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## History of the United Kingdom: Since 1707

The history of the United Kingdom is part of the long story of all the peoples who have at one time or another lived in the lands that make up present-day England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Come and explore how this small island nation pioneered the Industrial Revolution, developed democratic parliamentary government, and helped to shape the modern world!

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### Find It!

*Find the answers to the questions below by using the “Search” tool to search key words. Since this activity is about the history of the United Kingdom, you can start by searching for the keywords “United Kingdom” to find the article titled “United Kingdom, History of the.”*

*Write the answer below these questions from the beginning of the article or circle the correct multiple-choice selection.*

### Map It!

*Consult the map labeled “United Kingdom” at the start of the article on the History of the United Kingdom to answer the next two questions.*

1. What four political divisions (labeled in red on the map) make up the United Kingdom?
2. What is the capital of the United Kingdom?

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## Find It!

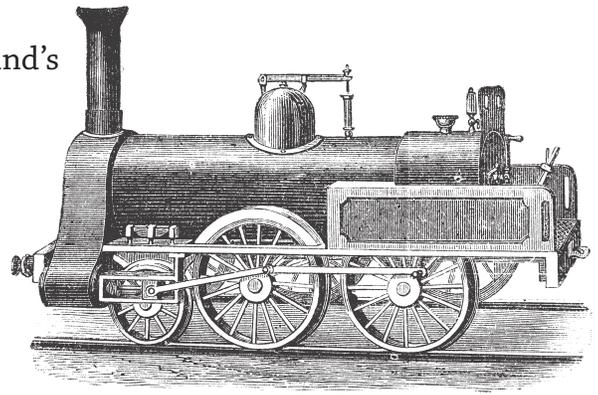
Scroll down or use the article contents icon (at the top right corner of your screen) to find the section of the article titled “Years of progress (1700’s).” The remainder of the webquest covers the second half of the article, beginning at this point.

3. In the early 1500’s, England and Wales were officially joined under one system of government. The Act of Union passed in 1707 formally joined these areas with Scotland to form what the act called the “united kingdom of Great Britain.”
  - A. What did the 1707 Act of Union change?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - B. What stayed the same?
  
4. King George I, who ruled from 1714 to 1727, chose a *cabinet* (team of political leaders) to run his government but realized that these leaders needed to sit in Parliament in order to get important measures passed. So when a team of these leaders, called *ministers*, lost control of Parliament, the king either chose new ministers or called an election. This form of governing became known as \_\_\_\_\_.
  
5. George I’s first chief minister is often considered the first “prime minister” of Britain. What was his name?
  
6. As a result of the Seven Years’ War (also known in America as the French and Indian War) Britain’s overseas empire expanded because it acquired most of France’s colonial territory in
  - a. Asia and Africa.
  - b. North America and Africa.
  - c. North America and India.
  - d. North American and South America.
  
7. During the 1700’s, a rise in population and the growth of towns increased the demand for food. Some farmers increased production with a new system of
  - a. crop rotation.
  - b. plowing.
  - c. using chemical fertilizers.

8. The Industrial Revolution began in the 1700's in England's

\_\_\_\_\_ industry.

- a. coal mining
- b. cotton textile
- c. iron making
- d. ship building



9. How did the Industrial Revolution change the way most people worked?

10. Name three developments that changed transportation in the 1700's.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Why were the industrial areas built around coal fields?

12. Draw lines to match the colonial region with the change that took place there in the late 1700's.

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Australia                  | reorganized into two provinces      |
| Canada                     | became independent from the British |
| Thirteen American colonies | where the British sent convicts     |

13. Britain fought France in the Napoleonic Wars of the late 1700's and early 1800's, during which France conquered and then lost much of continental Europe. Name the famous British military leader who led these great battles during the war.

Battle of Trafalgar (1805) \_\_\_\_\_

Battle of Waterloo (1815) \_\_\_\_\_

14. What did the Act of Union of 1801 do for Great Britain and Ireland?

15. What act, passed by Parliament in 1829, lifted the restriction that Roman Catholics could not serve in parliament?

16. Few men in the United Kingdom had the right to vote at the start of the 1800's. What additional groups received voting rights as a result of each of the following acts?

Reform Act of 1832: \_\_\_\_\_

Reform Act of 1867: \_\_\_\_\_

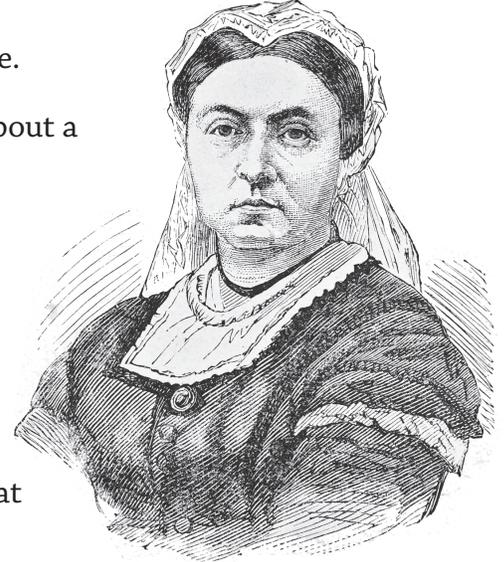
Reform Act of 1884: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Who ruled the United Kingdom during the Victorian Age, and how long did the reign last?

18. The British Empire reached its height during the Victorian Age.

It included about a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world's land and about a \_\_\_\_\_ of the world's population.

- a. quarter, quarter
- b. quarter, third
- c. third, third
- d. third, half



19. Unscramble the words to discover inventions of the 1800's that radically changed communications and transportation.

- A. Daoriral: Originally carried freight. They later built passenger lines. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. metsa nneig: Used to power ships \_\_\_\_\_
- C. ttreserca: horse-drawn transportation. Tracks were called tramways \_\_\_\_\_
- D. ybcicel: J. K. Starley created the first 'safe' version \_\_\_\_\_
- E. eleponhet: created by a Scotsman who settled in the United States \_\_\_\_\_

20. In 1837, Rowland Hill wrote a pamphlet calling for a uniform Penny Post. He said it should charge cheap, uniform rates, regardless of distance, with the postage paid in advance by the sender and adhesive stamps to indicate payment. The British Post Office issued the first postage stamps in 1840. Who was Rowland Hill?

- a. the head of the British postal service
- b. the British minister of transportation
- c. a retired British schoolteacher
- d. a British soldier stationed in Australia

21. The Great Irish Famine of 1845 to 1850 killed about \_\_\_\_\_ people in Ireland out of a population of about \_\_\_\_\_, and caused several million desperate people to leave the island.

## Map It!

Examine the map titled “British Empire under Queen Victoria” to answer the following two questions.

22. Where were the main British colonial territories located when Victoria came to the throne in 1837?
23. The British Empire expanded greatly during the 1800’s. In what parts of the world did most of this expansion occur?
24. A “dominion” is a self-governing member of the British Empire that maintains its allegiance to the Crown. What was the first dominion created within the British Empire, and what was the name of the act that created it?
25. Find a short list of influential British authors from the 1800’s below.

Indicate whether he or she is a writer from the **Romantic** or **Victorian** Movement. Then find the underlined names in the word search.



\_\_\_\_\_ Alfred, Lord Tennyson

\_\_\_\_\_ Jane Austen

\_\_\_\_\_ Charlotte Brontë

\_\_\_\_\_ Emily Brontë

\_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth Barrett Browning

\_\_\_\_\_ Robert Browning

\_\_\_\_\_ Charles Dickens

\_\_\_\_\_ George Eliot

\_\_\_\_\_ John Keats

\_\_\_\_\_ Rudyard Kipling

\_\_\_\_\_ Sir Walter Scott

\_\_\_\_\_ Percy Bysshe Shelley

\_\_\_\_\_ H. G. Wells

\_\_\_\_\_ William Wordsworth

B	Y	E	L	L	E	H	S	A	X	E	I
T	L	O	S	R	K	T	D	L	Y	T	W
O	I	W	N	Q	A	E	L	I	O	T	N
X	M	P	E	E	T	G	J	X	G	O	O
Z	E	B	K	Z	B	H	V	B	V	L	S
Y	T	C	C	W	R	J	R	N	E	R	Y
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E	C	W	P	N	N	S	B	S	W	C	E
L	S	G	I	B	I	M	A	U	W	P	T
L	A	N	Q	N	N	V	B	A	Y	G	X
S	G	P	R	W	G	N	I	L	P	I	K

- .....
26. In 1914, the British government passed an Irish Home Rule Bill to give Ireland self-government within the British Empire, but home rule was shelved when \_\_\_\_\_ began.
- World War I
  - World War II
  - the Easter Rising
  - Sinn Féin's demands for independence
27. A. What part of Ireland became the Irish Free State in the early 1920's?
- B. What part remained part of the United Kingdom?
28. During the first half of the 1900's, the United Kingdom fought two devastating wars— World War I and World War II. Write "WWI" or "WWII" in front of each statement to indicate which war it describes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the U.K. fought in the war from 1914 to 1918
- \_\_\_\_\_ the U.K. fought in the war from 1939 to 1945
- \_\_\_\_\_ the World War in which the largest number of British armed forces died
- \_\_\_\_\_ hundred of German planes bombed the United Kingdom nightly during "the Blitz"
- \_\_\_\_\_ in the alliance system that developed before the war, the U.K. and its allies were called the Triple Entente
- \_\_\_\_\_ Winston Churchill served as prime minister during most of the war
29. What political party won a landslide victory in 1945, and what did it do to change British society in the next six years?
30. What is the Commonwealth of Nations?
31. What happened to most of the territories in the United Kingdom's overseas empire in the years following World War II?
32. In what year did the United Kingdom join the European Community (also called the EC), which later became the European Union (also known as the EU)?

(Hint: For the next three questions see the introductory paragraphs in the “Northern Ireland” article.)

33. Who are the Unionists in Northern Ireland and what do they want?
34. Who are the Nationalists in Northern Ireland, and what do they want?
35. The conflict and violence between Irish Nationalists and Irish Unionists that began in the late 1960’s and finally drew to a close in the early 2000’s is known by what name?

(Hint: For the remaining questions return to the “United Kingdom, history of” article.)

36. A. Who was the first woman to serve as prime minister of the United Kingdom?  
  
B. When did she take office?  
  
C. How long did she serve?
37. What British political leader became prime minister in 1997 and proposed plans to give Scotland and Wales their own legislatures?
38. Later in 1997, the people in Scotland and in Wales each approved plans for a national assembly to which the British government *devolved* (transferred) some of its powers. What are these assemblies called?  
  
Scotland: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Wales: \_\_\_\_\_
39. In 1998, a political settlement in Northern Ireland created three new political bodies, which all began meeting the following year. What are the three political bodies, and what is the role of each one?