

Topics from Year 7

Migration before 1066

- The **Celts** migrated to Britain around 500BC.
- The **Romans** migrated around 43AD and left in 410AD.
- After the Romans had left Britain, the **Anglo-Saxons** then settled in Britain. This group spoke Old English which is where most of our present-day English language derives from!
- In 793AD, the **Vikings** started invading England to raid monasteries for gold and treasures.



The Norman Conquest

In January 1066, the King of England, **Edward the Confessor**, died suddenly. He had no children or heirs, so the throne was up for grabs! Four claimants (listed below) wanted the throne. On 16th October 1066, **William of Normandy** won the **Battle of Hastings** and was crowned King William I of England...

- Harold Godwinson, the Earl of Wessex.
- Edgar the Etheling, King Edward's young great-nephew.
- Harald Hardrada, the King of Norway.
- William, the Duke of Normandy (in northern France).



Medieval Women

Noblewomen were daughters or wives of rich lords. They were usually well-educated and had time for hobbies like writing, painting, playing musical instruments or sewing. This was because they had servants who looked after their children. **Peasant women** on the other hand, had to look after children and cook and clean their homes. They lived in the countryside and tended to crops and animals on the farm. Finally, **nuns** lived and worked in monasteries built by the Catholic Church. They did not marry as they devoted their life to God. They were educated in midwifery, and many helped the local community if they were sick.

Henry VIII

King Henry VIII was a Tudor king. He badly wanted a **son** to be his **heir** when he died. In order to **divorce** his first wife (who was getting too old to have more children), Henry needed the Pope to allow a divorce which he denied. In retaliation, Henry separated from the Catholic Church and set up his own new Protestant **Church of England** with him as leader. He made lots of **money** by dissolving the monasteries, which he spent on expensive **wars** with France!

Year 8 Mid Way Revision

The British Empire

America

During the Age of Exploration, countries like Spain and Portugal were acquiring colonies that were rich in resources. The '**New World**' (America) was rich in resources and raw materials such as cotton, sugar, metals and minerals. Sir Walter Raleigh claimed land in north America for England, called **Virginia**. The first successful British settlement was set up there in 1607 and was called **Jamestown**, named after King James.

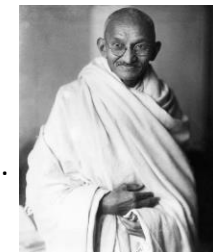


India

In the year 1600, Queen Elizabeth I signed a Royal Charter which endorsed the **East India Company**. This company was given the royal seal of approval to discover new lands around the world and set up trading links with new nations. The aim of the East India Co. was to **trade with India and China** for the rich, valuable items desired in Europe, such as spices, cotton, silk and indigo dye (for clothing). The **East India Co.** soon became so rich from Indian trade that it **hired its own Indian troops** to fight battles for the British. These troops were locals – they were known as **Sepoys**.

Over 1 million Indian soldiers fought for Britain in World War One.

Soon after, the **Indian Independence Movement** was set up and led by **Mahatma Gandhi**. Eventually, after many years of protests, India gained independence from Britain in 1947, two years after WWII ended.



Legacy of Empire

At its peak, the British Empire covered **25% of the world's land surface**. Aside from the USA, Canada and India, it also had colonies in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Egypt, Jamaica, and Hong Kong. After 1884, there was a '**scramble**' for land in Africa between European countries. Britain **exploited** South Africa for diamonds, Egypt for its access to oil, and set up slave plantations in the USA to grow tobacco, cotton and sugar. The British **stole land** from Native Americans and Native Australians and killed peaceful protestors at Amritsar in India in 1919. However, the Empire did also do some good. For example, setting up **schools and universities**, building **roads** and **clean water** systems, and offering **jobs** to its colonists.