

ENGLAND - History

Timeline of key English monarchs

Overview

Date	Ruler	Remembered for:
1485 - 1509	Henry VII	Victory over Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. The first Tudor monarch.
1509 - 1547	Henry VIII	Overthrowing the Catholic religion. Also well-known for having six wives.
1558 - 1603	Elizabeth I	Skilful diplomacy, action on religious matters, defeat of the Spanish Armada and her refusal to marry. She supported the arts.
1660 -1685	Charles II	The first monarch following the period as a republic when Oliver Cromwell had led the Civil War against Charles I.
1837 - 1901	Victoria	Monarch during the Industrial Revolution. She expanded the British Empire and led the abolition of slavery in England.
1936	Edward VIII	Ruled for less than a year before abdicating the throne to his younger brother (George VI) in order to marry American divorcee, Wallis Simpson.
1952 - 2022	Elizabeth II	The longest reigning British monarch (70 years)



Londinium was a significant settlement during the Roman rule in Britain, due to its proximity to the River Thames. Since then, London has evolved as the capital of England, as well as a centre for cultural, social and economic development.

London has witnessed the rule of many monarchs as well as uprising and civil war, determining the path of English history. From the Great Fire to the Blitz, London has a rich history to explore. Historians have been able to understand its varied past through a wealth of written and pictorial material, as well as significant artefacts that tell the story of the evolution of our capital to what we see today.

Additional vocabulary

continuity - century - decade - primary source - secondary source - anthropology - bias - account - propaganda - era - legacy - aristocracy

Glossary and key terms

Blitz: from the German term Blitzkrieg. The sustained campaign of aerial bombing attacks on British towns and cities carried out by the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) from September 1940 - May 1941. London was bombed more than anywhere else in the country.

civil war: war between citizens of the same country. Oliver Cromwell led the uprising of Parliament against Charles I in 1642. There were three wars during the English Civil war, the second one leading to the execution of Charles I.

Great Fire of London: a major conflagration that swept through London from 2nd - 6th September 1666, gutting the medieval city's wood-framed buildings. Details were recorded by diarist Samuel Pepys.

Industrial Revolution: the transition from small cottage industries in which goods were primarily made by hand to new mass-produced goods in factories using steam and water power. It began in Britain around 1760, continuing into the 1800s.

Medieval: Meaning Middle Ages, the Medieval period in England is from about 500AD (the fall of the Roman Empire) to Henry's victory over Richard III in 1485. It was also known as the Dark Ages due to the perception of a lack of scientific or cultural development.

Black Death: pandemic that ravaged Europe between 1347 and 1351 and caused by the plague, a disease carried by flea-infested black rats who travelled on the trading vessels. In five years, over 20 million people in Europe died from bubonic plague.

River Thames: the Romans built the first bridge over the river and London became a major trading point. The Thames has been significant for shipbuilding and commercial growth, as well as access to London for the Vikings, when Olaf and Ethelred recaptured the city.

Tower of London: built around 1070, William I built the massive fortress as defence and to show his power. In its history, the tower has been used to store and protect royal possessions (armour and jewels), as a royal residence, a prison and even a zoo.

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