rising classes of landowners and merchant. He therefore gave or sold much of the monasteries’ lands to them. Although “the only supreme head on earth of the Church of England” still believed in the Catholic faith. He even got a title ‘Fidei Defensor’, Defender of the Faith for writing a criticism on Martin Luther’s “Ninety-five Theses”.¹⁹⁷

The spread of Protestantism helped the absorption of Scotland and Wales within

192 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 90.

193 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 91.

194 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 95–96.

195 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 69.

196 http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/rise_parliament/docs/henry_head.htm

197 <https://englishhistory.net/tudor/act-of-supremacy/>

a British state. Also, Henry VIII's intention was to assimilate Wales into England, which he did in 1536. The Welsh was forced to use an English system of names by preventing Welsh names being used in law courts and on official paper. Moreover, English became the only official language, and Welsh was soon only spoken in the hills.¹⁹⁸ As for the neighbouring island, the Irish Parliament recognized Henry as a head of the Irish church, but the bulk of them remained Catholic. England became truly protestant only during the reign of Edward VI.¹⁹⁹

Henry's second wife was **Anne Boleyn**, who was beheaded for treason. His third wife, **Jane Seymour**, finally bore him a son, who was later to become Edward VI. After Jane died in childbed, Henry married **Anne of Cleves** (annulated after a few months); then, he made two more marriages with **Katherine Howard** (executed on grounds of adultery in 1542) and **Catherine Parr** (who survived Henry to die in 1548).²⁰⁰

Edward VI

Since Edward I, Henry VIII and Jane Seymour's son, was only a child when he became king, the country was ruled by the council, whose members were from the new Protestant nobility created by the Tudors.²⁰¹ He died at an early age.

(Bloody) Mary I

Mary I was the Catholic daughter of Catherine of Aragon. Mary, for political, religious and family reasons, chose to marry King Philip of Spain. She then began persecuting and burning Protestants (300 people died), which resulted her nickname "Bloody Mary." Mary I's aim was to restore the Catholic Church.²⁰² In a war against French, she lost the last English possession in France (Calais).²⁰³

198 Welsh is now spoken by 20% of the population of Wales. Welsh and English are both official languages in Wales. Gaelic is used in Scotland and in the Republic of Ireland, where it is the first official language. Welsh and Gaelic speakers' second language is English.

199 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 70.

200 <https://www.royal.uk/henry-viii>

201 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 71.

202 <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/myth-bloody-mary-180974221/>

203 <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mary-I>

Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen (1558–1603)

The Protestant Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She never married to preserve her authority. Characteristic of this rhetorical strategy was her famous “Golden Speech” of 1601, when, in the face of bitter parliamentary opposition to royal monopolies, she promised reforms: “I do assure you, there is no prince that loveth his subjects better, or whose love can countervail our love. There is no jewel, be it of never so rich a price, which I set before this jewel; I mean, your love: for I do more esteem of it, than of any treasure or riches.”²⁰⁴

She made the Church part of the state machine. It meant that the “parish”, the area served by one church (usually the same size as a village) became the unit of state administration. People had to go to church on Sundays by law, and they were fined if they stayed away. Elizabeth I also arranged for a book of sermons to be used in church.²⁰⁵

Her closest relative (the granddaughter of Henry VIII’s sister) was the Catholic **Mary Steward**, the Scottish queen, also called Queen of Scots. There was a danger from those Catholic nobles still in England who wished to remove Elizabeth and replace her with Mary Steward. So, when the Queen of Scots returned to England, Elizabeth kept Mary as a prisoner for almost twenty years and then executed her.

Elizabeth I correctly recognised Spain as her main trade rival and enemy. The queen’s seamen were traders as well as pirates and adventurers (John Hawkins, Francis Drake and Martin Frobisher), who were trying to build English sea trade and to interrupt Spain’s by attacking Spanish ships bringing treasure from America. Eventually, in **1588 Francis Drake** destroyed part of the Spanish fleet (**Armada**) in Cadiz harbour.²⁰⁶

During Elizabeth’s reign more “chartered” companies were established. A **charter** gave a company the right to all the business in its particular trade or region. In return for this important advantage the chartered company gave some of its profits to the Crown. These companies were the Eastland Company to trade with Scandinavia and the Baltic set in 1579; the Levant Company to trade with the Ottoman Empire established in 1581; the Africa Company to trade in slaves, in 1588;

204 Morrill, John S. and Greenblatt, Stephen J. “Elizabeth I”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 20 Mar. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Elizabeth-I>. Accessed 7 July 2

205 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 72.

206 Katona, András. *Korai újkori egyetemes történelem (XV–XVIII. század)*. Nemzeti Tankönyvkiadó, 2008, 111.

and the East India Company to trade with India founded in 1600, which finally, in 1668, took over Bombay. Also, Elizabeth I actively took part in the colonization of America. **Walter Raleigh** “sponsored a number of attempts to establish an English colony at Roanoke Island, which he named ‘**Virginia**’ in honour of Queen Elizabeth ‘the Virgin Queen’.” However, the dream to establish a permanent colony in Virginia was realised only by the Virginia Company in **1607**.²⁰⁷

1603 saw the **Union of Scotland and Britain** as the death of Queen Elizabeth I led to the accession of James VI of Scotland to the English throne as James I, unifying the entire island under a single ruler. Although the countries had separate parliament and church. The union found expression in the kingdom’s flag (**Union Jack**) from 1606: the flag of England (a red cross on a white background) known as St George’s Cross, and the flag of Scotland, a white saltire (X-shaped cross, or St Andrew’s Cross) on a blue background, would be joined, forming the flag of England and Scotland for maritime purposes. There are no symbols representing Wales in the flag, making Wales the only home nation with no representation. However, the Welsh Dragon was adopted in the coat of arms of the ruling Tudor dynasty.

Tudor Government

The Tudor monarchs did not like governing through Parliament. In order to control discussion in Parliament, the Crown appointed a “Speaker.” Even today the Speaker is responsible for good behaviour during debates in the House of Commons. His job in Tudor times was to make sure that Parliament discussed what the monarch wanted Parliament to discuss, and that it made the decision which he or she wanted. Until the end of the Tudor period, Parliament was supposed to do three things: agree to the taxes needed; make the laws which the Crown suggested; and advise the Crown, but only when asked to do so.

Literature

The literary life of Elizabeth I’s reign was distinguished by **Edmund Spenser**, English poet, **Christopher Marlowe**, English dramatist and the great English poet and dramatist, **William Shakespeare**, many of whose plays are devoted to English and British historical subjects. He gave memorable voice to English patriotism in *Richard II*. Like many English people throughout history, he referred to England as

207 <https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/queen-elizabeth-i-colonising-america>

an “isle,” or island, ignoring the fact that England shared the island of Britain with Scotland and Wales.²⁰⁸

Witch-hunt

“The Elizabethan era also saw the beginnings of English witch-hunting. The total number of witches executed in the witch hunt that began after the passage of a law against witchcraft in 1563 and lasted until the late 17th century was between 500 and 1,000, although many more died while awaiting trial in filthy jails or as the victims of mob violence. About 90 percent of the witches executed were women, a higher percentage than in most European countries.”²⁰⁹

3.5. The Stuarts

James I, king of England/James VI, king of Scotland (1603–1625)

James I intended to rule without Parliament as much as possible. He preferred a small council and believed that the king was chosen by God and therefore only God could judge him.²¹⁰ In 1605 there was a failed Catholic assassination attempt against the king (by blowing up the House of Lords), called as **Gunpowder Plot**. The most famous conspirator was **Guy Fawkes**. He and his group put 36 barrels of gunpowder in cellars underneath the Houses of Parliament in London, ready to set off a massive explosion. However, one member of Fawkes’ group sent a letter to his friend who worked in Parliament, warning him to stay away on 5 November. The King’s supporters got hold of the letter and the plot was rumbled. Guards broke into the cellars where the gunpowder plotters were waiting. They were arrested. All the surviving plotters “were found guilty of treason and sentenced to death by hanging, drawing and quartering.”²¹¹ On the very night that the Gunpowder Plot failed, on **5 November 1605**, bonfires were set alight to celebrate the safety of the King. Since then, November 5th has become known as **Firework Night, Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Day**, “as a day of thanksgiving for `the joyful day of deliverance”²¹²

208 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 102.

209 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 104.

210 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 88.

211 Fitzgibbon, Sinead. *The Gunpowder Plot. The Story in an Hour*, William Collins, 37.

212 “The Gunpowder Plot House of Commons Information Office Factsheet G8,” House of Commons,

In **1607**, “James I’s reign saw the foundation of the colony of **Jamestown** in Virginia, which became a center of tobacco production. The king himself, however, was one of the foremost opponents of the new plant. His *A Counter-Blaste to Tobacco* (1604) denounced it in scorching terms as unhealthy, sinful, and disgusting.”²¹³ About 10 years later, in **1620**, Plymouth Colony, later Massachusetts Colony, the first permanent colony in New England, was also founded when the **Pilgrim Fathers**, 102 people, left England seeking religious freedom, and then on the ship *Mayflower* they got to the New World and introduced Puritanism. Actually, during the seventeenth century, twelve British colonies were born in the New World. The Northern colonies were named *New England*, the middle ones were established along the River Delaware and the southern colonies were founded around Chesapeake Bay.²¹⁴

Ulster plantation is also related to James I’s name. Being also the King of Ireland, the Protestant James wanted to unite his three kingdoms (England, Scotland and Ireland) and “strengthen his rule in Ireland where he faced opposition and rebellion from the Catholic, Irish speaking population.” Therefore, from 1609 onwards, people from England and Scotland were encouraged to move to the northern part of Ireland (named *Ulster*) to make it friendlier towards James by taking huge areas of land from the local Irish population and giving them to the planters.²¹⁵ This act worsened the tense relationship between the Catholics and Protestants, which reached its peak in various waves throughout history; first in the English Civil War in the seventeenth century-England and then during the period called the Troubles in the nineteenth century-Northern Ireland.

English Civil Wars (1642–1651), Republican and Restoration Britain

The English Civil War was a series of civil wars and political machinations between **Parliamentarians (“Roundheads”)** and **Royalists (“Cavaliers”)**, mainly over the manner of England’s governance and issues of religious freedom. The Royalists controlled most of the north and west whereas Parliamentarians controlled East Anglia and the southeast, including London. It ended with the execu-

200, 3–4. <https://web.archive.org/web/20050215195506/http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/g08.pdf> Find more information about the celebration on page 100.

213 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 106.

214 Katona, A. *Korai újkori egyetemes történelem*, 296-298.

215 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zj7vrj6/articles/z2bgsrd>

tion of king Charles I. Britain became a **Commonwealth of Republic (1649–1660)** until its leader's, **Oliver Cromwell's** death, who, in the war, massacred in Wexford, Drogheda, Irish Catholic villages. He assumed the executive power, named himself Lord Protector; divided England into 15 military districts and introduced civil marriage. After his death, the monarchy was restored, but the **Great Plague of 1665** and the **Great Fire of London in 1666** made the new king, **Charles II's (1630–1685)** ruling conditions difficult.²¹⁶

“The Great Fire broke out from a baker's house in Pudding Lane. By the time it was over, four days later, much of the medieval city lay in smoking ruins... The damage caused by the Great Fire was immense: 436 acres of London were destroyed, including 13,200 houses and 87 out of 109 churches. Some places still smouldered for months afterwards...51 churches and about 9000 houses were rebuilt.”²¹⁷ **Christopher Wren**, a professor of Astronomy at Oxford was asked to rebuild and design the city (e.g., St Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, London Bridge). Also, the “new regulations were designed to prevent such a disaster happening again. Houses now had to be faced in brick instead of wood. Some streets were widened and two new streets were created. Pavements and new sewers were laid, and London's quaysides were improved.”²¹⁸

The **Great Plague of 1665** was the worst outbreak of plague on the island since the Black Death. “London lost roughly 15% of its population...The earliest cases of disease occurred in the spring of 1665 in a parish outside the city walls called St Giles-in-the-Fields.”²¹⁹

The religious conflict, still dominant during Charles II's reign, led to the establishment of the first political parties in Britain. The “**Whigs**” (a rude name for cattle drivers; opponents of the court) were afraid of an absolute monarchy, and of the Catholic faith; and wanted to have no regular army and wished for religious freedom whereas the “**Torries**” (an Irish name for thieves, Crown loyalist) upheld the authority of the Crown and the Church, and stood for the succession of a powerful monarch.²²⁰

216 Katona, A. *Korai újkori egyetemes történelem*, 167–182.

217 <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/great-fire-london-1666>

218 <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/discover/great-fire-london-1666>

219 <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/great-plague/>

220 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 120.

In 1660, Charles II established the **Royal Society** for supporting natural science, and, indeed, the seventeenth century saw great scientific discoveries: William Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood; Isaac Newton, gravity; Thomas Savery developed water pump, which later led to the invention of steam engine. The first newspapers, which appeared in the same century, were a new way of spreading all kinds of these discoveries as well as religious ideas.²²¹

William III/William of Orange (1689–1702) and the Glorious Revolution (1688–1689)

The Whigs wished to have a new king, the Dutch protestant stadtholder **William of Orange**, who was also the king's **James II's** son-in-law. James II claimed for religious peace and thus supported the Catholic Church financially. Finally, the last Catholic King had to exile to France as William was approaching, and all Protestants wanted to attack him. Without any fight in 1689, William and his wife were crowned and later put down James II's military reactions. "The revolution settlement also enshrined religious toleration (for Protestants) in law in the **Toleration Act of 1689**, while leaving the Anglican monopoly of public offices untouched. Catholics were tolerated on a *de facto* rather than *de jure* basis."²²² Finally, in **1701**, he passed **the Act of Settlement** according to which only a Protestant could inherit the crown. This act "has remained in force ever since"²²³

Craze for coffee and tea

It "was not until 1650 that the first coffee house in England (and only the second in Europe) was opened at Oxford, advertised as 'a simple Innocent thing, incomparable good for those that are troubled with melancholy'. But from the very beginning coffee houses proved to be centres of intellectual debate, visited by writers, scholars, wits and politicians"²²⁴

Likewise, tea had become a national drink by 1700, when 50,000 kg were already being imported each year. The precise date of tea's appearance in England is about the first decade of the seventeenth century. It came from Holland, where the

221 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 101.

222 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 124.

223 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 96.

224 Spencer, Colin. *British Food. An Extraordinary Thousand Years of History*, Grub Street Cookery, 2011, 233.

Dutch East India Company had opened commercial relations with China ahead of its English rival.

While coffeehouses were visited by men, their wives held tea parties at home.²²⁵ “Tea’s feminine image was partly because it was introduced to England by Catherine of Braganza, the Portuguese Queen to Charles II. Although it was served in some of the exclusively male coffee-houses that opened in London after 1652 it was not usual in these before the 1690s, and was never the principal drink there. Tea was “also associated with a panoply of china and porcelain...gilded mahogany tea-tables and silver teapots.”²²⁶ In 1700 tea was still an occasional drink of the wealthy, fashionable few: before the end of the century, it was regularly consumed by all social classes, and formed an integral part of the new dietary patterns of the poor.”²²⁷ Tea earned its popularity as an economical drink by the 1720s; between 1800 and 1900 the quantity of tea consumed in the kingdom increased tenfold – from 23,720,000 lb a year to 224,180,000 lb.²²⁸

Coffee and tea were both instrumental in the civilizing process experienced by Western Europe in the seventeenth century.²²⁹ “Men who drank in ... London coffee-houses were subject to the house rules that prohibited swearing, gambling, quarrelling and profane language.”²³⁰ As for tea rituals, the “later hour of dining in Victorian England – often at 7.30 p.m. or 8 p.m. in the highest circles – created a gap for an additional light meal, ‘afternoon tea’, at around 4 p.m., a social occasion mainly for ladies and eligible bachelors. Although the **English tea ceremony** never developed the elaboration of the Japanese, the arts of managing the tea equipment and serving guests were marks of social accomplishment, as was the manner of drinking. Victorian etiquette required the milk or cream (tea-sets always included a ‘cream’ jug) to be added after the tea, allowing the drinker to decline or limit the amount: to drink from the saucer was no longer acceptable, while a teaspoon laid across the cup indicated that the drinker declined a refill. The polite ‘**afternoon tea**’, at which little more than bread and butter or sandwiches were served, was quite different from ‘**high tea**’, a substantial meal of cold meats or fish, salads,

225 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 109.

226 Spencer, C. *British Food*, 235.

227 Burnett, John. *Liquid Pleasures. A Social History of Drinks in Modern Britain*, 1999, 52.

228 Burnett, John. *Liquid Pleasures*, 54, 57.

229 Burnett, John. *Liquid Pleasures*, 50.

230 Burnett, John. *Liquid Pleasures*, 51.

fruit and cakes that developed in the later nineteenth century, particularly in the north of England and Scotland. In middle-class homes it allowed the servants to attend church on Sunday evening, since no cooking was involved, while in better-off working-class homes it became something of a festive occasion for visitors. Both ‘afternoon’ and ‘high’ tea confirmed the central role of the hostess as provider and manager, presiding in her ‘separate sphere’ of the home.”²³¹

Meanwhile, the working class went to the drinking houses, called **alehouses** or **pubs**. Interestingly, **drunkenness** had been a major urban problem of the working class for many centuries since the seventeenth century, and intensified during the industrial revolution. The pubs were open 24 hours per day and widespread, e.g., in Newcastle: 1 public house to every 22 families; there were more public houses altogether than shops. Among the major reasons of heavy drinking were: to escape from the harsh and boring working environment; it was the only form of entertainment besides going to church, alcohol was healthier than water and cheaper than milk and coffee and tea, there was no direct water supply from mains; spirits were regarded as painkillers, beers were believed to give strength; working class houses were small, cramped, cold and uncomfortable while the pubs were warm and provided company.²³²

3.6. The Eighteenth Century

Mary and William III died without heir, so Mary’s sister Anna became queen as the last Stuart. Since the Scottish were unsatisfied, in order to avoid war, England proclaimed that unless the Scots agreed on a full union with England by Christmas Day 1705, England breaks all economic relation with them. As a result, the **Treaty of Union of 1707** “made England and Scotland one country under the new name of **United Kingdom of Great Britain**.”²³³ Separate parliaments were abolished and at Westminster the new Parliament of Great Britain was established: the Scots were given 45 seats in the House of Commons and 16, in the Lords. Scotland gained equal share from English ports and colonies, yet the union damaged the Scottish

231 Burnett, John. *Liquid Pleasures*, 59.

232 Golby, J. M. and A. W. Purdue. *The Civilization of the Crowd: Popular Culture in England 1750-1900*. Sutton Publishing, 1999, 116, 119.

233 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 127.

economy. When England banned the trade with its overseas colonies and lost trading privileges in France and Low Countries by the end of the seventeenth century, Scottish demanded the end of the union for the first time.²³⁴

When **Queen Anne (1665–1714)** died, **George**, from the **House of Hanover (1714–1727)**, became king. **Robert Walpole**, his minister, considered **Britain’s first Prime Minister** “lived in 10 Downing Street from 1735 having insisted that it become the residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, rather than being given to him personally.”²³⁵ He developed the idea that government ministers should work together in a small group, which was called the **Cabinet**. He also made sure that the power of the king would always be limited by the constitution: the king could not remove or change laws; the king was dependent on Parliament for his financial income and for his army and the king was supposed to ‘choose’ his ministers. Even today the government of Britain is “Her Majesty’s Government.” But in fact, the ministers belonged as much to Parliament as they did to the king. **William Pitt “the Elder,”** later **Lord Chatham**, became another influential political representative. He was certain that Britain must beat France in the race for an overseas trade empire. The war against France’s trade went on all over the world. In Canada, the British took Quebec in 1759 and Montreal the following year and India, the “jewel in the Crown.”²³⁶ The British pride was expressed in a national song written in 1742, titled “**Rule Britannia.**”²³⁷



Figure 24 - Rule, Britannia!

234 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 120.

235 <https://history.blog.gov.uk/2014/11/20/sir-robert-walpole-whig-1721-1742/>

236 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 108–109.

237 <https://sk.pinterest.com/pin/797840890217023477/>

Later, **George III (1760–1820)** signed the **Treaty of Paris** in **1763**, which re-distributed imperial lands. The areas of Lower Canada, land up to the Mississippi, Florida, India and Senegal were ceded to Britain. The British handed Cuba and Manila over to the Spanish.²³⁸

In order to pay back the national debt due to the colonial wars, England imposed taxes on luxury goods, such as tea, coffee and chocolate while granted no political right to the colonies with which it traded.²³⁹ In 1764 this led to a quarrel over taxation between the British government and its colonies in America. The colony's motto was: "No taxation without representation."²⁴⁰ The situation worsened when in 1773 a group of colonists (the Sons of Liberty) disguised in Indian costume boarded the ships at the port of Boston and threw 342 chests of tea into the sea rather than pay tax on it. The event became known as the **Boston Tea party**.²⁴¹ **The American War of Independence** had thus begun, which ended in **1783** with the **Peace of Versailles**, in which Britain accepted the independence of the USA, and the British lost every American colony except for Canada.²⁴² The war in America gave strength to the new ideas of democracy and of independence. Many British politicians openly supported the colonists, e.g., Edmund Burke and Tom Paine.²⁴³

In 1801, the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland was realized, and also the first official census of the British population was organized. In 1700 England and Wales had a population of about 5.5 million then grew quickly to about 8.8 million by the end of the century. Including Ireland and Scotland, the total population was about 13 million (London: 1750–1837: from 650 000 to 2,5 million).

238 <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Timeline-Of-The-British-Empire/>

239 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 109.

240 Ward, Harry M. *The War for Independence and the Transformation of American Society*, UCL Press, 2004, 1.

241 Asimov, Isaac. *The Birth of the United States, 1763-1816*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1974, 34.

242 US Department of State Archive, <https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/ar/14313.htm>

243 Asimov, I. *The Birth of the United States*, 18–19.

3.7. Great Britain in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century

The Years of Industrial Revolution

“Beginning in the last half of the 18th century and extending into the early 20th century, first Great Britain and then Western Europe, the United States, and several other parts of the globe experienced the vibrant stirrings of a major technical and economic transformation.”²⁴⁴ The following list shows a few examples of British scientific inventions and social development from the 18th to the late 19th century, that is the Georgian and Victorian period. The latter period takes its name after **Queen Victoria (1837–1901)**, who was the last British monarch of the House of Hanover. All in all, Britain could excel as its coal extraction – which formed the basis of development – was nine times that of France, Germany, Russia and Belgium combined, and her naval force made Britain an Empire a successful colonizer.

- 1712 Thomas Newcomen invented the atmospheric engine to pump water from mines.
- 1769 James Watt patented steam engine.
- 1764 James Hargreaves invented the “spinning jenny.”
- 1779 Richard Arkwright developed the water frame to increase the number of spindles.
- 1780-84 Canal system development
- 1784: Royal Mail, postal service established
- 1787 Edmund Cartwright invented his wool-combing machine and early power loom.
- 1798 Thomas Malthus published “Essay on the Principle of Population” in which he famously “theorized that populations would continue expanding until growth is stopped or reversed by disease, famine, war, or calamity.”²⁴⁵
- 1801 First official census of the British population.
- 1805 Admiral Nelson defeated Franco-Spanish fleet at Trafalgar in the Napoleonic War, which allows the Royal Navy to have control of the seas.²⁴⁶

244 Wyatt III, Lee T. *The Industrial Revolution*. In *Greenwood Guides to Historic Events, 1500–1900*, Greenwood Press, 2009, xi.

245 <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/t/thomas-malthus.asp>

246 Source of relating picture (Figure 26) <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-plumb-pudding-in-danger---or---state-epicures-taking-un-petit-souper-by-gillray>

- 1811 Luddite movement in Great Britain: a rebellion against the introduction of machinery which threatened the textile worker's skilled craft.
- 1814 George Stephenson developed the first steam-powered locomotive.
- 1825 The Stockton–Darlington Railway opened with Stephenson steam locomotive.
- 1826 Lowell, Massachusetts was founded, and six textile mills were established.
- 1829 George Stephenson's Rocket – first train operating on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway.
- 1833 The Factory Act places limitations on child labour in Great Britain (work only over the age of 9; employer had to give child workers daily schooling)
- 1834 British Parliament passed the Poor Law. Establishment of workhouses for the poor and unemployment (building roads/drainage in poor life conditions).
- Robert Owen founded the Grand National Consolidate Trade Union to protect the working men's conditions (payment, service) and organize strike for the same reason.
- 1834 Slavery abolished in all British colonies.
- 1838 First department store in Edinburgh.
- 1835 Railroad mania began in Great Britain.
- 1841 Queen Victoria took her first ride on a railroad.
- 1842 Mines Act prohibited women and children from working underground
- 1844 Samuel Morse demonstrated telegraph
- 1844 Friedrich Engels published *The Conditions of the Working Class* in England.
- 1846 Elias Howe invented the sewing machine.
- 1847 Working day in factories was limited to ten hours (instead of 14)
- 1851 The Great Exhibition (Crystal Palace) attracted 6 million visitors to London. The exhibition aimed to show the world the greatness of Britain's industry (coal, iron and steel). The profits provided the foundation of Albert Hall (1871) and Victoria & Albert Museum (1852).
- Major census in Great Britain.
- Isaac Singer developed the first consumer sewing machine.
- 1854–57 Crimean War and the new era of philanthropy began (Florence Nightingale's service).

- 1858 The “Great Stink” in London – all of the sewage pumped into the Thames dried up and caused a stench that spurred London’s City.
- 1863 Metropolitan underground trains (steam-powered tube trains) operating in London (smoky, uncomfortable)
- 1867 Reform Bill extended suffrage in Great Britain.
Free and compulsory education for children.
- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
- 1879 Thomas Edison invented incandescent light bulb.
- 1880 First refrigerated ships used for long-distance transportation of food.
- 1884 Last of 19th century reform bills gave suffrage to almost all males in Great Britain.
- 1892 Electrification began.
- 1901 Queen Victoria dies.²⁴⁷

Added to the changes above, other social, religious and cultural changes took place in Victorian Britain:

➤ **The Rise of the Middle Classes**

The “middle class is defined as encompassing all non-manual occupations except aristocrats or landed gentry [...] there was [no] homogeneous middle class; the financial and social gulf between the country gentry and the small shopkeepers could be vast”²⁴⁸ The professions included: a priest, a lawyer, a doctor, a social worker, a diplomat, a banker, a soldier, and a shopkeeper.

➤ **Changes in thinking**

- The most important idea of the nineteenth century was that everyone had the right to personal freedom, which was the basis of capitalism.

- Weakening of religious life: according to the 1851 census, only 60 per cent of the population went to church – of these only 5.2 million Anglicans, 4.5 million Nonconformists and almost half a million Catholics.²⁴⁹

- **Charles Darwin** published *The Origin of Species* (1859) which further strengthened crisis in the Church. His theory of evolution by natural selection (the

247 Wyatt III, L. T. *The Industrial Revolution*, xv-xix.

248 Curran, Cyntia. “Private Women, Public Needs: Middle-Class Widows in Victorian England.” *Albion: A Quarterly Journal Concerned with British Studies*, vol. 25, no. 2, Summer, 1993, pp. 217–236. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/4051453. Accessed 6 December 2020. 218, 220.

249 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 141.

survival of the fittest) unsettled the biblical account of Genesis.²⁵⁰

➤ **Redbrick universities:** they were built in the new industrial cities in England. The term “redbrick” distinguished the new universities, often brick-built, from the older, mainly stone-built universities of Oxford and Cambridge. They taught more science and technology to ‘feed’ Britain’s industries. Today, 5 of the original 6 Redbrick Universities are rated among the top 100 universities in the world, according to the QS World University Rankings (e.g., University of Liverpool, University of Birmingham, University of Manchester, University of Sheffield, University of Leeds).²⁵¹

➤ **First wave of feminism** (late 19th – early 20th century)

From the late Middle Ages to the mid-19th century, due to religious influences, upper-and middle-class women, wives were expected to conform to the “Angle in the House” image, to be obedient, silent, submissive and passive having no socio-political rights and financial independence.²⁵² The term ‘feminism’ covers “the revolutionary ideas, struggles and activities of the ‘women’s movement,’ focused... on gaining the right of women’s suffrage”²⁵³ but also on achieving economic, financial and educational equality. The most significant results were: Married Women’s Property Act of 1882 and 1893 (middle-class wives could keep their earnings during marriage), in 1870s the extension of secondary and university education had started for girls; the Custody of Infants Act of 1839 allowed a mother to propose custody of her children in case of divorce; the Matrimonial Cause of Act of 1857, which “set up the Divorce Court and, though unequal in its treatment of husbands and wives, laid the foundations of modern family law.”²⁵⁴ Finally, women “got the vote in two stages” in 1918 and 1928; the “[m]iddle class housewives comprised the largest group to be enfranchised” in the first phase (xi, xv) whereas the Equal Franchise Act of 1928 “gave equal voting rights for both men and women.”²⁵⁵

250 Bown, Nicola. *Fairies in Nineteenth-Century Art and Literature*. Cambridge University Press, 2001, 67–68.

251 <https://academicvenuesolutions.co.uk/blog/what-are-redbrick-universities>

252 Read more about the expected roles of women in Coventry Patmore’s sequence of poem “Angel in the House” (1854) and John Ruskin’s “Of Queen’s Garden” (1864).

253 Puskás, Andrea. *An Introduction to Literature, a textbook of university students of English as a foreign language*. 2019, Bymoon, 138. Puskás, Andrea, *Female identity in feminist adaptations of Shakespeare*. Tinta Könyvkiadó, 2014, 32.

254 Perkin, Herold. *The Origins of Modern English Society*, Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2005, 130.

255 Nelson, Carolyn Christensen. *Literature of the Women’s Suffrage Campaign in England*, edited by Carolyn Ch. Nelson, Broadview Press, 2004, pp, xi, xv.

A Brief Overview of the History of The British Empire²⁵⁶

The British Empire comprised of Britain (the “mother country”) and the colonies/ countries which were ruled to some degree by and from Britain. “Bringing Wales [in 1536], Scotland [1603 and 1707] and Ireland [in 1801] within a broader British realm represents some of England’s earliest forays into colonial rule.”²⁵⁷ “By the eighteenth-century Britain’s powerful naval superiority was as much about colonial trade, shipping goods and peoples across the globe, as it was about the warfare so typical of the period.”²⁵⁸ “By 1783, Britain had established an empire which comprised of: colonies in North America, including the West Indies, and the Pacific including New Zealand, which became a British Colony following an expedition by James Cook in 1769, but Britain’s defeat in the American War of Independence meant the loss of the American colonies...In the century 1815–1914, 10 million square miles of territory and 400 million people were added to the British Empire. By the British Empire Exhibition of 1924, Britain controlled a worldwide empire which covered a fifth of the land in the world.”²⁵⁹ Significant



Figure 25 – The Plum Pudding in Danger, 1818. The British Prime Minister William Pitt sits on the left of the picture opposite Napoleon Bonaparte, both of who tear hungrily at the globe in a bid to gain a larger portion.

19th century-colonial accomplishments and happenings were:

- 1806 Cape of Good Hope occupied by the British.
- 1819 Singapore founded by Sir Stamford Raffles.
- 1813 English East India Company lost its trading monopoly with India.
- 1841 Britain occupied the island of Hong Kong.
- 1858 East India Company dissolved.

256 Source of the map: McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 146.

257 Levine, Philippa. *The British Empire. Sunrise to Sunset*, Pearson Longman, 2007, 1.

258 Levine, P. *The British Empire*, 13.

259 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zf7fr82/revision/4>

- 1867 Canada was given ‘dominion’ (self-governing) status, followed by Australia and New Zealand in 1907.
- 1870 British troops were withdrawn from Australia, New Zealand and Canada.
- 1876 Queen Victoria took the title Empress of India.
- 1878 Occupation of Cyprus.
- 1881–1919 Britain acquired colonies in Africa stretching from Cairo to Cape Town.
- 1894 Uganda became a protectorate.
- 1899–1902 The British conquered South Africa (the Second Boer War).
- 1889 The British South Africa Co. Royal Charter was awarded; Rhodesia established.²⁶⁰



Figure 26 - Our Empire Atlas 1897

260 <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Timeline-Of-The-British-Empire/>;
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zf7fr82/revision/5>

3.8. Great Britain in the twentieth century

King **George V** (1910–1936), **George VI** (1936–1952) and Queen **Elizabeth II** (1952–) followed each other on the British throne in the twentieth century. Their rule had been challenged by the World Wars, Great Depression and the Cold War. Great Britain’s participation in the world wars had had a great impact on its imperial power and the global map. After WWI, it became clear that Britain could no longer afford an empire; had no right to rule people who did not want to be ruled by Britain, and the Royal Navy was not strong enough to protect all the Empire all over the world:

1916–1998 In the years after the Easter Rising of 1916 nationalists in Ireland (people who wished to have independence) fought the Irish War of Independence against British forces and police in Ireland.

1919 The Treaty of Versailles promoted ‘self-determination’, or the right to rule yourself. It gave Germany’s colonies, which included land in Africa and China, as ‘mandates’ for Britain and France to administer.

1919–1935 There was going on a strong independence movement in India.

1924 The British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Stadium showcased the strength and power of the empire. However, in Britain at this time people became increasingly critical of imperialism.

1926 The British government agreed the Balfour Declaration – that Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were completely independent countries, “freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.”

1947 Declaration of Indian Independence and the partitioning of India and Pakistan.

1948 British withdrawal from Palestine.

1952 Mau Mau Rebellion broke out in opposition to white British colonial rule in Kenya.

1956–1966 Sudan gained independence, closely followed the next year by Ghana and other British colonies throughout the African mainland.

1972 Asians expelled from Uganda.

1990 Namibia achieved independence.

1997 Hong Kong was handed back to China.²⁶¹

261 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zf7fr82/revision/6>

British Commonwealth of Nations (1931–49) / Commonwealth of Nations (present)

It is a free association of sovereign states comprising the United Kingdom and a number of its former dependencies who have chosen to maintain ties of friendship and practical cooperation and who acknowledge the British monarch as symbolic head of their association. The modern Commonwealth of Nations was born in 1949. King George VI was the first Head of the Commonwealth, and Queen Elizabeth II became Head when he died. But the British king or queen is not automatically Head of the Commonwealth. Commonwealth member countries choose who becomes Head of the Commonwealth.²⁶² It comprises 53 countries (31 500 000 km²), across all continents with 2.3 billion people (almost a third of the world population).²⁶³



Figure 27 - Commonwealth nations

262 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Commonwealth”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11 Aug. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Commonwealth-association-of-states>. Accessed 9 July 2021.

263 http://www.miss-ocean.com/Media_Press_Articles/Royal_Family_Commonwealth_Nations.htm; source of the map: <https://conradbrunstrom.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/commonwealthmap.jpg>

“The fall of the British Empire was accompanied by the immigration of people from empire nations to Britain... The 1948 arrival of the *Empire Windrush*, a ship bringing hundreds of immigrants from Jamaica, is often treated as a founding date for multicultural Britain, although there were already small Caribbean immigrant communities. There were no restrictions on immigration within the empire until 1962, so migration was one solution to the poverty and political turmoil facing British colonies.”²⁶⁴ Later, Asian immigrants started to arrive from India and Pakistan and from East Africa. By 1985, there were about five million recent immigrants and their children out of a total population of about fifty-six million. In the 1980s the black’s bad housing and unemployment led to riots in Liverpool, Bristol and London.²⁶⁵

Britain in the Great War (1914–1918)

Britain declared war against Germany on 4 August 1914 (battles at Somme, in Iraq and Palestine, Gallipoli on the Dardanelles). The nation was told that it was defending the weak (Belgium) against the strong (Germany), and that it was fighting for democracy and freedom. The war cost almost a million British and Empire lives and 35 billion pounds, but it also initiated the invention and development of radio and aviation. Life for women also changed during the war. Because so many men were away fighting, a lot of women took paid jobs outside home for the first time. The approval of their significant place in society found expression in giving them the right to vote in 1918 and 1928. By 1918 there were five million women working in Britain.²⁶⁶

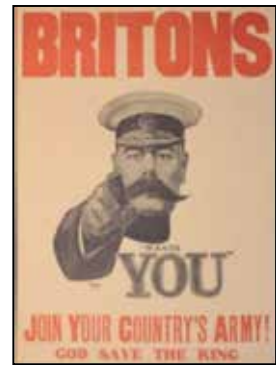


Figure 28 - This famous poster used the face of senior British army officer, Lord Kitchener, to recruit soldiers.

264 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 224–225.

265 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 225.

266 Source of the text and the poster: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/28585905>

Interwar Britain (1919–1939)

The 1930s, Great Depression-era's protests "were all symptoms of the dramatic collapse of Britain's Victorian manufacturing economy after 1918. During the Edwardian years the great nineteenth-century staples – coal, cotton, shipbuilding, iron and steel – had enjoyed a final boom, although less because of their own efficiency than because the rapid growth of other economies had created a temporary demand for British goods... But entrepreneurs had invested rashly and oversupplied the market. As a result, by the summer of 1920 domestic demand had collapsed and foreign markets wanted fewer British goods."²⁶⁷ It resulted a high rate of unemployment and poverty, which was the "chief targets of the six National Hunger Marches that began in the autumn of 1922"²⁶⁸ and continued in 1925, 1930, 1932, 1934 and 1936. During the Great Depression, a worldwide economic crisis between 1929 and 1933 saw over 3 million unemployed in Britain.²⁶⁹

The areas most affected by the depression were those which had created Britain's industrial revolution (Clydeside, Belfast, the industrial north of England and southeast Wales). Because the worst effects of the depression in Britain were limited to certain areas, the government did not take the situation seriously enough. In the 1930s, the British economy started to recover (e.g., growing motor industry). By 1937 the British industry was producing weapons, aircraft and equipment for war, with the financial support of the United States.²⁷⁰

However, new industries such as aviation and car production flourished mostly in southern and central England. Added to this, by 1939, 75 percent of households had electricity after in 1926 the Central Electricity Generating Board – which owned and operated the National Grid – with powers to raise capital on ordinary commercial lines and a responsibility to establish interconnected lines covered the whole country.²⁷¹

267 Pugh, Martin. *We Danced All Night. A Social History of Britain Between the Wars*. Vintage Books, 2013, 59.

268 Pugh, M. *We Danced All Night*, 61.

269 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 187.

270 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 165, 178.

271 Pugh, M. *We Danced All Night*, 55.

Society and Culture in the 1920s and 1930s

The inter-war period was “a time of cultural as well as political transformation ... Britain was particularly receptive to the appeal of American culture due to its lack of a language barrier. Jazz music and the cinema were two particularly powerful American imports... The most popular star of all, often considered emblematic of the early silent cinema, was **Charlie Chaplin** (1889–1977) ... The English director Alfred Hitchcock (1899–1990), whose early films often had British settings, became thoroughly identified with American cinema”²⁷²

The new technology of radio led to the formation of a state organization for broadcasting, the **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)** in 1926. “It broadcast much classical music and required its newsreaders and other broadcasters to have a southern English, upper-class accent that came to be known as “BBC English.” Regional dialects were to be used only by comedians.”²⁷³

“Like other parts of the developed world, Britain in the early 20th century was shaped by the **automobile**. The motorcar went from being a toy for the rich to becoming a basic means of transportation for millions, although it was still restricted to the prosperous.” Two of the most famous luxury car brands of all time are originally British manufactures: the **Rolls-Royce** (founded in 1906) and the **Bentley** (founded in 1919). The two companies merged in 1931.²⁷⁴

Britain in WWII (1939–1945)

“We are not fighting to restore the past. We must plan and create a noble future.”

Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister (1940–1945 and 1951–1955)

In the 1930s the old democracies of Western Europe were overshadowed by the two rival ideological states: Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. **Neville Chamberlain**, the British Prime Minister (1937–1940) is best known for his foreign policy of **appeasement** with the Nazi Germany that is to grant Hitler’s territorial wishes in order to avoid war. In this sense, WWII had begun as a traditional European struggle, with Britain fighting to save the “balance of power” in Europe, and to control the Atlantic Ocean and the sea surrounding Britain. But the war quickly

272 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 192.

273 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 193.

274 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 193.



Figure 29 - Winston Churchill giving a V (victory) sign in 1943

became worldwide. Both sides wanted to control the oil in the Middle East, and the Suez Canal, Britain's route to India. When the British fail to protect Norway, Chamberlain was replaced by **Winston Churchill**.²⁷⁵ Although Britain was again on the side of the winners, almost one and a half million people in London were made homeless by German bombing, and over 303,000 English soldiers and 60,000 civilians in air raids died in WWII.²⁷⁶

The war created a new hero, scientists who could win technological advantages over the enemy such as Watson-Watt's radar for bomb location, R.V. Jones distorted the Luftwaffe's navigation beams; development of atomic bombs, Alan Turing who broke Enigma, a cipher machine used by Nazi Germany; his Turing machine is considered a model of a general-purpose computer.²⁷⁷

Britain in the Cold War

After WWII, the world was divided into capitalist (the USA and Western Europe) and communist countries (Soviet Union and its satellite states). As for the foreign policy of these states, during the Cold War, "subjugated countries followed a foreign policy compatible with the interests of the Soviet Union"²⁷⁸ whereas the

275 McDougall, Walter A. "20th-century international relations". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 3 Sep. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/20th-century-international-relations-2085155>. Accessed 24 July 2021. Source of the photo of Winston Churchill: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/search?query=HU+55521>

"The first public mention of the V-sign was in a broadcast on January 14, 1941, by the Belgian Programme Organisers, Victor de Laveleye. The feedback from Belgium and elsewhere was such that a general campaign was launched, later to include the V-sound in morse. Churchill was publicly associated with the campaign for the first time in a broadcast message on July 18/19. V was the initial letter of Victory, not only in English but also in French/Walloon and Flemish, and easily scribbled on walls in the dark." <https://www.theguardian.com/notesandqueries/query/0,-1370,00.html>

276 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 167.

277 Imperial War Museums, <https://www.iwm.org.uk/>

278 Vajda, Barnabás: Historical Pull and Push Factors in Central Europe After 1989. In: Windhager, Ákos (Editor): *A Political or a Cultural Project? Contemporary Discourses on Central European Identity*. Hungarian Academy of Arts Research Institute of Art Theory and Methodology, Budapest, 2020, 106.

western countries' affairs were influenced by the capitalist powers. In **1949** Britain joined with other Western European countries to form the **Council of Europe**, "to achieve greater unity between members." The characteristics of British foreign and defence policy in the Cold War included "'defencism', 'nuclearism', 'Atlanticism', 'globalism' and 'hermeticism'"²⁷⁹

- **Defencism** meant that "a moral intuition that defensive intent is not only a necessary but also a sufficient condition for war in general; strong defences are the best way to prevent war."
- **Nuclearism:** interest in 'tactical nuclear weapons' was of a limited kind. UK doubted that they can be used in tactically on the European continent.
- **Antlanticism:** "in order for Europe to be stable and protected from threat, whether emanating from Russia or Germany, US ground forces had to be present in some strength."
- **Globalism:** "In 1945 British policymakers saw security as a global concern."
- **Hermeticism:** "Britain has traditionally had a very closed defence decision-making apparatus... The power relationships in this group have changed in favour of the civilians and against the military in the post-war period."²⁸⁰

"Britain still considered itself to be a world power, and this confidence was strengthened by three important technical developments in the 1950s, which increased its military strength. These developments were in research into space, in the design of nuclear weapons, and in the design of intercontinental ballistic missiles. Britain's leadership in nuclear power resulted in the development of nuclear weapons. But it also led to the building of the first nuclear energy power station in the world in 1956."²⁸¹

Later, Britain's financial and economic difficulties increased. For example, in the same year, in 1956 in the Suez Crisis, Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal which threatened the British communication with the Far East. It urged Britain to become a member of the **European Community** on 1 January **1973**, but most British continued to feel that they had not had any economic benefit from Europe.²⁸²

279 Ball, Simon. "British Defence Policy," 548. In *A Companion to Contemporary Britain 1939-2000*, edited by Paul Addison and Harriet Jones. Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp. 539-556.

280 Ball, Simon. "British Defence Policy," 548-551.

281 McDowall, D. *An Illustrated History of Great Britain*, 168.

282 Nagy, László, J. *Az európai integráció politikai története*. Szeged, 2003, 59-64.

When the first female prime minister, **Margaret Thatcher** (1979–1997), the Iron Lady (got her nickname for her hostility to West’s policy of *detente*²⁸³) had come to power, she called on the nation for hard work, patriotism and self-help. She wanted free trade at home and abroad, individual enterprise and less government economic protection or interference. Thatcher promised to stop Britain’s decline, but by 1983 she did not succeed. Unemployment had risen from 1.25 million in 1979 to over 3 million. Further, by selling assets such as British Telecom and British Airways on the stock market, the government hoped to create a property-owning democracy.²⁸⁴

In 1988 Britain celebrated two major anniversaries, the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, and the Glorious Revolution in 1688.

Society and Culture in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s

For a period of 30 years after the WWII, unemployment was low, wages increased by 20 percent and living standards steadily improved. Although Britain prospered after 1945, compared with other countries of the European Economic Community, it merited the nickname “the sick man of Europe.”²⁸⁵

The Sixties showed consumption and hedonism – through America, Elvis Presley’s Rock and Roll reached England. The *Beatles* from Liverpool debuted in the same decade. Other leading British bands of the 1960s and 1970s included the *Rolling Stones*, *the Who*, *the Kinks*, *Pink Floyd*, *Led Zeppelin* and *Roxy Music*. Solo British artists included the guitarist Eric Clapton and Dusty Springfield. The most significant form of cultural protest in the second half of the 1970s was the loud and aggressive punk music. Its representatives were *The Sex Pistols* and the *Clash*.²⁸⁶

“London was a particularly significant cultural center during the 1960s; the city

283 D tente (a French word meaning release from tension) is the name given to a period of improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union that began tentatively in 1971 and took decisive form when President Richard M. Nixon visited the secretary-general of the Soviet Communist party, Leonid I. Brezhnev, in Moscow, May 1972. <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/detente>

284 Pemberton, Hugh. “The Transformation of the Economy,” 185, 191. In *A Companion to Contemporary Britain 1939-2000*, edited by Paul Addison and Harriet Jones. Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp.180-203.

Smith Wilson, Dolly. “Gender. Change and Continuity,” 257. In *A Companion to Contemporary Britain 1939-2000*, edited by Paul Addison and Harriet Jones. Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp.245-263.

285 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 196.

286 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 223.

of youth culture was referred to as “Swinging London.” In addition to music, British fashion attained international fame when the miniskirt was invented, and “British model, Twiggy²⁸⁷ became the first supermodel with an impact on culture far beyond just wearing clothes. The television show, *The Avengers* and the *James Bond* films [based on the novels of the 20th-century English writer Ian Fleming] added to the image of a youthful, exciting culture. England even won the World Cup, soccer’s greatest prize, in 1966.”²⁸⁸



Figure 30 – Twiggy

Britain indeed was becoming more permissive and less judgmental society. For instance, abortion and homosexuality were relaxed in 1967; theatre sponsorship ended in 1968. Buddhism and Maoism were introduced to Britain as well.²⁸⁹ Furthermore, Britain underwent the **second wave of feminism**. As a result, the 1970 bill forbade pay discrimination against women. The Australian-born **Germaine Greer** became one of Britain’s as well as and the world’s leading feminist intellectuals. Her *The Female Eunuch* (1970) became a best seller, in which she reflected on a broad range of social phenomena, from misogyny to the suppression of women’s sexuality to constricting bras. *The Female Eunuch* was a powerful consciousness-raising text, drawing many women to feminism.²⁹⁰ Finally, Britain also participated in the Green and Anti-Nuclear Movements of the 1980s.

Britain in the 1990s

The 1990s Britain also experienced interesting or shocking happenings both in history and in culture. A few examples:

- 1994 – First women priests are ordained by the Church of England. It was regarded a controversial step: welcomed by most of the church but rejected by traditionalists.

- 1994 – English Channel tunnel (“Chunnel”):** in 1994, a nineteenth-century plan had been finally realized, and a tunnel under the English Channel,

287 Source of the photo: <https://www.pinterest.es/pin/377458012491728786/>

288 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 223.

289 Dargie, R. *A History of Britain*, 197.

290 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 226.

the world's longest undersea tunnel opened. It links France and Britain by high-speed rail. Opposed to the expectations, the tunnel has not enhanced great economic development in Kent, and despite a few illegal immigrants to Britain, it has not endangered British national security.²⁹¹ "Each day, about 30,000 people, 6,000 cars and 3,500 trucks journey through the Chunnel on passenger, shuttle and freight trains."²⁹²

- **1997 – Diana, Princess of Wales**, had tragically died in a car crash in France.

The first **Harry Potter** book was published.

- **10 April 1998** – The Troubles, a long period of ethno-nationalist conflict in Northern Ireland ended, that lasted about 30 years from the late 1960s to the late 1990s, but whose history dated back to the Easter Uprising of 1916. The Good Friday Agreement, among others, signed by PM **Tony Blair** (1997-2007) was an agreement between Northern Ireland's nationalists and unionists – as a result of British government negotiations and US pressure on Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army. It set out plans for devolved government and provided for the early release of terrorist prisoners and the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons.

- 1999 – Britain decides not to join the European Single Currency

- The British popular culture continued flourishing with Oasis, Blur, 'Parklife,' Billy Joel, The Spice Girls, Radiohead and Westlife.

3.9. Contemporary historical, cultural and other events in Great Britain

Multicultural and religious issues

"By the start of the 21st century the greatest concern among Britons and British authorities was caused by Britain's growing Muslim communities, mostly immigrants from Pakistan and India. Radical Islamic organizers had become influential in some British Muslim communities. The strength of radical Islam in London led some to dub it 'Londonistan,' although others argued the phenomenon, though real,

291 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 248.

292 <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/english-channel-tunnel-opens>

was exaggerated. In addition to extra-European issues such as the Palestinian situation, radical Muslim organizations fed on resentment of British racism and some immigrants' fear of being assimilated. What brought the relationship of the Muslim community to the larger society to the top of the agenda was the **Rushdie affair**.²⁹³ British writer *Salman Rushdie*, an immigrant from India, wrote a novel called *The Satanic Verses* (1988), which many Muslims took to be “blasphemous and insulting throughout the Muslim world.” Muslim outrage was expressed mainly through massive demonstrations and demands that Penguin Books withdraw the novel.²⁹⁴

(Terrorist) Attacks in Great Britain

After the Irish Republican Army (IRA) carried out a campaign of bombing and sabotage against the civil, economic, and military infrastructure of Britain in the second half of the twentieth century, the country has been forced to face (terrorist) attacks in the twenty-first century as well. A few examples from the 2000s, 2010s and 2020s:

- 20 September 2000: The IRA fired an RPG-22 rocket launcher at the MI6 headquarters in London.²⁹⁵
- 7 July 2005: **7/7 central London bombings** conducted by four separate Islamist extremist suicide bombers, which targeted civilians using the public transport system during the morning rush hour. Three bombs were detonated on three separate trains on the London Underground and one on a double-decker bus. As well as the suicide bombers, 52 other people were killed and around 700 more were injured. It was the UK's worst terrorist incident since the 1988 Lockerbie bombing and the **first Islamist suicide attack** in the country.²⁹⁶
- 14 May, 2010: MP Stephen Timms was stabbed during his constituency surgery by a British Islamic extremist and first Al-Qaeda sympathiser.²⁹⁷

293 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 245.

294 Slaughter, M. M. *The Salman Rushdie Affair: Apostasy, Honor, and Freedom of Speech*. *Virginia Law Review*, 79(1), 1993, 153–154. doi:10.2307/1073409

295 Sengupta, Kim. “Missile launcher in MI6 attack was new to UK.” *Independent*, 22 September 2011, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/missile-launcher-in-mi6-attack-was-new-to-uk-698787.html>

296 “7 July London bombings: What happened that day.” *BBC News*, 3 July 2015, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33253598>

297 Dodd, Vicram. “Stephen Timms attacker guilty of attempted murder.” *The Guardian*, 2 November 2010, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2010/nov/02/stephen-timms-attacker-guilty>

- 2016, 16 June: **Murder of Jo Cox** – Thomas Mair, a 52-year-old white nationalist, shot and stabbed the MP Jo Cox outside a surgery in West Yorkshire, and severely wounded a passer-by who came to her aid. The attack was treated as an act of terrorism. As the judge said, “There is no doubt that this murder was done for the purpose of advancing a political, racial and ideological cause namely that of violent white supremacism and exclusive nationalism most associated with Nazism and its modern forms.”²⁹⁸
- 22 March 2017: **2017 Westminster attack** – Khalid Masood, a 52-year-old Islamist, drove a car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, killing four and injuring almost fifty people. He ran into the grounds of the Palace of Westminster and fatally stabbed a police officer, before being shot dead by police.²⁹⁹
- 22 May, 2017: **Manchester Arena bombing** – An Islamist suicide bomber blew himself up at Manchester Arena as people were leaving a concert, killing 22 and injuring 139. It became the deadliest terrorist attack in Britain since the 7/7 London bombings in 2005.³⁰⁰
- 3 June 2017: **2017 London Bridge attack** – Three Islamists drove a van into pedestrians on London bridge before stabbing people in and around pubs in nearby Borough Market. Eight people were killed and at least 48 wounded. The attackers were shot dead by police eight minutes after the incident was reported.³⁰¹
- 29 November 2019: **2019 London Bridge stabbing** - Two people were killed in the attack and three were left injured. The attacker, 28-year-old Usman Khan, was shot dead by police.³⁰²
- 2 February 2020: **2020 Streatham stabbing** - Sudesh Amman, wearing a fake suicide vest similar to the one used in the 2019 London Bridge stabbing, was shot dead by armed police after stabbing and injuring two people

298 J. Wilkie (23 November 2016). “Sentencing remarks of Mr Justice Wilkie: R-v-Mair (Jo Cox murder)” (PDF). Judiciary. Accessed 24 November 2016.

299 “Westminster attack: What happened.” *BBC News*, 7 April 2017, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39355108>

300 <https://news.sky.com/topic/manchester-bombing-6647>

301 “London Bridge attack: What happened.” *BBC News*, 3 May 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-40147164>

302 Picheta, Rob. “Suspect in deadly stabbing near London Bridge identified.” CNN, 2019 December 1, <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/11/29/uk/london-bridge-incident-gbr-intl/index.html>

in Lambeth Borough of Streatham.³⁰³

- 20 June 2020: **2020 Reading stabbings** - Khairi Saadallah, shouting “Allahu Akbar”, attacked two groups of people socialising in a public park in the centre of Reading, killing 3 and injuring 3 others.³⁰⁴

Scottish Independence Referendum (18 September 2014)

On 18 September 2014, Scotland held a referendum to make a decision about its future within the UK. The question was: Should Scotland be an independent country?

Reasons for Scottish independence are: a nation ought to govern itself regardless of other considerations (nationalist argument), the country could do better on its own as a small European country (economic argument), to make its own decisions about social policy like migration.³⁰⁵

Finally, Scotland voted “No.”³⁰⁶ When the results were announced, Scotland’s First Minister Alex Salmond (2007–2014) called for unity and urged the unionist parties to deliver on more powers, and **David Cameron** (British PM 2010–2016) said he was delighted the UK would remain together.³⁰⁷

On 13 October 2014, the parties published proposals on further devolution for Scotland.³⁰⁸ In 2016, Nicola Sturgeon, the new First Minister of Scotland

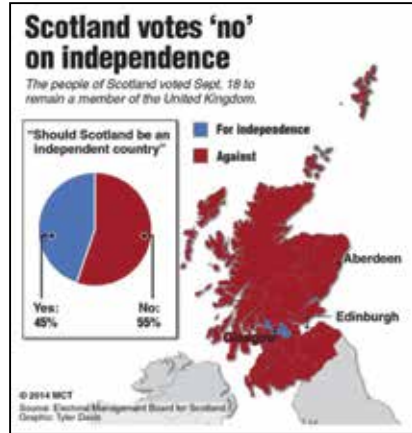


Figure 31 - Scottish Independence Referendum (result)

303 “Streatham attack: Terrorist threat ‘not diminishing’, says anti-terror police chief.” *BBC News*, 5 February 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51389884>

304 “Reading stabbing attack suspect Khairi Saadallah known to MI5 – sources.” *BBC News*, 22 June 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53129046>

305 <https://www.nationalworld.com/news/politics/what-are-the-arguments-for-scottish-independence-experts-explain-the-reasons-why-scotland-would-vote-yes-3249855>

306 Source of the map of independence referendum results: <https://greenwavegazette.org/2526/news-features/news/local-national-world-news/scotland-says-nay-to-independence/>

307 “Scottish referendum: Scotland votes ‘No’ to independence” *BBC News*, 19 September 2014 <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-29270441>

308 <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/scotland-the-referendum-and-independence/timeline/>

(2014–), hinted the possibility of holding a second referendum, but in 2019, Boris Johnson, British Prime Minister refused on the grounds that the 2014 referendum was a “once in a generation opportunity.” However, in March 2021, Sturgeon told Johnson that a second independence referendum was “a matter of when – not if” and it is about to happen by autumn 2023.”³⁰⁹

Brexit (2016–2020)

The term ‘Brexit’ (British + exit) refers to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland leaving the European Union on 31 January 2020. The EU is an economic and political union involving 28 European countries. It allows free trade and free movement of people, to live and work in whichever country they choose. The UK joined it in 1973 (when it was known as the European Economic Community). UK is the first member state who withdrew from the EU.

Reasons for Brexit

- *sovereignty* – to be able to make its own decision related to the country →
- *immigration* – in 2019 there were approximately 6.2 million people with non-British nationality living in the UK, and 9.5 million people who were born abroad. It led to the *loss of employment* and *employment opportunity*³¹⁰
- *economic crisis* of Syria and Iran
- *increased terrorism* and *low economic growth*³¹¹

As a consequence, a public vote/referendum was held on 23 June 2016, to decide whether the UK should leave or remain. Leave won by 52% to 48%. The referendum turnout was very high at 72%, with more than 30 million people voting. After the referendum David Cameron, resigned from his PM position. The new Prime Minister, **Theresa May (2016–2019)** also resigned after her Brexit deal was rejected three times, and she was replaced by the new Prime Minister, **Boris Johnson (2019–)**. The Parliament rejected Theresa May’s Brexit deal due to the ‘**backstop.**’ This was designed to ensure there would be no border posts or barriers between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland after Brexit. If it had been needed, the backstop would have kept the UK in a close trading relationship with the EU and avoided checks altogether. But many MPs were critical. They said if

309 <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/scottish-independence>

310 <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06077/>

311 For more information, read: Somai, Miklós and Biedermann, Zsuzsánna. “Brexit: Reasons and Challenges” *Acta Oeconomica*. 66, 2016, 137-156. DOI: 10.1556/032.2016.66.S1.8

the backstop was used, the UK could be trapped in it for years. This would prevent the country from striking trade deals with other countries. The backstop has been replaced with new customs arrangements so that the UK would be able to sign and implement its own trade agreements with countries around the world. It effectively creates a customs and regulatory border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. This means some goods entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain would have to pay EU import taxes (known as tariffs).³¹²

COVID-19 Pandemic and the UK

The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus was first detected in the city of Wuhan, China at the end of December 2019. As of 29 October 2021, over 240 million cases have been reported across the world. The virus reached the UK in late January 2020. As of 29 October 2021, there had been more than 8.9 million confirmed cases and cc. 140.000 deaths among people who had recently tested positive. It is the world's nineteenth-highest death rate by population and the second-highest death toll in Europe.³¹³ Police were empowered to enforce the measures, and the Coronavirus Act 2020 gave all four governments emergency powers not used since the Second World War.³¹⁴

312 <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>

313 <https://www.who.int/countries/gbr/>

314 Hope, Christopher; Rayner, Gordon. "What is in the Coronavirus Bill? Key areas of the new legislation." *The Telegraph*, 25 March 2020, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/03/25/coronavirus-bill-summary/>

4. British Culture

4.1. Holidays

Hogmanay [hɔgmə'ne:]

It is the Scottish New Year's Eve. The word is believed to come either from the French 'hoginane' meaning 'gala day' or from the Anglo-Saxon 'haleg monath' meaning 'holy month.' It is thought to have been first used widely following Mary's, Queen of Scots, return to Scotland from France in 1561. The celebration takes place all over Scotland and lasts for three days, from 31 December to 2 January. Scottish people have two days of holiday following the celebrations, unlike the rest of the United Kingdom, which just has one on New Year's Day. One of the traditions of Hogmanay is called *first footing*, when they visit friends or family immediately after midnight in order to become the first guests in the new year. The very first foot – the first visitor – should traditionally be a tall, dark-haired man. "That is said to date back to the Viking invasions, as Vikings were typically fairer haired, so the arrival of a blonde man could have meant imminent danger. It could also have roots in pagan traditions of marking the arrival of the dark half of the year and interacting with the mysterious realm of darkness and spirits, and appeasing them with food and hospitality." The foot should bring black bun, which is a dark rye bread, in order to ensure that the host does not go hungry in the year ahead, and also to bring "a lump of coal to ensure the house remains warm in the coming months."³¹⁵

Plough Monday

"The midwinter festival period was followed by Plough Monday on 10 January, a celebration more overtly linked with fertility, when a plough, sometimes decked out with greenery, was paraded through the village or taken into the church for a ceremonial benediction."³¹⁶ It was a day when "ploughmen traditionally black-

315 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/38477036>

316 Pounds, N. J. G. *The Culture of the English People. Iron Age to the Industrial Revolution*. Cambridge University Press, 1994, 181.

ened their faces and marked the end of the Christmas period for the agricultural communities... **Molly dancing** is most commonly performed on or around Plough Monday. In the past, Molly dancers sometimes accompanied the farm labourers to dance and entertain for money. They blackened their faces with soot to disguise themselves so they could not be recognised by their future employers.³¹⁷ Since the nineteenth century, **Straw Bears** – men clothed in a layer of straw – have been a familiar feature of Plough Monday. This tradition is maintained in Whittlesey, near Peterborough.³¹⁸



Figure 32 - Straw Bear

Burns's Night

The life and legacy of Robert Burns, Scotland's own 'National Bard', is celebrated on 25 January. Burns's Night includes:

- Big Burns Supper: eating traditional foods, like cock-a-leekie soup; Haggis, neeps and tatties, Cloutie Dumpling (a pudding prepared in a linen cloth or clout) or Topsy Laird (a Scottish sherry trifle); cheeseboard with bannocks (oatcakes) and tea/coffee. Some Burns Night suppers include a lost manuscript reading, where a participant with literary aspirations recites from a fictitious long-lost musing of the great man on a new subject.
- Toast to the Lassies: a toast, which is designed to praise the role of women in the world today. This should be done by selective quotation from Burns's works and should build towards a positive note.
- Burns and Beyond (cultural events), Night at the Museum, singing Auld Lang Syne, Burns' poem.³¹⁹

317 <http://projectbritain.com/ploughMonday.htm>

318 <http://projectbritain.com/ploughMonday.htm> (also the source of the picture)

319 https://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/robertburns/burns_night_running_order.shtml

Up-Helly-Aa

The annual Viking festival has been taken place in Lerwick, Shetland, on the last Tuesday in January since 1881. It involves a series of marches and visitations, a torch-lit procession and the burning of a galley.³²⁰ It is an event most of the local community takes part in, with loads of volunteers building the huge Viking longship, the centre of the festival, in secrecy. Yet, the biggest secret of all is what the head of the festival will wear and which character from the Norse Sagas he will represent. On the evening of Up Helly Aa almost 1,000 warriors ('guizers'), some in full Viking dress, parade in groups ('squads'), wearing helmets and carrying shields and swords. Finally, in the evening, the participants set fire to their longboat as a way to mark the heritage of the Scandinavian Vikings in Scotland.³²¹

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday

It is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. As Pancake Day always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, the date varies from year to year and falls between February 3 and March 9. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before starting the Lenten fast and pancakes were the perfect way of using up these ingredients. "A traditional English pancake is very thin... Golden syrup or lemon juice and caster sugar are the usual toppings for pancakes... In the UK, pancake races form an important part of the Shrove Tuesday celebrations – an opportunity for large numbers of people, often in fancy dress, to race down streets tossing pancakes. The winner is who gets to the finishing line first, carrying a frying pan with a cooked pancake in it and flipping the pancake as he/she runs."³²²

Chinese New Year

Since the seventeenth century, thousands of Chinese have arrived in Britain, but it was only in 1963 that the Lunar New Year was first celebrated in London's Gerrard Street, the centre of what was becoming the city's Chinatown. Since then, on 8 February, outside Asia, the world's biggest celebration of Chinese New Year has taken place in London. Each year there is a parade through Chinatown in the West

320 <https://www.uphellyaa.org/>

321 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51266359>

322 <https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pancake-Day/>

End, with free performances of music, dance and acrobatics, a feast of food and fireworks; and it also features a one-day festival in Trafalgar Square. Manchester, Nottingham, Liverpool and Birmingham likewise host colourful street parties.³²³

British Valentine's Day

The romantic observance is celebrated on 14 February in Britain as well as in many other countries in the world. According to a 2017 study more than half (52%) of the UK population does not plan to buy a gift for their loved ones for Valentine's Day. 48% does not even plan on buying a card. However, the study conducted for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) calculated that the people in the UK would spend almost half a billion pounds on Valentine's Day gifts, men spending about 40 pounds each, which is nearly twice as much as women.³²⁴ "Early versions of Valentine cards fashioned of satin and lace and ornamented with flowers, ribbons, and images of cupids or birds appeared in England in the 1880s."³²⁵

- Glasgow in Scotland calls itself the "**City of Love,**" as it is believed that the forearm of St Valentine is kept in the church of Blessed St John Duns Scotus.³²⁶
- "In Sussex, the day of lovers is also known as the **day of bird weddings.** Since Geoffrey Chaucer, an English poet, called this holiday a day when birds choose their own pair, ceremonies were not done without birds. According to the belief, if an unmarried girl saw a robin on that day, then she should be married to a sailor, if she saw a sparrow, her future husband would be a simple peasant, and the goldfinch symbolized a rich spouse."³²⁷
- In Wales, there was customary to give each other wooden spoons of different shapes on the day of all lovers. The most popular were spoons with ornaments of heart shaped locks and keys to them.
- In the county of **Norfolk**, the lovers' day is celebrated on a special scale. This is due to the legend of **Jack Valentine** (Old Father Valentine/Old Mother Valentine), who on the night of February 14 left gifts on the porches of

323 <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/whats-on/chinese-new-year> ; <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201802/14/WS5a83349fa3106e7dcc13c98f.html>

324 <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/valentine-day>

325 <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/common/valentine-day>

326 <https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/st-valentines-remains-and-glasgow-city-love-1545030>

327 <https://tv-english.club/articles-en/entertainment/how-british-people-celebrate-valentines-day/>

houses for all residents. In the 1800s, Norfolk children would set out before dawn to sing rhymes in exchange for sweets, cakes and pennies. One favourite local verse was: Good morrow, Valentine//God bless the baker,//You'll be the giver,//And I'll be the taker. Once it was light, their requests could be turned down because they were said to be sunburnt.³²⁸

- In England, flowers have presented on the day of lovers since the seventeenth century. This tradition came from the French king Louis XVI, who gave Marie Antoinette red roses.³²⁹

St David's Day

March 1 is a day of celebration of both St David's life and of the Welsh culture. Many people attend special church services, parades, choral recitals or Welsh literature readings. Normally, the National St David's Day parade is held in the centre of Cardiff every year, with lots of exciting performances by dragons and theatre groups. Usually, many children take part, wearing traditional Welsh clothing and performing traditional dances. Other people may pin a daffodil or a leek to their clothes as these are symbols of Wales. Traditionally, there is also a famous concert held on the day at St David's Hall in Cardiff, with the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales performing Welsh songs.³³⁰

May Day

Many folklore customs, like May Day, have their roots planted firmly back in the ancient Celtic festivals. For example, Beltane ('the fire of Bel'), represented the first day of summer and was celebrated with bonfires to welcome the new season. Still celebrated today, it is now called May Day.³³¹ In this sense, 1 May "was essentially a ceremony to welcome the coming of spring with song and dance, and such it has remained. The maypole, decked with greenery, is known to have been in use in the fourteenth century and was probably a great deal older. In some degree the Mayday rituals were conflated with those of **Whitsun**. They were also associated with boisterous activities which included the lighting of bonfires, the playing of rudimentary football games and, locally at least, the rough game of the hobby-hor-

328 http://www.bbc.co.uk/norfolk/your/extra/valentines_norfolk.shtml a

329 <https://tv-english.club/articles-en/entertainment/how-british-people-celebrate-valentines-day/>

330 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/43240280>

331 <https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/May-Day-Celebrations/>

se” from which the concept of ‘horse-play’ is derived.”³³² The May Day festivities vanished following the Civil War when Oliver Cromwell and his Puritans took control of the country. Describing maypole dancing as “a heathenish vanity generally abused to superstition and wickedness”, legislation was passed which saw the end of village maypoles throughout the country till the Restoration. May Day is still celebrated in many villages with the crowning of the May Queen. The men also celebrate with **Jack-in-the-Green/the Green Man** (a wooden framework decorated with foliage and being worn by a person as part of a procession). May Day celebration includes **Maypole dancing**³³³ and **Morris Dancing** – the “name may refer to the possibility of the form of dancing coming to England from the Moors of North Africa; or it may have been called ‘Moor-ish’ simply because the dancers sometimes painted their faces black, and people compared this to the dark-skinned Moors.”³³⁴

May Day traditions in England:

- in southern England: **Hobby Horses** still rampage through towns in Somerset and Cornwall. The horse/Oss is a local person dressed in flowing robes wearing a mask with a grotesque, but colourful, caricature of a horse.
- In **Oxford**: May Day morning is celebrated from the top of Magdalen College Tower by the singing of a Latin hymn, or carol, of thanksgiving. After this the college bells signal the start of the Morris Dancing in the streets below.



Figure 33 - Maypole Dancing



Figure 34 - Morris Dancing

332 Pounds, N. J. G. *The Culture of the English People*, 386.

333 Source of the picture: <https://www.insidescience.org/news/mathematics-maypole-dancing>

334 <http://projectbritain.com/mayday/morrisdancing.html> (also the source of the picture)

- north in Castleton, Derbyshire: **Oak Apple Day** takes place on 29th May, commemorating the restoration of Charles II to throne. Followers within the procession carry sprigs of oak, recalling the story that in exile King Charles hid in an oak tree to avoid capture by his enemies.³³⁵

Midsummer's Day

It is a celebration of the longest day of summer, surrounded by mythical tales of fairies and supernatural visitors. It immediately brings to mind Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and curiosity about Pagan visits to Stonehenge, bonfires, and the power of the sun.³³⁶ Although the longest day of the year lands on June 20, the old Julian calendar marked it differently, so the date for Midsummer Day remains June 24. "Midsummer started as a pagan ritual for fertility and a successful harvest during the Stone Age... In the fourth century, the holiday was changed to fit into Christian beliefs that honored St. John the Baptist called St. John's Day... despite the name change, some of the customs from Midsummer remained," e.g., Summer Solstice Circle Dance is practiced in Cornwall, the West Country and London's Hampstead Heath. Today, people celebrate by dancing, eating, bonfires, and festivals."³³⁷

Midsummer's superstitions:

- Roses are of special importance on Midsummer's Eve. It is said that any rose picked on Midsummer's Eve, or Midsummer's Day will keep fresh until Christmas.
- At midnight on Midsummer's Eve, young girls should scatter rose petals before them and say: "Rose leaves, rose leaves, // Rose leaves I strew. // He that will love me // Come after me now." Then the next day, Midsummer's Day, their true love will visit them."³³⁸

The Sovereigns' Birthday

The second Saturday in June is the Sovereigns' birthday. The current sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II spends her actual birthday on 21 April (1926) and privately, but it is marked publicly by gun salutes in central London. The King or Queen's

335 <https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/May-Day-Celebrations/>

336 <http://www.themidsummer.co.uk/>

337 <https://nationaltoday.com/midsummer/> ; <http://projectbritain.com/midsummer.htm>

338 <http://projectbritain.com/midsummer.htm>

birthday in the UK have been held on a day that is not their actual birthday because of Elizabeth II's great-grandfather, Edward VII's (1901–1910) decision. He was born in November, which is not known for its good weather, but he wanted it to be possible to have a big public celebration with nice weather, so decided to combine it with an annual military parade in the summer.³³⁹ On her official birthday, Her Majesty is joined by other members of the Royal Family at the Trooping the Colour parade which moves between Buckingham Palace, The Mall and Horse Guards' Parade as well as a public appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. More than 1400 soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians usually take part in the event.³⁴⁰

Edinburgh Fringe Festival

The annual festival takes place in the city of Edinburgh in August and lasts for three weeks. It is the single biggest celebration of arts and culture on the planet. The Fringe story dates back to 1947, when eight theatre groups turned up uninvited to perform at the Edinburgh International Festival, which was an initiative created to celebrate and enrich European cultural life in the wake of the Second World War. The festival includes theatre, dance, circus, cabaret, children's shows, musicals, opera, music, spoken word, exhibitions and events.³⁴¹

The Notting Hill Carnival

The Carnival takes place over two days in August and dedicated to the cultures of London's Caribbean immigrants. It has become Britain's largest carnival and one of the largest in the world, attracting more than a million visitors in some years.³⁴²

The National Eisteddfod of Wales

The Eisteddfod is Wales' biggest artistic event and one of Europe's oldest cultural festivals, which takes place between 30 July and 6 August. It is a celebration of the culture and language in Wales. "The history of the Eisteddfod in Wales can be traced back to 1176, with the modern history of the organisation dating back to 1861 ... The Eisteddfod is the natural showcase for music, dance, visual arts, literature, [and] original performances."³⁴³

339 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/36489213>

340 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/36489213>

341 <https://www.edfringe.com/about/about-us/the-fringe-story>

342 Burns, W. E. *A Brief History of Great Britain*, 242,

343 <https://eisteddfod.wales/about-us>

Calan Gaeaf and Halloween

Calan Gaeaf, the precursor to Halloween, is the name of the first day of winter in Wales, which is observed on 1 November. Halloween dates back to Celtic and pagan festival of **Samhain**, which commemorated the end of the autumn and harvest season and the beginning of winter.³⁴⁴ Also, the “last day of October marked the end of the Celtic year, and was thus associated with mortality. It consequently became a festival of the dead, a time when their spirits returned to visit or to disturb their descendants.”³⁴⁵ “From around the 9th century onwards, the Christian church adopted and adapted some of Samhain’s traditions into its religious holidays of **All Saints’ Day** (1 November) and **All Souls’ Day** (2 November).”³⁴⁶ A further division of the ritual significance of Hallowe’en, as far as Great Britain is concerned, has been the removal of its bonfire aspect to 5 November in the seventeenth century.³⁴⁷ In parts of Britain, as well as in the United States, Hallowe’en is now associated with decorating one’s house or going trick-or-treating.

Terms related to Halloween:

- “Hwch Ddu Gwta (‘The Tailless Black Sow’): mythical beast; one of the most frightening ghosts. As the dark was drawing in, one of the local men would don a pig skin and chase the children home from the village bonfire. Children were told that the much-feared Hwch Ddu would catch the last child to make it home that night. This was used as a game to get children home on time and teach them about the dangers of straying too far on their own.
- Gwrachod (‘witches’ or ‘hags’): “Men would roam the villages dressed in rags and masks, or sometimes women’s clothing, going from door to door for coppers, fruit and nuts. They would then drink in the local pubs. People believed dressing up like this would repel evil spirits, but it could also have been to scare people into giving them treats.”
- Coelcerth (bonfire): Local people would gather together, each writing their name on a stone. The stones would be placed in coelcerth. The following morning, if the stone with the name was missing, it was seen as an omen of the person’s impending death.

344 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbkdcqt>

345 Pounds, N. J. G. *The Culture of the English People*, 387.

346 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbkdcqt>

347 Pounds, N. J. G. *The Culture of the English People*, 387, 422.

- Y Ladi Wen (‘The White Lady’): “An apparition from Celtic mythology, dressed in all white. Some say she guards graveyards and crossroads from other darker spirits. Others say she has a more sinister purpose – luring unsuspecting travellers to their doom by asking for help or offering treasure. Other people claimed that she was headless, and would maraud around the countryside looking for victims.”³⁴⁸

Remembrance Day

It is held on the second Sunday of November and commemorates British service members who have died in wars and other military conflicts since the onset of World War I. There are ceremonies at war memorials attended by members and ex-members of armed forces and military and representatives of the Judiciary. The most recognizable symbol of Remembrance Sunday is the red poppy, which became associated with World War I memorials after scores of the flowers bloomed in the former battlefields of Belgium and northern France. Therefore, poppies are laid on the memorials and two minutes’ silence is held at 11am.³⁴⁹

Diwali

“The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word *deepavali*, meaning ‘rows of lighted lamps.’ Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights taken place between October and November, and celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations. It is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. The Hindu inhabitants of cities such as Manchester, London and Leicester take part in this celebration with fireworks, lighted lamps and festivities. Leicester has one of the biggest Diwali celebrations outside of India.³⁵⁰

St. George’s Day

St George’s Day in England remembers the anniversary of England’s patron saint. 23 April is regarded as England’s national day. The legend says that he was a soldier in the Roman army who killed a dragon and saved a princess. The obser-

348 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbkdcqt>

349 Cunningham, John M.. “Remembrance Sunday”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 12 Mar. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Remembrance-Sunday>. Accessed 13 July 2021.

350 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15451833>; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54726542>

vance is celebrated with parades, dancing and other activities. Flags with the image of St George's cross are also flown on some buildings, especially pubs, and a few people wear a red rose on their lapel. Church services on the Sunday closest to April 23 often include the hymn 'Jerusalem', written by the poet William Blake. The words describe a supposed visit to Glastonbury by Jesus Christ during his youth.³⁵¹

British Christmas

The short history of Christmas cards, tree, mistletoe and carols

- In 1846, the first **Christmas cards** were designed and sold in Britain.
- Queen Victoria's German husband, Prince Albert, brought **Christmas tree** to Britain. He and the Queen had a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle in 1841. A few years later, nearly every house in Britain had one.³⁵²
- **Mistletoe**: taken from two Anglo Saxon words, 'mistel' and 'tan', the word mistletoe can be translated to mean 'dung on a stick'. "The tradition of hanging mistletoe dates back to the ancient Druids who believed the plant brought good luck and helped protect against evil spirits. In Norse mythology, mistletoe symbolised love, which is where the custom of kissing under the mistletoe originates from. In the UK, the tradition of kissing underneath the mistletoe dates back to the 1700s."³⁵³
- **Carols**: the songs with a religious impulse are the creation of the fiftieth century.³⁵⁴ "The carol disappeared swiftly and almost completely with the Reformation... A carol revival began in the second half of the 18th century."³⁵⁵ Before Christmas, groups of singers go from house to house. They collect money and sing traditional Christmas songs or carols. There are a lot of very popular British Christmas carols. Three famous ones are: "Good King Wenceslas", "The Holly and The Ivy" and "We Three Kings."³⁵⁶

351 <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/st-george-day>

352 Golby, J. M. and A. W. Purdue. *The Civilization of the Crowd*, 154.

353 <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/trees-plants/five-facts-about-mistletoe/>

354 "Preface." In *The Oxford Book of Carols*. Edited by Percy Dearmer, R. Vaughan Williams, and Martin Shaw, Oxford University Press, 1964, v-vi.

355 Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Carol". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 27 Jul. 2007, <https://www.britannica.com/art/carol>. Accessed 12 July 2021.

356 listen to the songs at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQVUMG6LZGM>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17eHtDtZ7hs> ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lx35_DRIZ8g

Christmas-related traditions in the past and present:

- “In the medieval church marriage was prohibited by canon law during Advent and the Christmas festivities; from the beginning of Lent to the octave of Easter, and again from Rogationtide [religious festival held between the Monday and Wednesday before Ascension Day, a period of fasting and prayer] to Trinity Sunday.”³⁵⁷
- Before the twentieth century, work on the land was continuous, done from dawn to dusk every weekday of the year. Christmas Day was the only exception.³⁵⁸
- “In the UK, the main Christmas Meal is usually eaten at lunchtime or early afternoon on Christmas Day.” It is normally roast turkey, roast vegetables and vegetables like carrots, peas, stuffing and sometimes bacon and sausages. It is often served with cranberry sauce and bread sauce. Before the 1800s when turkey was not available, traditionally, roast beef or goose was the main Christmas meal. One vegetable that is often at Christmas in the UK are brussel sprouts. Dessert is often Christmas Pudding. The dinner table is decorated with a Christmas Cracker for each person. The UK is also famous for Christmas Cake.³⁵⁹ “Interestingly, in his weekly journal, *The Original* (1835–6), the gastronome Thomas Walker described some memorable dinners which he regarded as models of good taste ... [For example] On Christmas Day a simple meal for two guests consisted of crimped cod, woodcocks and plum pudding.”³⁶⁰ As for the Cracker, “two people pull a cracker. Usually there is a small toy in the middle. Often there is a joke on a piece of paper, too.”³⁶¹

“**Christmas pudding** originated as a 14th century porridge called ‘frumenty’ that was made of beef and mutton with



Figure 35 - Christmas pudding

357 Pounds, N. J. G. *The Culture of the English People*, 315.

358 Pounds, N. J. G. *The Culture of the English People*, 177.

359 <https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/uk.shtml>

360 Burnett, John. *England Eats Out. A Social History of Eating Out in England from 1830 to the Present*. Routledge, 2014, 11–12.

361 <https://www.learnenglish.de/culture/christmas.html>

raisins, currants, prunes, wines and spices. This would often be more like soup and was eaten as a fasting meal in preparation for the Christmas festivities. By 1595, frumenty was slowly changing into a plum pudding, having been thickened with eggs, breadcrumbs, dried fruit and given more flavor with the addition of beer and spirits. It became the customary Christmas dessert around 1650, but in 1664 the Puritans banned it as a bad custom. In 1714, King George I re-established it as part of the Christmas meal, having tasted and enjoyed Plum Pudding. By Victorian times, Christmas Puddings had changed into something similar to the ones that are eaten today.³⁶² Over the years, many superstitions have surrounded Christmas Puddings. One superstition says that the pudding should be made with 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and His Disciples and that every member of the family should take turns to stir the pudding with a wooden spoon from east to west, in honour of the Wise Men.³⁶³

- The Christmas season was more significant than Christmas Day itself. The season from Christmas Day to Twelfth Night/Epiphany (6 January) was marked by a sequence of revels³⁶⁴ with participation in play, carnival or the excessive consumption of food and alcohol.³⁶⁵
- Every year since 1947, the people of Norway has given the city of London a Christmas present. That is how they express their gratitude for British help in the World War II. It is a big Christmas tree, which stands in Trafalgar Square.³⁶⁶
- **The Queen's message:** British monarch's 10-minute long (pre-recorded) broadcast on Christmas day at 3 pm is a tradition that began in 1932 when King George V read a special speech written by Rudyard Kipling. The broadcast was an enormous success. It began, "I speak now from my home and from my heart, to you all..." Queen Elizabeth II continues the tradition to this day. Every year she broadcasts her message on Christmas Day. In England most people watch or listen to it whilst digesting their Christmas

362 Source of the picture: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/14730981@N08/32421070308>

363 <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/pudding.shtml>

364 Pounds, N. J. G. *The Culture of the English People*, 385.

365 Pounds, N. J. G. *The Culture of the English People*, 389.

366 <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/our-building-and-squares/christmas-traffic-square>

Dinner.³⁶⁷ Although recent research shows that only 27 percent of families sit down to watch the Queen's Speech.³⁶⁸

Christmas Eve

On 24 December, children hang a stocking at the end of their bed. It is believed that Father Christmas/Santa Claus (St Nicolas) brings their presents at night, which they open in the morning of the 25th. In the traditional story Santa Claus lives at the North Pole, and on Christmas Eve he visits every house with his reindeer. He climbs down the chimney and leaves lots of presents. Some people leave something for him too; for example, a glass of milk and some biscuits.³⁶⁹

Christmas Day

The birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated on 25 December, when children open the gifts, and families eat Christmas meal. The origins of the present traditional Christmas Celebration date back to sixth-century England. However, it was pushed back for a while in the course of history. In 1647, the English parliament passed a law that made Christmas illegal, all festivities were banned by the Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell, who considered feasting and revelry on what was supposed to be a holy day to be immoral. The ban was lifted only when Cromwell lost power in 1660. Later, during Queen Victoria's reign, Christmas became a time for gift giving, and a special season for children. Nowadays, according to research, despite being a religious holiday, only 13 percent of families attend church on Christmas Day, and only 38 percent of families think that spending time with the family is the best thing about Christmas Day.³⁷⁰ For British children Christmas means pantomimes, too. The pantomime is a traditional Christmas show at the theatre. The stories follow the line of traditional tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk.³⁷¹

Boxing Day

26 December is Boxing Day. "It originated in medieval times, when every priest was supposed to empty the alms box of his church and distribute gifts to the

367 <https://www.learnenglish.de/culture/christmas.html>

368 <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/common/christmas-day>

369 <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/common/christmas-day>

370 <https://www.learnenglish.de/culture/christmas.html>

371 <https://www.expatica.com/uk/lifestyle/holidays/christmas-in-the-uk-103562/>

poor. Wealthy people indulged in huge Christmas feasts, and when they were finished, packed up the remains of feasts in boxes and gave them out to their servants. It did not become widely celebrated though until Victorian England. Boxing Day is still a public holiday, some shops and supermarkets open nowadays, but banks and most offices remain closed. It is also the real day for Christmas parties and visiting friends.”³⁷²

Bonfire Nights

On 5 November, the British celebrate Bonfire Night with fireworks, bonfires, sparklers and toffee apples because it is the anniversary of a failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Just one year after the failed Gunpowder Plot, Parliament passed the Observance of the 5th November Act to commemorate the king and Parliament in the wake of a deadly assassination attempt. In 1067, the first big Bonfire Night celebration occurred. Canterbury celebrated with over 100 pounds of gunpowder and 14 pounds of matches – adding food and drink to the party in later years. The most famous celebration of Bonfire Night in the world happened in the English town of Lewes in 1850; it resembled a riot, resulting in a ban which then resumed peacefully later.³⁷³ The easiest way to recall the date is with the famous nursery rhyme:

Remember, remember the fifth of November,
Gunpowder treason and plot.
We see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.³⁷⁴

Every year fireworks take place and burning effigies of Guy Fawkes are set up on a bonfire. They are made of old clothes stuffed with newspaper, and equipped with a grotesque mask. “The word ‘guy’ came thus in the 19th century to mean a weirdly dressed person, and hence in the 20th century in the USA to mean, in slang usage, any male person.”³⁷⁵

372 <https://www.learnenglish.de/culture/christmas.html>

373 <https://nationaltoday.com/bonfire-night/>

374 <https://nationaltoday.com/bonfire-night/>

375 The Gunpowder Plot House of Commons Information Office Factsheet G8,” House of Commons, 200, 4.

4.2. British superstitions

➤ **Putting New Shoes on the Table**

“Believed to originate from the North of England, this superstition is related to the coal mining industry. When a miner died, their family would place their shoes on the table as a tribute. Therefore, placing shoes on the table was seen to be tempting fate.”³⁷⁶

➤ **Opening an umbrella inside**

Opening an umbrella inside is said that bad luck with ‘rain down’ on you. In the Victorian era, umbrellas were constructed with steel spokes and opening one indoors could cause injury or eye loss.³⁷⁷

➤ **Riding on a bear’s back**

One ancient British superstition holds that if a child rides on a bear’s back it will be protected from whooping-cough.

➤ **Rabbits**

White Rabbits are said to be witches in reality and some believe that saying ‘White Rabbit’ on the first day of each month brings luck. However, according to the Celtic tradition, it brings good luck. Boudicca, a Celtic warrior, released a hare before battle as a good luck charm. Brown hares are quite common across much of East Anglia in fields of spring wheat and barley or on coastal marshes and heathland. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserves at Thompson Common, Upton Broad and Weeting Heath are good sites to see hares.³⁷⁸

➤ **Food and drink**

- Many housewives believed that food would be spoilt if it was stirred in the opposite direction to that of the sun.
- In Dorset it is common knowledge that a slow-boiling kettle is bewitched and may contain a toad.
- In Yorkshire, housewives used to believe that bread would not rise if there was a corpse in the vicinity, and to cut off both ends of the loaf would make the Devil fly over the house.
- Two women must not pour from the same tea-pot, if they do, a quarrel will ensue.

376 <https://www.british-study.com/en/blog/wonderfully-weird-british-superstitions/>

377 <https://www.british-study.com/en/blog/wonderfully-weird-british-superstitions/>

378 <https://www.edp24.co.uk/lifestyle/most-common-uk-superstitions-to-avoid-bad-luck-6400672>

- In Somerset a double-yolked egg was viewed with concern as it foretold of a hurried wedding due to a pregnancy.³⁷⁹

4.3. Sport

Sport plays a significant role in British culture. The United Kingdom has given birth to a wide range of the team sports such as association football, badminton, billiards, bowls, boxing, British baseball, rounders, cricket, croquet, curling, darts, golf, fives, field hockey, netball, rugby, tennis, table tennis, snooker, Motorcycle Speedway, squash, water polo and shinty. Moreover, the standardisation of various sports, including rowing, dance sports and motorsports took place in the United Kingdom.³⁸⁰ The following pages will describe the top British sport events:

The F1 British Grand Prix

The British Grand Prix, a major race in the FIA Formula One World Championship, takes place at Silverstone Circuit, and is the oldest continuously staged F1 race in the world. British drivers winning at this prestigious event in the motor-sport calendar includes Lewis Hamilton, Damon Hill, David Coulthard and Nigel Mansell.

The Open Championship Golf (The British Open)

This major annual golf championship is played on the weekend of the third Friday in July. The Open takes place on one of nine Scottish or English links courses, with an annual prize fund of 4.2 million, with 750,000 being awarded to the winner. It was first organized in 1860. Its trophies and medals that are awarded during The Open Championship include the Claret Jug, Ryle Memorial Medal and Braid Taylor medal.

379 <https://www.edp24.co.uk/lifestyle/most-common-uk-superstitions-to-avoid-bad-luck-6400672>

380 Nauright, John and Parish, Charles (eds.). Sports around the world history, culture, and practice. ABC-CLIO, 2012, 4-12.

Cartier International Polo

The Cartier International Polo is the most famous polo day in the world, which brings together the world's finest polo players, as well as attracting royalty and celebrities and over 25,000 members of the public. Players gallop across the pitch, turn on a sixpence, and ride each other off for that important goal. The event culminates with The Presentation Ceremony which includes The Cartier award for the most outstanding player, and The Cadenza trophy for the owner of the best playing pony.

Masters Snooker

“One of the most prestigious tournaments in the snooker calendar, the Masters Snooker event brings together top ranked players including Ronnie O’Sullivan, Stephen Maguire, Shaun Murphy, John Higgins, Allister Carter, Peter Ebdon and Stephen Hendry to battle it out for the Masters Snooker title. Only the World Championship pays out more prize money than the Masters Snooker event, and although it’s not a ranking event, it’s considered by many professional snooker players to be one of the most important in their calendar.”³⁸¹

FA Cup Final

The FA (Football Association) Cup Final is the ultimate prize in English football and is the culmination of a knockout competition between football clubs in the FA. Top English clubs are Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool FC. The FA Cup Final is played at Wembley Stadium in London.

Wimbledon Tennis Championships

The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, and considered the most prestigious in the sport. Held at the All England Club in London since 1877, Wimbledon is known for the tennis players’ white dress code and the tradition for spectators to eat strawberries and cream. Taking place over two weeks in late June and early July, it is included in the four Grand Slam tournaments in tennis, and the only tournament that is still played on grass. Spectators at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships are treated to world-class tennis by top sportsmen and women, including Andy Murray, Roger Federer and Sere-

381 <http://www.britevents.com/features/top-british-sports-events/>

na Williams amongst others. The new retractable roof was built in time for the 2009 championship to ensure that the typically British rain does not stop play.

Grand National Horse Racing

One of Britain's most famous horse racing events is held each year in early April at Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool. Run over a distance of 4 miles 856 yards, there are thirty fences that horses are required to jump. Total prize money on offer for The Grand National winners totals 1 million pounds (2021 prize fund). The event attracts a worldwide audience of over 600 million viewers.

Henley Regatta

Held annually on the River Thames in Henley-on-Thames, Regatta takes place over five days during the first weekend in July. "Attracting international racing crews, the race covers a 1 mile 550 yard stretch of the Thames River in a series of head-to-head knockout races, with the main event being the Grand Challenge Cup for Men's Eights."³⁸²

Cowes Week

The longest-running regular regatta in the world, Cowes Week originally started way back in 1826. Held each year on the Solent, the stretch of sea between England and the Isle of Wight, the event takes place at the beginning of August, although this can change slightly according to the tide. With over 8,500 competitors taking place in numerous races over the racing calendar, the Solent becomes a mass of boats of all classes as competitors take to their boats and yachts. Over 100,000 spectators attend Cowes Week, especially for the onshore events that take place, including parties, live music, and festivals that accompany the event, which culminates with a spectacular fireworks display.³⁸³

Horseraces

"Horseracing, the sport of Kings is a very popular sport with meetings being held every day throughout the year. The Derby originated here, as did The Grand National which is the hardest horse race in the world. Some of the best-known hor-

382 <http://www.britevents.com/features/top-british-sports-events/>

383 <http://www.bbc.com/storyworks/a-year-of-great-events/cowes-week>

se races are held at Ascot, Newmarket, Goodwood and Epsom. Ascot, a small town in the south of England, becomes the centre of horse-racing world for one week in June. It's called Royal Ascot because the Queen always goes to Ascot. She has a lot of racehorses and likes to watch racing.”³⁸⁴

Highland Games

Highland games are events held in spring and summer mainly in Scotland. It celebrates Scottish and Celtic culture, especially that of the Scottish Highlands. The games are the following: caber toss, hammer throw, shot put (competitors throw a large stone of around 20-26lbs in weight as far as they can. The contestant who throws the furthest wins), weight for height/ weight over the bar (players throw a weight over a raised bar. With each successful attempt, the bar is raised higher and higher, eliminating the contestants one by one), tug-o’war (eight men pulling against another team of eight).³⁸⁵ The competitors wear traditional Scottish clothes.



Figure 36 - Hammer throw



Figure 37 - Tug-o’war

384 <http://projectbritain.com/sport.html>

385 <https://www.scotland.org/events/highland-games/highland-games-traditions>; sources of pictures: <https://www.scotland.org/events/highland-games/highland-games-traditions>; https://www.flickr.com/photos/fotos_by_findlay/19690704440; <https://fancyodds.com/caber-toss-about-introduction-rules/>



Figure 38 - Shot put



Figure 39 - Caber toss

Other events in a nutshell:

England hosted the Olympic Games of 1908, Olympic Games of 1948 and the Olympic Games of 2012.

Glasgow hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2014.

The UEFA Euro 2020 took place in Wembley Stadium, London (Italy beat England 3-2) on 11 July 2021. As the name suggests, it should have been taken place in 2020, but it was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

5. The British Constitution and the Royal Family

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a constitutional monarchy. The monarch is the Head of the State and reigns with the support of Parliament. The sovereign is officially the head of all 3 branches of the constitution: Parliament that makes law, Government that executes law and puts them into effect, and Law Courts that interpret laws. However, she has little direct power.³⁸⁶

Parliament is divided into:

1. The **House of Commons**: members of parliament (MP) elected in 650 constituencies. The **Prime Minister**, the head of the government is also an MP. Functions of the Prime Minister: leading the majority party, running the government, appointing Cabinet ministers and other ministers, representing the nation in political matters. He is advised by the **Cabinet**. Since the 18th century the cabinet has been increasingly responsible for deciding policies and controlling, coordinating government administration. It meets in private and its discussions are secret. The Cabinet, with about 20 members, acts as ‘one body’ with collective responsibility.
2. The **House of Lords**: members are not elected and do not get salary; 70% of them are ‘hereditary peers’ that is their fathers were peers before them; 30% of them are ‘life peers’ whom the Queen appointed.³⁸⁷



Figure 40 - The Royal Coat of Arms
(1953-)

386 Harvey, P. *Britain Explored*, 20.

387 Harvey, P. *Britain Explored*, 20.

The Sovereign



Figure 41 - Queen Elizabeth II and her husband His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (1921-2021)

The sovereigns' duties include: opening and closing Parliament, approving the appointment of the Prime Minister, giving her Royal Assent to bills, giving hours such as peerages, knighthoods and medals, Head of the Commonwealth, Head of the Church of England, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

The official name of the current Sovereign, Elizabeth II, is: Her Most Excellent Majesty Elizabeth the Second by the Grace of God, of

the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.³⁸⁸

Elizabeth II, from the House of Windsor, came to the throne in 1952 after her father, George VI died. In 2015 she surpassed Victoria, her great-great grandmother, to become the longest-reigning monarch in British history.

Etiquette (e.g., Beaumont Etiquette) is an essential part of the Royal family's everyday life. They represent themselves all the time thus the proper manner and speech is highly expected from them. Training begins when members of the royal family are very young. A few important rules:

➤ **They must greet the Queen in a specific way:** "For men this is a neck bow (from the head only) whilst women do a small curtsy. Other people prefer simply to shake hands in the usual way ... When addressing the Queen, the correct formal way to do so is by calling her 'Your Majesty' and subsequently 'Ma'am'."

➤ **Children must play outside on a daily basis:** children in the royal family follow a very strict schedule that includes at least one session of outdoor playtime a day.

388 Sources of the photos in order: Figure 41: <https://bulletinobserver.com/2021/04/09/queen-elizabeth-ii-s-husband-prince-philip-dies-aged-99/> ; Figure 42: <https://www.zimbio.com/photos/Meghan+Markle/Camilla+Parker+Bowles/OOIVZT3BuRn/Members+Royal+Family+Attend+Events+Mark+Centenary>



*Figure 42 - part of the Royal Family ('senior members' are also included)
From left to right: Charles (the Prince of Wales), Andrew (Duke of York), Camilla (the Duchess of Cornwall) Elizabeth II, Meghan (the Duchess of Sussex), Henry (the Duke of Sussex), William (the Duke of Cambridge) and Catherine (the Duchess of Cambridge)
The family watch the RAF flypast on the balcony of Buckingham Palace in 2018.*

➤ **They must dress appropriately at all times:** to dress modestly and smartly for all occasions. “Young male members of the royal family must only wear shorts until they reach the age of eight. Royal women, meanwhile, should not wear tights and always wear hats to formal events unless it’s after 6pm, at which point, tiaras are required. Coats must stay on in public and bright nail polish should be avoided. Additionally, skirts should not be above the knee. Royal family members are also all reportedly always required to take a black outfit with them when travelling overseas in case of a death.”

- **They must not take selfies** – Meghan Markle complained about it in 2017.
- **They cannot give autographs.**
- **They avoid certain foods:** members of the royal family should not eat shellfish when they go out in order to avoid food poisoning.
- **When the Queen finishes eating, everyone must do the same.**
- **They cannot go to bed before the Queen:** Princes Diana broke this rule once.
- **They must sit in a certain way:** “royal women must not sit with their legs crossed at the knee. Instead, they are advised to keep their knees together and

cross their ankles, a pose known as “the duchess slant” given how the Duchess of Cambridge often sits like this in public with her legs slightly slanted to one side.”

➤ **They must walk behind the Queen:** “Whenever the royal family is part of a procession, they are required to enter in order of precedence. This means that they must walk into the room in order or who is in line to the throne next. This order is: Queen Elizabeth II, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and so on.”³⁸⁹

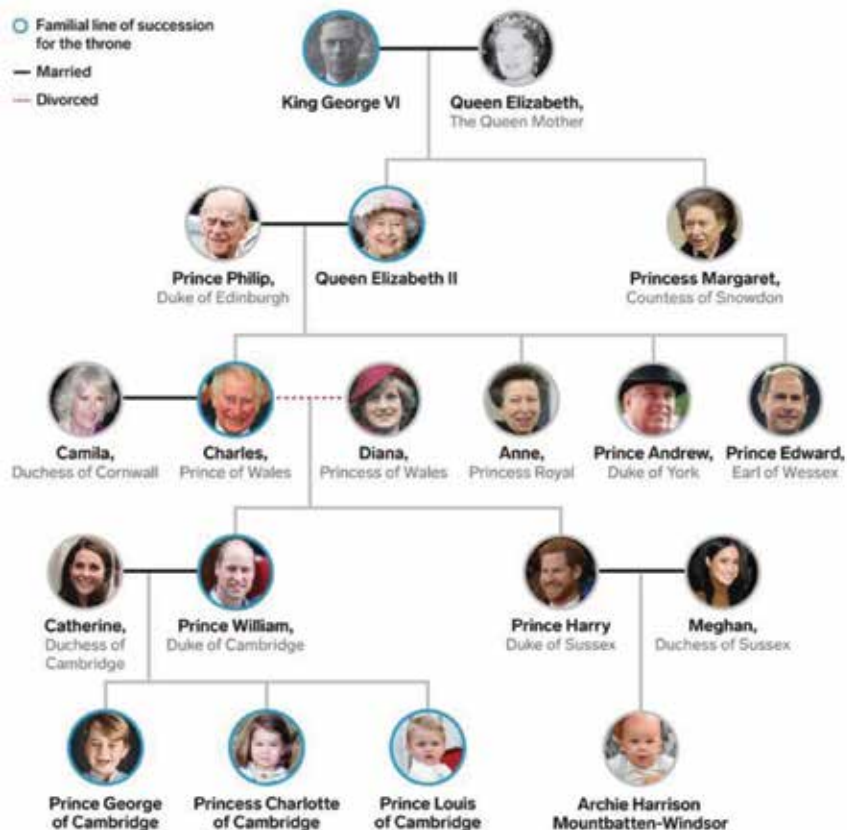


Figure 43 – King George VI’s descendants dominate the current line of succession

389 Petter, Olivia. “Etiquette rules everyone in the Royal family must follow.” *Independent*, 26 March 2021, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/royal-family/royal-family-etiquette-rules-queen-b1822774.html>

➤ **No politics allowed:** Members of the royal family are not allowed to vote or even publicly express their opinion on political matters.

➤ **Two heirs cannot fly together:** in case something tragic were to happen. Once Prince George (who is third in line to the throne after Prince Charles and Prince William) turns 12, he will have to fly separately from his father, Prince William.³⁹⁰

➤ **Royal wedding bouquets contain myrtle.** This tradition started with Queen Victoria and continued with the Duchess of Cambridge's marriage in 2011. This flower symbolizes good luck in love and marriage.

➤ **Wedding dresses must be approved by the Queen.** Not only does the queen need to approve the wedding in general, but she also has to say yes to the dress.³⁹¹

Some rules that her Majesty must follow / rules she has changed:

➤ **The Queen signals when a conversation is over:** when Her Majesty moves her purse from her left arm to her right that apparently signals to her staff that she is ready to move on to other conversation.

➤ **A Queen cannot enter the army.** Queen Elizabeth II was the first female member of the royal family to break the "men only" rule in the military. In 1945, still as a princess, she joined the Supplemental Territorial Service as a second lieutenant.

➤ **She should not visit funerals:** not to be seen in difficult times.

➤ **Until the 1970s, the monarch should not meet his/her people.** Elizabeth II was the first royal to meet her people in person.³⁹²

A few current happenings in the British Royal family:

- 2019: Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth's second son and the ex-husband of Sarah Ferguson (the Duchess of York) served as the UK's trade envoy from 2001 through 2011, when he stepped down due to mounting criticism over some of his personal relationships. Namely, he was close friends with American financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Virginia Roberts,

390 Source of the picture of the family tree: <https://www.businessinsider.com/royal-family-tree-british-monarchy-house-of-windsor-2018-5#king-george-vis-descendants-dominate-the-current-line-of-succession-2>

391 <https://www.purewow.com/news/rules-royal-family-must-follow>

392 <https://www.insider.com/queen-elizabeth-broke-royal-protocol-rules-2019-9#her-majesty-was-rumored-to-have-attended-a-funeral-in-2019-7>

accused Epstein of forcing her to have sex with the prince when she was just 17 years old, back in 2001. **Prince Andrew stepped back from his royal duties** altogether in 2019.

- 2020: **Harry and Markle** announced they **become ‘senior’ members** of the Royal Family: work and live in America to become financially independent, while continuing to fully support Her Majesty.
- 9 April 2021: **Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh died.**³⁹³

393 <https://www.insider.com/biggest-royal-family-scandals-2016-12#prince-andrew-stepped-back-from-his-royal-duties-altogether-in-2019-after-new-allegations-surfaced-regarding-his-relationship-with-epstein-culminating-in-a-disastrous-bbc-interview-16>

6. A short list of films and series on or inspired by British history and culture

How Green Was My Valley (1941)

Lawrence of Arabia (1962)

Blow-Up (1966)

A Man for All Seasons (1966)

Straw Dogs (1971)

Winstanley (1975)

Days of Hope (1975)

Nightcleaners (1975)

Pressure (1976)

Chariots of Fire (1981)

Carry Greenham Home (1983)

Handsworth Songs (1986)

Comrades (1986)

The Remains of the Day (1993)

Guinevere (1994)

Braveheart (1995)

First Knight (1995)

Trainspotting (1996)

Mrs Brown (1997)

Elizabeth (1998)

Billy Elliot (2000)

Avalon (2001)

Bloody Sunday (2002)

The Lion in Winter (2003)

King Arthur (2004)

The Queen (2006)

The Other Boleyn Girl (2008)
The Young Victoria (2009)
Robinson in Ruins (2010)
The King's Speech (2010)
Made in Dagenham (2010)
Wuthering Heights (2011)
The Deep Blue Sea (2011)
Belle (2013)
A Field in England (2013)
Mr. Turner (2014)
Imitation Game (2014)
The Theory of Everything (2014)
Pride (2014)
Suffragette (2015)
The Lost City of Z (2016)
Guerilla (2016)
Mary, Queen of Scots (2018)
The King (2019)
A Kid Who Would Be King (2019)
The Dig (2021)

Series:

Blackadder (1982–1983)
The Hollow Crown (2012–2016)
Peaky Blinders (2013–)
Wolf Hall (2015)
The Crown (2016–)
Bridgerton (2020–)
The Nevers (2021–)

Pieces of advice for people visiting Britain

For those who want to work and live in Britain for shorter or longer period:

- You will need a helping hand to adopt to the new environment, so before coming to Britain, (and if it is possible) contact your family members or friends, who are already living there.
- If you want to settle in Britain, you have to be very hardworking, persistent and humble. It is a long process to walk up the ladder, and you have to start from the very beginning even if you have the proper qualifications. However, employers are generally willing to help to succeed – they can even support your studies financially.
- You need to have the following things if you want to work in Britain: national insurance number (pattern: XY123456D) – which is similar to the health insurance number in Slovakia – and a bank account. You are entitled to get things only if you are employed, so the best if first of all you are hired at some place, and then you can go to a job centre (the nearest to your home) and to the bank. (UK residents receive a National Insurance Number automatically when they turn 16).
- If you are not a citizen, you will have to apply for a pre-settlement status and after a 5-year period, you can apply for a settlement status, which allows you to live and work there for an indefinite time.
- It is recommended to bring a bigger amount of money with you, so that you can pay the deposit for the flat you want to rent (cc. 1000 pounds).
- Register at the GP (general practitioner) when coming to live in Britain. You need a national insurance number and an official address for registering. You are treated much earlier in the hospital if you have a GP. You do not have to worry if your GP is not the one whom you first met; you do not have a permanent doctor here.
- If you are sick, you can buy the basic medicines almost in every kind of shop.
- British people do not have an ID and traditional health insurance card (only the NI number); their proof of identity is their birth certificate and/or driving licence.
- As for language learning, spend as much time with native speakers as you

can. In London you can easily get acquainted with other non-native speakers (immigrants), which will not motivate you to improve your English. You learn particular idioms related to your work environment, but self-education (watching TV, reading local newspapers), going out, and visiting small villages to meet native speakers are equally important to expand your vocabulary.

Also, for tourists:

- Do not waste your time in traffic jams with travelling by car. Choose public transport in bigger cities.
- Cash is no longer accepted on London's buses and trams. If you visit the capital, travel with the more financially friendly Oyster card. It is an electronic stored-value contactless smart card and can be used across London on the underground, overground, buses, the Docklands Light Railway (DLR), trams and some river boat service within the London fare zones. Charges differs according to zones and times (peak or off-peak times)
- If you travel by more buses within a single hour, you do not have to buy a new ticket for each distance.
- As a pedestrian, if you cross the zebra when the lights are red, the policeman will not punish you – but it is dangerous!
- From London you get to the seaside by train within an hour. E.g. Brighton is popular but does not have many tourist attractions; Cornwall is nice too. The most beaches are stone beaches, so bring some comfy slippers with you. By the English Channel, you can see the beautiful chalk cliffs, the Seven Sisters.
- Be prepared that British tea is stronger than the tea you used to drink.
- Entertainment: if you want to drink the creamy and 'warmer' English and Irish beer (Guinness, Foster's, John Smith's, Budwiser are popular types of beer in England), save your money in advance as it is not cheap (cc. 6 pounds/pint). The good news is that there are some pubs which serve discount drinks, such as the pub company Wetherspoon.
- Before you leave the bar for a while (e.g., to smoke a cigar), make sure you are allowed to go back there as some places do not allow you to re-enter only if you pay the entrance ticket again (e.g., Ministry of Sound).

- Pubs in Britain are not similar to the pubs in Slovakia or Hungary. They are family-friendly places, where you can eat and drink in a cosy environment. Traditional menu in pubs involve for example Shepard's pie (meat pie), Sunday roast (as the name suggests only served on Sunday), sticky toffee pudding, apple crumble and cheese cake.

7. Resource bank

Geography

1. Blind Map



Mark the following places on the map:

- 4 countries of the UK
- Capitals of the countries belonging to the UK (London – England, Edinburgh – Scotland, Cardiff – Wales, Belfast – Northern Ireland)
- Islands: Hebrides, Orkney Island, Shetlands, Isle of Wight, Isle of Scilly
- Irish Sea and North Sea
- River Thames, the second longest river (England) and Ben Nevis, the highest mountain (Scotland)

Key: maps on pages: 11, 12, 13, 14.

2. Famous places

Put each place name to the corresponding description below. There are two place names, which you do not need to use.

The Giant's Causeway, Liverpool, Kent, Haworth, Lindisfarne, Lake District, Colchester, the Fens, Belfast, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Rathlin Island, Stratford-upon-Avon, The Black Country

- a. _____ It is Britain's oldest recorded town, in Essex. There is one of the most preserved gateways in Britain. In the Roman times it was the place for retired Roman soldiers. Original Roman walls are still apparent. The town has been famous for its oysters from the River Colne.
- b. _____ It is an important port and has a significant ship-building industry; this is the home of the Beatles.
- c. _____ It is an area of the West Midlands in England, West of Birmingham, including Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell. In the Industrial Revolution, it became one of the most industrialised parts of Britain with coal mines, iron foundries and steel mills producing a high level of air pollution.
- d. _____ It is the birthplace of Shakespeare, the Swan of Avon.
- e. _____ It is the central mountainous area of Cumbria in the Northwest and has some of England's most beautiful scenery. This place is a National Park.
- f. _____ Its monastery is the birthplace of Christianity in England.
- g. _____ This place is one of the loneliest parts of the wild Yorkshire moors. The Bronte sisters' novels take place here.
- h. _____ It is Scotland's capital. There is a castle, and a famous international festival takes place here every year.
- i. _____ This place is Scotland's largest city and the centre of ship-building trade. It had leading role during the industrial revolution (known as 'dear dirty city'). This city is the home of some football clubs: Glasgow Rangers, Celtic.
- j. _____ This Welsh town has the longest place-name in the UK.
- k. _____ This island is inhabited by only 30 families. For centuries the Scots and Irish fought over the island but eventually the Irish were allowed to stay because of the absence of snakes (it was believed that St Patrick

drove all the snakes out of Ireland).

l. _____ This is a naturally marshy region in eastern England. Most of the fens were drained several centuries ago, resulting in a flat, damp, low-lying agricultural region. The place covers 3 counties: Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk.

m. _____ is also known as the Garden of England.

Key: a – Colchester, b – Liverpool, c – the Black Country, d – Stratford-upon-Avon, e – Lake District, f – Lindisfarne, g – Haworth, h – Edinburgh, i – Glasgow, j – Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantysiliogogoch, k – Rathlin Island, l – the Fens, m – Kent

3. Stonehenge

Watch and listen to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf7xw-HFuH2o> Then, answer the questions below and complete the text with the missing information.

1) What is Stonehenge?

2) How old is it?

3) What was it supposedly used for?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

4) The largest stones are called....., and they are..... tall.

5) The smaller stones are called....., and they weigh an average of tones each.

6) In what ways were the stones brought to their place?

1.

2.

3.

7) The Stonehenge marks theand the of the year.

Key: 1) an ancient stone circle in the heart of England, 2) older than the pyramids of Giza, cc. 4000–5000 years old, 3) it was used as a place of burial, a calendar, a

place to study the movements of the stars, to worship the Sun and the Moon, for religious ceremonies, 4) sarsens, 9 meters, 5) bluestones, 4, 6) the stones were rolled on trunks /dragged in huge baskets pulled by oxen/ they were moved by boat with the help of the nearby river Avon, 7) longest, shortest days

History

1. The Wars of the Roses (1455–1485)

Complete the text with the correct data. Choose from the list below.

Lancaster (2x), 1455, Henry VII, Tudor, 1455, York, Henry VI, 1485, St Albans, Bosworth, Elizabeth, 1485

The War of the Roses lasted from _____ to _____. It was an internal struggle for the throne between two noble families, the House of _____ (signified with a white rose) and the House of _____ (represented with a red rose). At the beginning of the war, King _____ ruled. The first battle took place at _____ in _____. The war ended at _____ in _____. Eventually, the _____ family won the battle, and thus _____ became the new king. He married _____ from the other family, and formed the House of _____, represented by a red and white rose. The family ruled England for 116 years.

Key: 1455, 1485, York, Lancaster, Henry VI, St Alban, 1455, Bosworth, 1855, Lancaster, Henry VII, Elizabeth, Tudor.

2. Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen

Listen to and watch the video carefully. Then, decide whether the statements are True (T) or False (F).

- n. Elizabeth I had a contradictory personality.
- o. She was the daughter of Henry VII and Anne Boleyn.
- p. She was the last Tudor sovereign.
- q. Her siblings, among others, were Edward and Mary.
- r. She had a good relationship with her cousin Mary, Queen of Scots.
- s. Elizabeth I was interested neither in fashion nor in theatre.

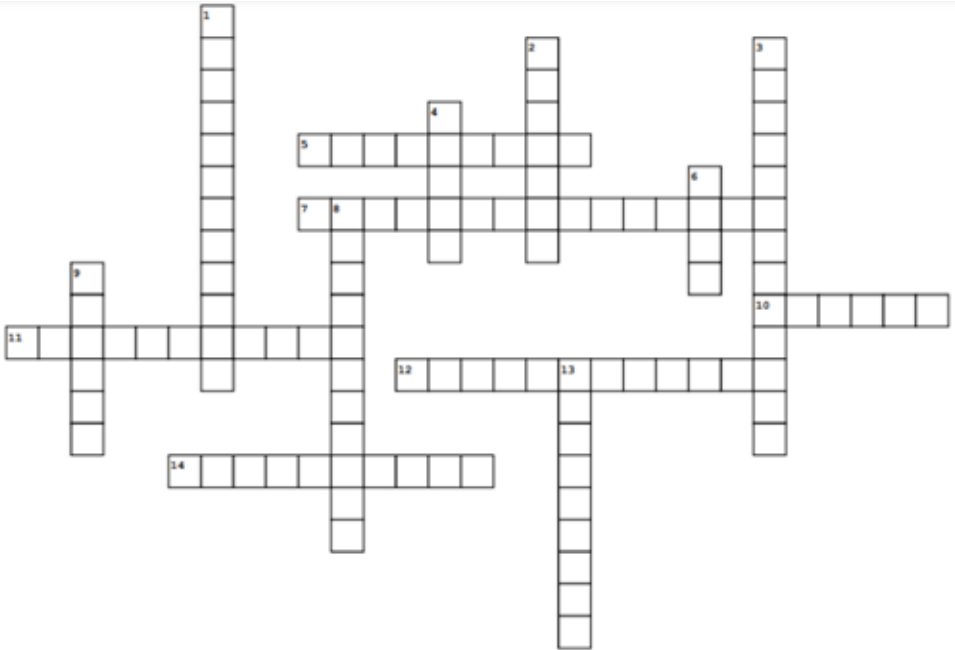
- t. The Queen used her appearance to create a kind of loyalty and affection to her people.
- u. She did not marry anyone because she wanted to avoid male dominance and authority over her.
- v. She defeated the French Armada in 1588.
- w. Elizabeth I died on 28 March, 1603, and she ruled for 44 years.

(Source: “Elizabeth I – Queen of England & Last Monarch of the House of Tudor. Mini Bio” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDg9AoJYxeY>)

Key: a. T (cunning, vain, kind, smart, manipulative), b. F (Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn), c. T, d. T, e. F (the Queen imprisoned and executed her), f. F, g. T, h. T, i. F (Spanish Armada), j. 24 March

3. Henry VIII

Do the crossword.



Across

- 5. Henry VIII's virgin daughter
- 7. this wife was executed on the grounds of adultery
- 10. Henry VIII's son
- 11. many of these were dissolved during his reign
- 12. a tune believed to be composed by Henry VIII
- 14. Henry VIII's second wife

Down

- 1. one of Henry VIII's ministers
- 2. an outdoor free time activity Henry VIII was fond of
- 3. He got this title for defending Catholicism
- 4. this country was united with England during his reign
- 6. Henry VIII's Catholic daughter
- 8. Henry VIII's third wife
- 9. a sport Henry VIII liked to do
- 13. this act was passed to become the head of church in England

Across: 5. Elizabeth, 7. Catherine Howard, 10. Edward, 11. Monasteries, 12. Greensleeves, 14. Anne Boleyn

Down: 1. Thomas Wolsey, 2. Hunting, 3. Fidei Defensor, 4. Wales, 6. Mary, 8. Anne Seymour, 9. Tennis, 13. Supremacy

(Also available at <https://crosswordlabs.com/view/henry-viii-87>)

4. British Empire and Colonization

- a. Decide which of the consequences of colonization do you consider the worst thing and mark it with a minus -
- b. Decide which of the consequences of colonization do you consider the best thing and mark it with a plus +
- c. Justify your opinion in 2 sentences.

<p>Agriculture: Britain introduced new ways of farming with different crops and foods which allowed native people to have more food.</p>	<p>Religion: The spread of Christianity across the empire stopped native people from following their own religion.</p>
<p>Dissolving unity: The Brits divided native communities in order to rule them. For example, in India, the Brits separated the Hindus and Muslims. When they left, the communities started destroying each other again.</p>	<p>Disease and Medicine: People in the colonies had no resistance to the diseases the British brought with them so many died. But the British did bring medicine that could help them with their own native diseases.</p>
<p>Native people such as the Aborigines of Australia had their land taken by The British. 80% of the Aboriginal population were wiped out in 150 years.</p>	<p>Clean water and sanitation: Britain built wells and sewers which stopped the spread of disease.</p>
<p>English Language: The English language is almost universal and spoken throughout the world, which makes for good communication between nations.</p>	<p>Theft: Things belonging to the native people were stolen and brought back to Britain. For example, a lot of aborigines' art work was taken as well diamonds taken from India.</p>
<p>Crime: Criminals who committed crimes were transported away from Britain and sent to countries in the British empire as punishment, e.g., Australia. They had to leave their family behind and some never saw them again.</p>	<p>Friendship: Many of the former colonies though now independent choose to belong to the British Commonwealth and have the Queen.</p>
<p>Culture: The British forced their own customs and traditions on the native people and forced them to ignore their own.</p>	<p>Soldiers: The colonies provided soldiers to fight for Britain, examples being World War 1 and World War 2 to defeat evil.</p>

<p>Law: Britain left its system of law in the countries it colonised to create order and fairness.</p>	<p>Government: Many former Colonies continue to use the democratic system of Parliament introduced by Britain, which allowed all people to vote for who they wanted to lead them.</p>
<p>Education: The colonies benefitted from the introduction of an education system which allowed the natives to educate their children for a new future.</p>	<p>Rebellion: Many people in the colonies were killed when they rebelled against British rule for example the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya in 1956 and The Amritsar Massacre in India in 1919.</p>

Based on: <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/was-the-british-empire-good-or-bad-12121391>

Key: optional

4. The Role of Women in Victorian Society

By studying the following oil painting, entitled *Past and Present: Misfortune* from Augustus Leopold Egg, take a closer look at what tended to happen to those women who did not conform to social expectations and to the Angel in the House image. Study the painting carefully. Then, answer the following questions.³⁹⁴



Figure 44: Augustus Leopold Egg's *Past and Present*

³⁹⁴ A part of this worksheet has already been published in *Opus at Educatio* 8 (1): Marosi, Renáta. "Developing Cognitive and Language Skills Through Visual Arts" (2021), pp. 38-46. The painting can be seen online at: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/egg-past-and-present-no-1-n03278>

Basic data:

In which century was the artwork painted?

How many people can you see in the painting?

What is the relationship between the people in the painting?

Content:

4) What is the woman doing?

5) What is the man doing?

6) What are the girls doing?

Emotions:

7) Look at each person's facial expression (at least whose you can see!) and describe how they might be feeling.

the man:

the older girl:

the younger girl:

8) What do their facial expressions say to you?

Symbols:

9) What family problems do you think Egg wanted to depict here? Study the title.

10) What is the husband holding in his hand?

11) Look at the woman's arms. What does she want?

12) Which fruit can you recognize in the painting?

13) What does it mean that the fruit is cut in two?

14) What does the fallen apple symbolize?

15) What does the apple with a knife in it symbolize?

16) Find symbols that prefigure the wife's future.

17) Please, explain what do you feel about the woman?

18) Please, explain what do you feel about the man?

19) Please, explain what do you feel about the children?

20) How does this situation and problem apply to our century?

Key: 1) 19th century; 2) four people; 3) they are family; 4) the woman is lying on the floor; 5) the man is sitting on a chair and staring into the distance; 6) the girls are playing with cards; 7) the man: is disillusioned, disappointed, heartbroken, serious, sad; we cannot see the woman's face; the older sister is shocked and surprised; the younger sister is ignorant; 8) something bad has happened to the family, something

has changed; 9) possible guess: they have got bad news; the woman did something improper; true answer: the woman betrayed her husband and her infidelity had been revealed; 10) he is holding a love letter that another man wrote to his wife; 11) the woman is begging for forgiveness; 12) apple; 13) two halves symbolize the husband and wife; 14) the fallen apple stands for the fallen woman = an expression for an immoral woman; 15) the second half of the apple symbolizes the husband whose heart hurts (as if he were stabbed); 16) bracelets round her wrists (give the impression that she is shackled); the cards are collapsing (breakdown of their marriage, we can see the mirror reflection of the open door and a suitcase in the foreground = the woman has to leave her family. The teacher might want to show the sequels (*Prayer* and *Despair*) which take place several years later, in order to reveal that the wife is forced to live on the street with her illegitimate baby while the orphaned girls who grew up with their father after the mother had to leave the house, live alone in poverty 18) possible student answers: I think it is unfair; she should have given one more chance; she should have been listened to; she should have stayed for a bit longer to decide what to do next; she deserves this because she betrayed her husband, etc. 19) I feel sorry for the man; I think the husband was too strict and hard-hearted; he should have thought about his children who need their mother, etc. 20) I feel sorry about the children; the loss of their mother will change her whole life and affect them both mentally and emotionally; etc. 21) possible topics for further discussion: marriage – rules (what can we do and cannot do in a marriage), divorce: pro vs contra; the most common reasons of divorce; possible ways of avoiding divorce; possible way of caring about marriage; cohabitation; causes of infidelity; coping with infidelity; trust; etc.

6. Scottish identity

Scottish music, clothing (Highland dress) and sport (Highland games) all shape the Scottish identity. You will watch a video about people and other factors which contributed to the evolution of this unique identity. Watch the video carefully and then do the short quiz.

1. Scotland and England was united in...
 - a. 1707
 - b. 1603
 - c. 1635
2. The Scottish invented
 - a. golf, TV, modern submarine, marmalade
 - b. bowling, TV, telephone, marmalade
 - c. golf, TV, telephone, marmalade
3.is said to invent Scottish identity
 - a. Robert Burns
 - b. Sir Walter Scott
 - c. William Shakespeare
4. The man who invented Scottish identity was born in and in
 - a. Edinburgh, 1717
 - b. Edinburgh, 1771
 - c. Glasgow, 1771
5. Walter Scot's famous work is
 - a. Auld Lang Syne
 - b. Robi Roy
 - c. Rob Roy
6. is the monarch who first visited Scotland since the 1650s.
 - a. George I in 1822
 - b. George IV in 1822
 - c. George V in 1822
7. Other things that helped people build their identity were:
 - a. whisky
 - b. media
 - c. tartan and tales

8. Scotland had an official registry for tartan since

- a. 2009
- b. 2012
- c. 1822

(Source: “The man who created Scotland’s identity” *BBC Culture*, <http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20160429-the-man-who-created-scotlands-identity>)

Key: 1 a 2 c 3 b 4 b 5 c 6c 7c 8a

7. Highland dress for men

Read the text about the traditional Highland Dress, then mark the highlighted pieces of clothing in the pictures:

There are several kinds of male garments in Scotland: casual, semi-formal, formal, great kilt attire and ancient kilt attire. Men’s casual dress usually includes **kilt**, **Jacobite shirt**, **sporrans** (which functions as pockets), **belt and buckle**, **kilt hose** (knee socks), **kilt pin** (piece of jewellery that is usually worn on the lower corner of the outer apron of a kilt.) **and ghillies** (traditional thick soled shoes with no tongues and long laces which are wrapped around and tied above the wearer’s ankles so that the shoes do not get pulled off in mud.). You may add any details or accessories.³⁹⁵



Figure 45 – Traditional men's formal garment in Scotland



left: _____ and _____
right: _____



³⁹⁵ Source of the text and photo: <http://nationalclothing.org/europe/16-scotland/9-national-dress-of-scotland-men-s-and-ladies-kilt.html>

8. Welsh popular culture

a. Can you recognize these famous Welsh people? Write each name to the corresponding picture below. Then, match the names with the descriptions in part b.



b. _____ She is a singer-songwriter born in 1985, in Brynmawr, Monmouthshire, Wales, known by her stage name ‘Marina and the Diamonds’, in which, ‘Diamonds’ refers to her fans, as she clarified. Her international hits are: “Prima Donna” and “How to Be a Heartbreaker”

_____ He was born in South Wales in 1940. He is a singer and his most famous songs are “It’s not unusual”, “Delilah” or more recently, “Sex Bomb”. He was well known for wearing tight trousers and exotic shirts on stage.

_____ She was born in South Wales, near Swansea, in 1969. She started acting at an early age and has starred in blockbusters like *The Mask of Zorro*, *Traffic* and *Chicago*. She is married to Hollywood star Michael Douglas and has two children.

_____ This football player was born in Cardiff and plays for the Welsh national football team. He played for Manchester United until 2014, and was one of the longest serving players in the team.

_____ He was born in 1937 in Port Talbot, South Wales but now he lives in Hollywood. He’s a famous actor. He played the character of Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991).

_____ She is a singer. Both “It’s a Heartache” and “Total Eclipse of the Heart” are among the best-selling singles of all time. She has become famous for her distinctive husky voice.

_____ An actor, and a recipient of a Golden Globe Award, and has received nominations for a Grammy Award and two British Academy Film Awards. He gained recognition for his starring role as spy recruit in the action comedy-film *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (2014) and its sequel *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* (2017).

_____ a rower, twice Olympic champion. All British gold medal winners at the 2012 Olympics were honoured with appearing on Royal Mail postage stamps, and having a post box in their home town painted gold. His “golden” post boxes are located in Welsh villages such as Wrexham and Coedpoeth.

Key: Marina Diamandis, Tom Jones, Catherine Zeta Jones, Ryan Giggs, Anthony Hopkins, Bonnie Tyler, Taron Egerton, Tom James.

(Sources: <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/wales.php>; <https://www.imdb.com/> <https://sk.pinterest.com/>)

9. Religion and Folklore: Patron Saints of Great Britain

9.1. Saint George



He has been *the Patron Saint of England* since 1415 AD. St George is believed to have been born in Cappadocia, around 280 AD. King Richard I (Richard the Lionheart) placed himself and his armies under his protection. His feast-day was made a national festival after the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, and he was formally named Protector of England by Pope Benedict XIV. The Order of the Garter was founded in 1348 by King Edward III, who named George as its patron. He also became the Patron of the Scouting Movement, and the George Cross was a medal awarded for gallantry in WWII. St George's day is on 23 April.³⁹⁶

Interestingly, the “dragons lean on the shield of London, which show a red cross on a white background and a small red sword on a white background is the flag of St. George... Some suspect the London dragon—which is silver or white—is an old Saxon emblem set to attack the ancient Welsh emblem of another (red) dragon. Some think the London dragon is derived from the story of St. George. Others think that the London dragon is just another dragon commonly used in heraldry to display coats-of-arms and shields.”³⁹⁷

According to the legend, St George rescued a princess and slew a dragon, converting an entire town to Christianity. Watch the following video about his story and answer the questions below.

1. What did the dragon demand from the king?
2. How did the citizens decide who the sacrifice should be?
3. Why was the king sad?
4. What did the princess wear on the day of her “wedding”?
5. Where did the dragon live?
6. Where did George come from?
7. How did George tame the dragon?

(Source: “St. George and the dragon”, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEwNd_yInKA)

396 Burn, P. *Favourite Patron Saints*, pp.50-51

397 Morris, Stephen. “St. David of Wales — and his leeks!” 29 February 2016, <http://www.stephenmorrisauthor.com/st-david-of-wales-and-his-leeks/>

Key:

1. one person every month
2. the names of every citizen were written on a paper and put into a great urn; each month, a victim's name was drawn out of the urn.
3. the prince was to be sacrificed
4. wedding gown, crown of flowers
5. in a North African lake
6. a Roman soldier, a Christian from Cappadocia (lies in the heartland of what is now Turkey)
7. the dragon was tamed: the princess's belt was thrown on the dragon, and it wrapped itself around the dragon's neck like a collar; then, immediately, the dragon became peaceful, and the princess could lead it back to the city

9.2. Saint Andrew and Saint David

Read the texts about the patron saint of Scotland and Wales carefully in order to be able to do the tasks below.

Andrew, the Patron Saint of Scotland was born in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee in the early first century and died at the end of it. According to the tradition, which is not found before the tenth century, St. Andrew, the first man to join Christ as an apostle, was crucified on an X-shaped cross. About 300 years after his death, his relics (bones) were sent from Constantinople to Scotland for safekeeping. The chapel which housed St Andrew's relics was replaced by St. Andrews Cathedral in 1160 making it a centre for medieval pilgrimage.

In 832 AD the Picts and Scots fought a battle against an army of Angles. The leader of the Scots made a vow on the night before the battle that if he won then Saint Andrew would become the Patron Saint of Scotland. According to the tradition, in the morning, white clouds were seen in an X shape on the blue sky and the Picts and Scots were victorious. The vow was honoured and St. Andrew, became Scotland's venerated saint and a white X on a blue background, the emblem of St. Andrew, became the flag of Scotland.

St Andrew's Day is on 30 November. Interestingly, his feast (in other places on 29 November) is also popular for magic that reveals a young woman's future husband and was believed to be the start of the most popular time for vampires to come hunt the living, which would last until Saint George's Eve (22 April).³⁹⁸



³⁹⁸ Burn, P. Favourite Patron Saints, pp. 16–17; <http://www.stephenmorrisauthor.com/st-andrews-day/>;
<https://scottishflagtrust.com/the-flag-heritage-centre/the-legend-of-the-saltire/>



David, the patron saint of Wales, is said to have been of royal descent. On his father's side he was linked with a **Welsh** prince and his mother was a niece of King Arthur. David was born in South West Wales, in the late fifth or early sixth century. He was educated in a monastery and became a missionary travelling through Wales, England and Brittany, converting the pagan Celts of western Britain to Christianity. He founded several monasteries and became Archbishop of Wales.³⁹⁹ He is associated with the Welsh symbol of daffodil, the leek – partly perhaps as a symbol of his simple and vegetarian lifestyle (eating only bread and vegetables, including the leeks that grew locally, and drinking only water from the local river) and partly because of an occasion when a troop of Welsh soldiers – following St Andrew's advice – were able to distinguish each other from a troop of the English enemy

dressed in similar fashion by wearing leeks.

The legend developed that when he was speaking, the earth had risen up to form a hill, from which he could more easily be heard, while the Holy Spirit settled on his shoulder in the form of a white dove. His patronage of Wales is traditional. By the late Middle Ages his feast was celebrated in Canterbury. Pilgrims from South Wales venerated his supposed remains at Glastonbury.⁴⁰⁰ Actually, he was buried in his monastery, now the site of St. David's Cathedral in Pembrokeshire. His shrine has become a place of pilgrimage. St David's Day is on 1 March. Saint David's Day was celebrated by Welsh diaspora from the late Middle Ages. Interestingly, the 17th-century diarist Samuel Pepys noted how Welsh celebrations in London for Saint David's Day would spark wider counter-celebrations amongst their English neighbours: life-sized effigies of Welshmen were symbolically lynched, and by the 18th century the custom had arisen of confectioners producing "taffies" that is gingerbread figures baked in the shape of a Welshman riding a goat on Saint David's Day. When in 1485, Henry VII of England, whose ancestry was partly Welsh, became King of England, he added a Welsh dragon to the royal coat of arms, a reference to the monarch's origins.⁴⁰¹

399 Johnson, Ben. "St David – Patron Saint of Wales" <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofWales/St-David-Patron-Saint-of-Wales/>

400 Burn, Paul (ed.). *Favourite Patron Saints*. pp.50-51.

401 Morris, Stephen. "St David – Patron Saint of Wales – and his leeks!" 29 February 2016, <http://www.stephenmorrisauthor.com/st-davis-of-wales-and-his-leeks/>

Who is speaking? Write A (for Andrew) or D (for David).

- a. My mother was one of the most legendary kings' niece. This king had a Round
- b. Table and his knights was questing after the Holy Grail.
- c. I decided to die on the cross not suffering similarly to my Master.
- d. My brother and I served God's son.
- e. My place of burial is a centre of pilgrimage.
- f. I lived a simple life.
- g. When I was preaching everyone had a chance to listen to my words.
- h. I helped ancient tribes won a battle against the Angles.
- i. My name is associated with the letter X on blue background.
- j. My name is related to the red dragon.
- k. When I was preaching the symbol of the Holy Spirit rested on my shoulder.

Key: a – D, b – A, c – A, d- A and D, e – D, f – D, g – A, h – A, i – D, j – D

Decide whether the statements about the saints are true (T) or false (F)?

- a. Saint Andrew was King Arthur's nephew.
- d. Saint David is the patron saint of Wales.
- c. Saint Peter and Saint Andrew were siblings.
- d. Saint Andrew aided the Angles in a battle against the Scots and the Picts.
- e. White X on a blue background is the emblem of St. Andrew.
- f. Saint David was the Archbishop of Wales.
- g. Saint David is associated with one of the Welsh symbols, the leak.
- h. Saint David converted the pagan Celts of western Britain to Christianity.
- i. Saint Andrew was born in Jerusalem.
- j. Saint David rests in peace in St. David's Cathedral in Cardiff.

Key: a – F (St David was King Arthur's nephew according to the tradition), b – T, c – T, d – F (the other way round), e – T, f – T, g – T, h – T, i – F (Bethsaida), j – F (in Pembrokeshire)

10. Name the flags and emblems below



Key: St Andrew's Cross (Saltire) – Scotland's national flag, England's national flag, Union Jack, Welsh flag

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Pedagogická fakulta
Bratislavská cesta 3322
SK-945 01 Komárno
www.ujs.sk

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Culture and History of Great Britain
A textbook for university students of English as a foreign language

Recenzenti / Recenzensek / Reviewed by:

Dr. habil. Barnabás Vajda, PhD.

Dr. habil Anna Litovkina, PhD.

PaedDr. Andrea Puskás, PhD.

Vydavateľ / Kiadó / Publisher: Univerzita J. Selyeho, Selye János Egyetem,
J. Selye University

Rok vydania / Kiadás éve / Year of Edition: 2021

Prvé vydanie / Első kiadás / First Edition

ISBN 978-80-8122-393-8



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ISBN 978-80-8122-393-8