

18th Century Britain: Major Events in a Nutshell

- 1701- the Act of Settlement places the House of Hanover in line for the English throne (after Anne's death).
- 1702- William III (William of Orange) dies and Anne accedes to the throne (end of the Stuart dynasty).
- 1707- the Act of Union of England and Scotland is ratified (Wales was included in England in 1535 under the Tudor dynasty).
- 1714- Anne dies and George I accedes to the throne (the beginning of the Hanoverian dynasty).
- 1715-1716- the first major 'Jacobite' rising → defeated by the government.
- 1721- Sir Robert Walpole became the first prime minister of Britain (1721-42).
- 1727- George I died (1714-27) and was succeeded by the second Hanoverian king, George II (1727-60).
- 1739- Britain declared war on Spain → colonial war in Caribbean waters
- 1742-1743- the British allies defeated the French → George II became the last British monarch to lead his army into battle.
- 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' (James II's son, James Edward Stuart) landed in Scotland to claim the British throne. Protestant supporters of the Hanoverians referred to him as the Old Pretender.
- 1746- Jacobites were defeated at Culloden → they tried to restore Bonnie Prince Charlie to the throne, but they did not succeed. This Jacobite revolt is also known as the '45 Rebellion.
- 1756- Seven Years' War between Britain and France began.
- 1763- The Treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years War.
- 1769- the steam engine was invented → the beginning of the industrial development.

- 1775-1783- American War of Independence began. The first colonial revolt in the British Empire
- 1783- The Treaty of Paris formally ended the war.
- 1789-The French Revolution
- 1793-1815 Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.
- In 1805 the British ruled the seas, whereas Napoleon Bonaparte (emperor of France) was master of continental Europe.
- 1805- Battle of Trafalgar, Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson led the British Army- HMS 'Victory'.
- The wars continued until the final defeat of Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo in 1815.

THE GREAT UNITE

- 1801- Act of Union: the separate Irish Parliament is closed and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is formed.
- 1807- Britain abolished the slave trade → 1833- abolish slavery in the British empire.
- 1811-1820: The English Regency was a flamboyant era highly celebrated for its art, architecture and fashion, but also remembered through its Prince Regent, George IV, a spendthrift and a scandalmonger. (After 9 years of regency, George IV became king for 10 years during 1820-1830. When he died he was extremely fat and unpopular.) The Regency is also to be noted for its creation of consumer culture: dandyism, an aesthetic doctrine and a cultural phenomenon.
- The Regency is a period when the state is ruled by a person, or group of persons, selected to act as head of state because the ruler is minor, not present, or debilitated – as George III was supposed to be (in 1811 George III became too ill to rule, he apparently suffered from a blood disease called porphyria, which affected his nervous system yet at the time people thought he was mad).
- 1825- opening the world's first passenger railway- the Stockton and Darlington Railway.
- 1829- Parliament grants Catholic emancipation.
- 1832- First Reform Act.

- 1833- Factory Act restricts work hours for women and children.