Kings and Queens of England from Norman Times

- William I (1066-87)
- William II (1087-1100)
- Henry I (1100-1135)
- Stephen (1135-1154)
- Henry II (1154-1189)
- Richard I (1189-1199) Richard the Lion Heart
- John (1199-1216)
- Henry III (1216-1272)
- Edward I (1272-1307) Longshanks
- Edward II (1307-1327)
- Edward III (1327-1377) Launched the Hundred Years War 1337-1453
- Richard II (1377-1399)
- Henry IV (1399-1413)
- Henry V (1413-1422) Battle of Agincourt
- Henry VI (1422-1461, 1470-71) A pawn in the War of the Roses 1455-85
- Edward IV (1461-1483)
- Edward V (1483)
- Richard III (1485)
- Henry VII (1485-1509)
Henry VIII (1509-1547)
Edward VI (1547-53)
Jane (1553)
Mary (1553-1558) • “Bloody Mary”
Elizabeth I (1558-1603)
James I (1603-1625)
Charles I (1625-1649)
Oliver Cromwell (1658)
R. Cromwell (1660)
Charles II (1660-1685)
James II (1685-1689)
Mary II (1689-1694)
William III (1689-1702)
Anne (1702-1714)
George I (1714-1727)
George II (1727-1760)
George III (1760-1820)
George IV (1820-1830)
William IV (1830-1837) 1832 Reform Act
Victoria (1837-1901)
Edward VII (1901-1910)
George V (1910-1936)
Edward VIII (1936)
George VI (1936-1952)
Elizabeth II (1952-)
250,000- 50,000 year ago: hunter-gather people (all over Europe)

about 600 B.C.- Celts come to Britain from

55 B.C.- Julius Caesar

43 A.D. Large Roman invasion: rule Britain for almost 400 years

**** 78-409 England and Wales are under the control of Roman government

122 Emperor Hadrian builds a wall to keep out invaders

***4th century Rome becomes Christian

410 A.D. the last Roman soldiers left Britain

6th century: 4 large Germanic tribes (Jutes and Angles from Denmark, Saxons from Northern Germany, Frisians from N. Germany and Holland)- by 550 they had the whole of England (the Celts still having Wales, and Scotland…)

597 St. Augustine comes to England from Rome to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons. By end of the 7th century had spread to all of England.

8th, 9th and 10th centuries- Viking invasions from Scandanavia:

by 870 they controlled every English kingdom except Wessex

878 King Alfred of Wessex defeats the Vikings.

879-1042: Viking become Christianized and live peacefully with Anglo-Saxons. 25 years of Danish rule. England is divided into two countries: Wessex (Old English) and Danelaw (Old Norse)

1066 Norman French invasion of England

11th-14th century: French the language for those in power.

1100- the beginning of Middle English

12th century English aristocracy conquers Ireland.

14th century Wales is conquered

[1337- 1453 war with France: The Hundred Years’ War]

1348- Black Death plague: population drops and French language loses its importance.

[Martin Luther]

1476 Caxton builds a printing press
1485 Tudor period begins; Henry VII becomes first Tudor king.

1485 Henry VII wins battle of Bosworth bringing an end to the civil war, War of the Roses.

[1492 Christopher Columbus discovers America]

[16th century: the age of “Merchant Adventurers”; the discovery of a sea route to India and the East by way of Africa; the discovery of America and Canada; West coast of Africa;

1529-1536 Henry VIII breaks with the Pope

1553 Queen Mary (Henry’s first daughter) says England should be a Catholic country

Shakespeare-

1558 Elizabeth becomes queen

1588 Spain tries to invade England and fails

[17th century: conflict between Puritan Parliament and Anglican monarchy/Stuart Kings]

1601 The East India Company created

1603 Queen Elizabeth dies and her cousin James of Scotland becomes king; the start of the Stuart period; Scotland and England are finally united the two kingdoms.

1642-49 The English Civil War

1649-1660 England is a republic called “The Commonwealth” – a Puritan controlled one. A period known as “The Interrregnum”

1660 The restoration of the Stuarts

1668 a settlement of this conflict with the Glorious Revolution and the abdication of James II in favor of William III.

1714 Queen Anne dies, the last of the Stuarts. George of Hanover becomes king (can’t speak English). Jacobites want James Edward Stuart (the “Old Pretender”)

1715 and 1745 Jacobite rebellions; easily put down

1759 French armies defeated in India and Canada.

1776 American Declaration of Independence
1782 Colonies in North America, with French help, became the United States of America

1793-1815 France and Napoleon fighting British; British victory in 1815 making it the supreme power in Europe.

1804 Battle of Trafalgar

1812-14 War with America

1815 Widespread protest following the end of the Napoleonic Wars

1832- the First Parliamentary Reform Act

1837 (-1901) Queen Victoria

1846 the Corn laws repealed representing the triumph of the middle classes as a political and social force. Started and era of free trade.

1867 Working classes in towns get vote

1869 Opening of Suez Canal

1870 system of elementary education.

1884 Workers in countryside got vote.

1899-1902 Boer War

1921 Southern Ireland becomes independent

1928 Women can vote

“The Middle-Ages” in British History (1066-1485)

Key facts:

① England was ruled by the Norman French.
② The country was united under a feudal system.
③ Great castles, cathedrals and monasteries were built.
England went to war with France over land and lost.

The Norman French rulers gradually became English.

The language of the people gradually changed into what we call “Middle English”

England went to war with Scotland and lost.

The Black Death/plague killed off almost half the population.

The Normans

In October 1066 William, the Norman king invaded England, becoming king William I (William the Conqueror) of England. Within five years, the Normans had conquered all of England. They imposed unity on England and help to link England with the culture of the rest of Europe. He gave a lot of land to the Norman nobility (known as barons). These barons then owed military service to the king. The nobility gave land to others to work on as farmers. People in the village who received land had to work 2 or 3 days a week on the rich person’s land or pay taxes. This system of land holding is known as feudalism.

The French invaders became the upper class aristocracy who ruled over the English. French was the language of the upper classes, of law and government and the army. The Anglo-Saxon peasants did not speak French.

The Normans built many castles which helped them to rule the land they had conquered. They also build beautiful churches in the shape of a cross. The arches above the doorways were always rounded (Romanesque style). They build fine monasteries which became the center of village life.

The Rise of the English Nation

By the 13th century, the rulers of England thought of themselves as English, not French. The rulers eventually spoke English like everyone else, not French. English had changed over the years and French was mixed into making what we now call Middle English. It was an exciting time of great changes in government and society. Oxford and Cambridge universities started in the 13th century. Little by little the power of kings was limited and the power of a Parliament started growing.

Edward I (1272-1307) was a strong king who tried to take Scotland— but failed (because of people like William Wallace and Robert Bruce). Then in (1348-9) the Black Death (plague) came to England killing almost half the population.

THE TUDOR AGE (1485-1603): Renaissance, Reformation and a New Word

The social and economic order of the Middle-Ages was breaking down. More and more people were rejecting the authority of kings and the Catholic Church. This was the period of
the English Renaissance, and the growth of Protestantism.

The two most famous English monarchs were Henry VIII and Elizabeth I (House of Tudor)

**Henry VIII 1509-1547**

He was a typical Renaissance prince: a poet, musician, fine horseman and lover of the arts. When he was 36, he still had no son and became tired of his wife Catherine. He loved Anne Boleyn and asked the Pope permission to divorce Catherine so he could marry Anne. The Pope said no, and Henry broke with Rome. There was a lot of anti-Catholic feeling in England and Parliament and the people supported Henry against the Pope.

The Parliament made the king the “Supreme Head of the Church of England,” and helped the king to destroy the Catholic Church. Henry took church lands and buildings and gave much of the wealth to his friends. He ordered that church services should be in English instead of Latin and that each church should have an English bible.

**Elizabeth I 1558-1603**

Elizabeth was loved by the English and is remembered as one of England’s greatest monarchs. The second daughter of Henry VIII, she came to be queen at age 25. She was fluent in Greek, Latin, French, and Italian. She studied theology and became a strong Protestant. When she came to power England had no army or police and a weak bureaucracy. Her friend and advisor was Lord Burghley, who served her for 40 years with great talent.

In 1559 Elizabeth made Protestantism as the national religion by having Parliament pass the Act of Supremacy: this law made the queen (or king) the supreme head of the Church of England. There were rumors that Catholics were going to try to assassinate Elizabeth and that Mary, Queen of Scots was involved. Parliament wanted her executed and Elizabeth had her head cut off (in 1587).

King Philip of Spain wanted to help the Catholics in England (this was a time of fighting between Catholics and Protestants). Also, English and Spanish ships were coming into conflict on the ocean (the Age of Mercantilism). By the mid 1580’s it became clear that Spain and England would go to war with each other. In one of the most famous battles in history, the English beat the whole Spanish fleet of ships in the English Channel (1588).

In this same year Shakespeare arrived in London. He wrote 20 plays which Elizabeth enjoyed very much. Many of his historical plays celebrated England's greatness.

It was a time of great economic growth. This was the great age of exploration and discovery around the world.
The English Civil War and the Restoration

Under Elizabeth, the power of Parliament was growing. After she died, her cousin, king of Scotland, became King James I of England. (1603) This was the end of the Tudor dynasty and the beginning of the House of Stuart.

At this time, there were religious reformers who though the Anglican Church (Church of England) was not strict enough and they wanted to reform it. These groups of religious reformers were called Puritans, because they wanted to purify the church. There was a lot of pressure against these Puritans and some escaped England to make a new religious community in America (in Massachusetts).

After King James I died, his son became King Charles I. Charles believed in the divine power of kings and tried to rule without Parliament. He tried to arrest Members of Parliament. Parliament fought back.

Civil War

Civil war started in 1640, with Oliver Cromwell as the leader of Parliament. The main issues of this war were religious toleration (for Puritans and other Protestant groups) and more power for Parliament (and less power for the king). Puritans supported the Parliament against the king.

King Charles I was defeated by Cromwell’s army and executed on January 30, 1649, and for the first and only time in English history, there was no monarch.

The Commonwealth (1649-1660)

England now had no king. It was ruled by Cromwell as a “commonwealth” rather than a kingdom. There were many different groups (religious and political) competing for power, and so the army generals under Cromwell took control. England became a military dictatorship under Puritan rule. There were strict religious laws (e.g., the theaters were all closed). The Puritans were severe in their practices (see film, The Crucible/The Scarlet Letter).

The Restoration (1660-1713)

Eventually the people got tired of this form of government and wanted a king. King Charles II was invited back to England and the people rejoiced. (1660) Theatres were opened and a period of great artistic and cultural achievement began. The good result of the Civil War may have been that Parliament now had great powers and the kings power was no longer total.
The main spirit of the Restoration was that of **reason**. The power and wealth of the middle classes grew. This was a time of great **commercial** success around the world, and **scientific achievement**.

**THE BRITISH EMPIRE**

**Introduction**

During the 17\textsuperscript{th} and 18\textsuperscript{th} centuries the British sailed across the seas with the purpose of increasing British power and wealth, competing mostly with France for colonies around the world. Emigration was a solution to the over population problem in Britain. Little by little, people looking for freedom or wealth settled in these far away places. By the late 19\textsuperscript{th} century, under queen Victoria, England ruled about 1/4 of the worlds land and population. During this period, England became the leading industrial nation in Europe.

In 1834, Britain stopped slavery in all its colonies. In the 19\textsuperscript{th} and 20\textsuperscript{th} centuries, her colonies became more and more independent, and the big companies were not allowed to monopolize trade. It became too difficult to maintain such a huge Empire, and so it gradually disappeared; today there is only a linguistic and cultural connection with Great Britain.

**America**

1607 - Jamestown was founded in Virginia as for trade (tobacco and cotton).

1620- A religious colony started by strict Puritans (Pilgrims).

During the period of King Charles I, thousands more settlers went to America. By mid-18\textsuperscript{th} century there were 13 English colonies stretching up and down the east coast of America. A war for independence was fought (Revolutionary War, 1775-83), and the 13 colonies became the (13) United States of America.

**Canada**

The Hudson Bay Company was important for exploring Canada and setting up trade (especially furs). The British went to war with France in Canada and won (1763). Many French stayed there living peacefully with the British in eastern Canada. After America won its independence, many pro-British colonists went north to Canada (especially the Toronto area).

On the west Coast of Canada (British Columbia), Vancouver was started for China trade (1788). In 1936 Canada became a self-governing nation in the British Commonwealth.

**India: “The Jewel in the Crown”**

The East India Company started in 1600; it had a monopoly on trade for the next
150 years; the import of tea (and export of tea to America) made the company rich because the English became addicted to tea in the 18th century.

In 1750, the British defeated the French in India and the British East India Company to took control of India. The Indian people tried to revolt in 1857 but lost. After this, the British government took over the administration of India, until Indian independence in 1947.

Australia and New Zealand

New Zealand and Australia (called New South Wales) were discovered by the British (Captain Cook) and made part of Britain in 1770. In the beginning, Australia was a prison colony for British. In 1813 the islands of New Zealand were made part of New South Wales, under British protection. Many Scottish farmers made New Zealand into a rich colony. New Zealand was colonized from 1840. Like Australia, New Zealand became an independent country within the British Commonwealth and Empire. By the 1840, six separate colonies covering all of Australia were decided; in 1910 they formed into one Commonwealth of Australia.

Africa

In the 19th century the British and the Dutch (Boers) fought each other for control of South Africa. In 1880 an Independent Boer Republic was started, but South Africa remained under British rule. Finally in 1948 the Boers (Afrikaner National Party) took control of the government.

Hong Kong

In 1841 the British took Hong Kong Island to trade with China. The shipped opium from India and sold it to China and imported lots of Chinese goods. Britain had a year lease (till 1997) on Hong Kong. They never gave the Hong Kong people democracy.

Other:

Britain controlled many other lands around the world, such as Singapore, which became Britain’s main naval base in Asia, Caribbean islands like Jamaica, and Egypt.