

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ БЮДЖЕТНОЕ
ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
«ЕЛЕЦКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИМ. И.А. БУНИНА»

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ИСТОРИЯ БРИТАНСКОЙ МОНАРХИИ

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ОТ АНГЛОСАКСОВ ДО ТЮДОРОВ**

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В пособии представлена информация об истории Британской монархии от англо-саксонских королей IX века до династии Тюдоров, закончившейся правлением королевы Елизаветы I. Также собраны интересные исторические факты о королях и королевах Англии IX-XVII вв. В пособии предлагаются упражнения на закрепление полученных знаний об истории Британской монархии IX-XVII вв.

Данное пособие может быть использовано в практике преподавания английского языка и на других специальностях в качестве дополнительного материала по домашнему чтению.

Пособие адресовано студентам-лингвистам, оно также может быть полезно преподавателям и учителям английского языка, методистам, студентам различных учебных заведений, изучающим английский язык и его историю.

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SAXON KINGS

The monarchical history of England begins with the Anglo-Saxons, the invaders from the Continent who began to raid the towns and villages of the Celtic inhabitants of the British Isles in the 5th century AD, after the departure of the Romans. The invaders drove the Celts to Wales and Cornwall – the mountainous districts in the West and to the northern part of the island, where Scotland is situated now. During the next hundred years the leaders of the Saxon tribes were becoming hereditary rulers – the kings. As a result many Saxon kingdoms were formed in the central and southern parts of the island.

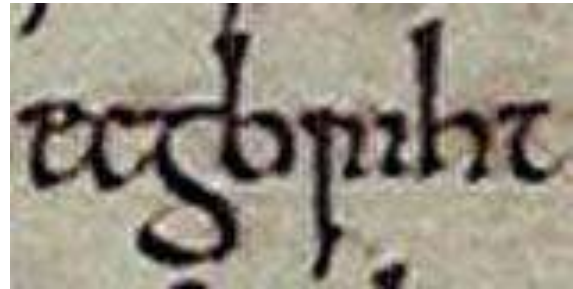
THE ANGLO-SAXON KINGDOMS, CA. 800



Some grew stronger and some consolidated power while others stayed aside. The strongest of them were Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex. In the end one dynasty – the House of Wessex emerged to establish a monarchy which has been an unbroken line from the 9th century to the modern queen and her descendants.

In 828 Egbert, King of Wessex, was acknowledged as the overlord by Mercia and Northumbria. This was really the beginning of the united kingdom of England. It was in their common interests because new invaders began to threaten them – the Danes (Vikings).

EGBERT 827 – 839



Egbert (Ecgherht) was the first monarch to establish a stable and extensive rule over all of Anglo-Saxon England. Following his return from exile at the court of Charlemagne in 802, he regained his kingdom of Wessex. After his conquest of Mercia in 827, he established control of all of England south of the river Humber. After conquering Northumberland and North Wales, he became recognised by the title Bretwalda (Old English, “ruler of the British”). A year before his death at almost 70, he managed to defeat the forces of Danes and Cornish at Hingston Down in Cornwall. Egbert is buried at Winchester in Hampshire.



AETHELWULF 839-856

Aethelwulf was the eldest son of Egbert of Wessex. By the order of his father, he was brought up by the priests. Aethelwulf grew up weak, devout, ill-adapted for governing the state, while circumstances required decisive action. Throughout his reign, England was threatened by the Danes, whose army Aethelwulf, with the help of his sons, managed to overrun.

In 853, he sent his son Alfred to Rome, where the Pope anointed the latter

the king of England. In 855 after the death of his first wife Aethelwulf went on pilgrimage himself. He lived in Rome for about a year, donating rich gifts to the church of St. Peter. On the way back, he stopped at the King of the West Franks, Charles II, and married his daughter Judit.

The last years of Ethelwulf's reign were marked by feuds between him and his sons. The eldest son, Ethelbald, who ruled the country during the pilgrimage of his father, was outraged by the fact of Alfred's coronation and rebelled against his father. In order not to argue with his son, in 856 Aethelwulf divided the kingdom into two parts, giving the west part to Ethelbald, and leaving the east one for himself.

Aethelwulf died in 858 and was buried at Steyning, and later his grave was transferred to Winchester.

AETHELBALD 856 – 860

Aethelbald was born in around 834. He was the eldest son of king Aethelwulf. In 856, Aethelbald rebelled against his father and received the western part of the kingdom in his reign. When his father, king Aethelwulf died in 858, Aethelbald married his widowed stepmother Judith. The marriage was annulled after only a year under the pressure from the church. Aethelbald died in 860 and was buried at Sherbourne Abbey in Dorset.

AETHELBERT 860 – 866

King of England from the Saxon dynasty, who ruled in 860-866. Aethelbert was the son of Ethelwolf. After his father's death, Aethelbert inherited the eastern part of England, and two years later, after the death of his brother Aethelbald, he united the whole country under his rule.

During his reign, the Danes under the leadership of Ragnar Lodbrok looted Kent and Northumbria, and even reached Winchester.

Ethelbert died in 865, without having married. He was succeeded by his younger brother Aethelred I.

AETHELRED I 866 – 871

As soon as Aethelred came to the throne, he had to resist the terrible invasion of the Normans. In 866, eight kings and more than twenty earls sailed to England with such a large fleet, which had never been seen before. The Vikings, landed on the shores of East Anglia. To protect their ships they made a fortified camp, got horses for almost all their warriors and moved to Northumbria. The English leaders were killed while defending York. The leaders of the Normans, brothers Ingvar and Ubba occupied York and other major cities. The following year the Normans went to Mercia and took Nottingham. Aethelred and his brother Aelfred were forced to make peace with the Vikings. The rumor about this luck of the Vikings attracted new warriors. Crowds of Vikings from all sides rushed to England. Very soon Mercia and East Anglia were conquered. In the spring of 871, a new army arrived in England.

Now Wessex was attacked. Aethelred and Aelfred met the enemies on the south bank of the Thames at Reading. The Vikings were defeated but their forces remained great. Two months after the defeat the Vikings defeated the Anglo-Saxons in two battles. King Aethelred was killed in the battle of Merton on May 28, 871.

KING ALFRED THE GREAT 871 – 899



Alfred was King of Wessex, but it was under his reign when different areas of England united and moved the country towards greater unity. He completed the unification of the Anglo-Saxons under the rule of Wessex. This contributed to the threat from the Danish Vikings, who seized a large part of the British lands. Having taken the throne, Alfred defeated the Danes and stopped their advance to the south of England. A peace treaty was concluded, according to which the Danelaw region (“Danish law”) was created in the north-east of the country, in Northumbria, which long after that remained under the rule of the Scandinavians. Alfred restored the destroyed economy of the

country, built towns, monasteries and roads, established schools, for which he invited famous scientists from other countries.

In the early 90s of the IX century Alfred approved a new code of law for the country known as The Doom Book, Code of Alfred or Legal Code of Ælfred the Great.

The name of this monarch is associated with the rapid development of Anglo-Saxon literature. A multi-educated person Alfred translated many of Latin authors into his native language. It was under the rule of Alfred, when the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was started.



EDWARD (The Elder) 899 – 924

Edward succeeded his father Alfred the Great in 899. Edward returned southeast England and the Midlands from the Danish rule. After the death of his sister Aethelflaed of Mercia, Edward united the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia. In 923, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles record that the Scottish King Constantine II recognises Edward as “father and lord”. The following year, Edward was killed in a battle against the

Welsh near Chester. His body is returned to Winchester and buried there.

According to his contemporaries, Edward was almost equal to his father in military prowess, but he was significantly inferior to him in terms of education. Nevertheless it is believed that Edward the Elder became the founder of Cambridge University in 915.

ATHELSTAN 924 – 939



Son of Edward the Elder, Athelstan extended the boundaries of his kingdom after the Battle of Brunanburh in 937.

In what is said to be one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on British soil, Athelstan defeated a combined army of Scots, Celts, Danes and Vikings, claiming the title of King of all Britain. The battle saw for the first time individual Anglo-Saxon kingdoms being brought together to create a single and unified England. According to his will, he was not buried in the family tomb of the Wessex dynasty in Winchester Cathedral, but in the esteemed and beloved Abbey of Malmesbury. The remains of Etelstan were lost in 1539, when, by order of King Henry VIII, all English monasteries were dissolved. Modern

historians consider him the first king of England and one of the greatest Anglo-Saxon kings. He was not married, so he was succeeded by his half-brother Edmund.

EDMUND 939 – 946



Edmund succeeded his half-brother Athelstan as king at the age of 18, having already fought alongside him at the Battle of Brunanburh two years earlier. He re-gained Anglo-Saxon control over northern England, which had fallen back under Scandinavian rule following the death of Athelstan. Aged just 25, and whilst celebrating the feast of Augustine, Edmund was stabbed by a robber in his royal hall at Pucklechurch near Bath. His two sons, Eadwig and Edgar, were perhaps considered too young to become kings. After Edmund was buried in

Glastonbury Abbey, his younger brother Edred inherited the throne.

EADRED 946 – 955



After the death of his elder brother Edmund on May 26, 946, he was listed in the king's will as his successor, since the latter's sons were young. Suffering from a serious stomach ailment during almost all of his reign, Eadred provided his mother Eadgifu and his closest adviser, Abbot Dunstan, who was in charge of financial management the authority to rule the country.

At the beginning of his reign, the former king of Norway, Eric Bloodaxe, invaded Northumbria. Eadred managed to expel the invaders only in 954. A year later, on November 23, 955, the king died, leaving no heir, in Somerset and was buried in one of the churches of Winchester. Eadred was succeeded by his nephew Eadwig, the son of Edmund I.

EADWIG 955 – 959

Eadwig took the throne at the age of fourteen years after the death of his uncle, King Eadred. He was crowned king at Kingston-upon-Thames in southeast London. At the beginning of the government he expelled Dunstan, chief adviser at the court of his father and uncle.

According to the chronicles, this happened after a quarrel with an influential churchman at a celebration on the occasion of the coronation of the young king. While the participants raised cups in his honor, Eadwig left the feast and retired with his wife. Offended by the absence of the king, Dunstan sought him out and forcibly brought him back. In response to such disrespect for the royal title Eadwig accused Dunstan of embezzling public funds and sent the abbot into exile.

With this act, Eadwig turned Dunstan's powerful supporters against himself. In 958, the nobles of Mercia and Northumbria, led by Odo, the archbishop of Canterbury, proclaimed Edgar, the younger brother of Eadwig, the king of England. Then Odo forced Eadwig to divorce, then sent his wife Elfgifu to Ireland.

On October 1, 959, the king died under unexplained circumstances at the age of about eighteen.



EDGAR THE PEACEFUL OR THE PEACEABLE 959 – 975



Edgar, the youngest son of King Edmund, was proclaimed king of the northern part of England in 957, and after the death of Edwig he reunited the country. The first whom Edgar returned from exile was Dunstan (later canonized saint). Dunstan became the first Bishop of Worcester, then London, and finally Archbishop of Canterbury. Edgar was generally compliant and got along well with the church and with the Danes. That is why he received the nickname "Peaceable." His reign was the happiest for a long time, which was reflected in folk art.

Edgar loved cheerful feasts and had many mistresses, but he helped Dunstan with the church reform and founded about 40 new monasteries, so Dunstan turned a blind eye on his sins. Only once, when Edgar kidnapped a nun from a monastery, Dunstan got angry and punished the king, forbidding him to wear the crown for seven years.

Small and puny, Edgar, however, was a brave warrior. He spent several successful expeditions against the Irish Danes, took Dublin and a number of areas in the north of England. To strengthen the authority of the royal power, a new coronation ceremony was introduced, designed by Dunstan, during which six kings of Britain swore allegiance to him. This coronation took place in 973 in Bata.

Edgar died in 975, leaving numerous offspring, but many consider his death the beginning of the end of the Anglo-Saxon dynasty. The new king of England was his son Edward.

EDWARD THE MARTYR 975 – 978

Edward was the son of Edgar the Peaceful and his first wife, the Aethelfled. He is revered as a saint in the Orthodox, Catholic and Anglican churches.

Edward was crowned in 975. On March 18, 978 (according to another version 979), the young king was invited to Korf Castle in Dorsetshire, where Prince Aethelred lived at that time, and his



mother Aelfred, the second wife of the late Eadgar. The servants of Aelfreda surrounded Edward in an imaginary greeting, suddenly grabbed his hands, and one thrust the dagger into the king's chest. Edward fell out of the saddle, and the horse carried him to the forest near the castle. During the fall, the king's foot caught on the stirrup, and frightened eyewitnesses could watch as the body of a mortally wounded ruler dragged along the ground behind the horse. When at last the king's people caught up and stopped the horse, Edward was already dead.

AETHELRED II THE UNREADY 978 – 1016

Aethelred was crowned the king of England when his father, King Edgar died, and his half-brother King Edward the Martyr was murdered by the order of his mother Aelfreda.

Aethelred's reign was marked by numerous encounters with the Vikings. On the day of St. Brice, November 13, 1002, Ethelred massacred Danes living in England. This provoked the attack of Sven I Forkbeard, who made several raids in the years from 1003 to 1007. In 1007, Sven received compensation, and the raids ceased until 1013, when the Danish king defeated the English throne. Aethelred fled to Normandy, but in 1014 Sven suddenly died, and the witenagemot re-elected Ethelred to the throne. He was elected despite the fact that the Danish fleet proclaimed Knud, the son of Sven, to be the king. During the war that followed, Aethelred died.

Nickname: In modern English, unready means "unprepared". However, the English nickname was first recorded in the 1180s in the form of Unræd, which in Old English means "not receiving advice." Considering that the name ælfræd means "good advice", "noble advice", it, in combination with such a nickname, was a word play, most likely directed against the advisers of the king, from whom he did not receive "good advice."

Ethelred had at least sixteen children from two marriages. The first wife, Elfgifu, died in 1002. The son of this marriage, Edmund II, inherited the throne. The second marriage took place in 1002 with Emma of Normandy. In 1042, the Emma's, Edward the Confessor, became king of England. William I the Conqueror, Emma's grand-nephew and Edward's cousin, used this relationship as an excuse to capture the English throne.

EDMUND II IRONSIDE 1016 – 1016

Being the son of Aethelred II, Edmund resisted to Canute's invasion of England since 1015. After the death of his father, he was chosen king by the citizens of London. However the king's council (the Witan) crowned Canute the king of the country. Both decided to divide the country and signed the treaty called the Treaty of Alney, according to which Canute possessed Northumbria and Danish Mercia, and Edmund got Essex, Wessex, East Anglia and English Mercia. Both kings agreed that they would have the right to participate in each other's decisions, and that the treaty does not include the children of Canute and Edmund, that is, they do not inherit the crown. Under the pact, only both kings were heirs to each other. Unfortunately for the English, a few months later, on

November 30, 1016, Edmund died (perhaps from the hand of a murderer), and the whole of England was in the hands of the Danes.

CANUTE (CNUT THE GREAT) THE DANE 1016 – 1035

Canute participated in the campaign against England with his father Sweyn Forkbeard back in 1013 and was declared his heir on the throne of Denmark, Norway and England. However, Canute had to fight for the English crown with the legal Saxon kings Ethelred II and Edmund II. After the victory over Edmund in 1016, Canute received the northern part of England, and after the quick death of Edmund he took the southern part of the country. To strengthen his position on the English throne, he married Emma of Normandy, the widow of Edmund II, and declared his son Harold the legal heir.

From the very beginning of his reign, Canute united the state authorities of Denmark and England, effectively turning the two countries into a single state. In 1017, he divided England into 4 counties: Wessex, Mercia, East Anglia, and Northumbria, and introduced a system of administrative and territorial division that was preserved for several centuries. Canute died on November 12, 1035 and was buried in Winchester.

HAROLD I 1035 – 1040

After the death of Canute the Great in 1035, the throne of England and Denmark was to be inherited by the only legitimate son Harthacanute, who ruled Denmark at the end of his father's life. However, the threat of the invasion of the Norwegian king Magnus I did not allow Harthacanute to come to England to take the throne. This was used by the English barons, led by Earl Leofric and Elfgifu of Northampton, who offered to elect Harold as the regent of the country. At the council in Oxford in early 1036, the supporters of Harold and Harthacanute reached a compromise: Harold became the regent of England.

Reaching a compromise with Norway in 1039, Harthacanute gathered a large fleet and sailed to conquer England. However, the war did not happen: in 1040 Harold unexpectedly died. Harthacanute landed at Wessex and was soon proclaimed the King of England.

HARTHACANUTE 1040 – 1042

The son of Cnut the Great and Emma of Normandy, Harthacanute arrived to England with his mother and a fleet of 62 warships. He was immediately recognized as king. Perhaps to appease his mother, the year before he died Harthacanute invited his half-brother Edward, Emma's son from her first marriage to Aethelred the Unready, back from exile in Normandy. Harthacanute died at a wedding whilst toasting the health of the bride; he was aged just 24 and was the last Danish king to rule England

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR 1042-1066

Following the death of Harthacnute, Edward restored the rule of the



House of Wessex to the English throne. A deeply pious and religious man, he presided over the rebuilding of Westminster Abbey, leaving much of the running of the country to Earl Godwin and his son Harold. Edward had no children, eight days after the building work on Westminster Abbey had finished. With no natural heir and successor, England faced with a power struggle for control of the throne.

His rule was marked by the weakening of royal power in the country and the omnipotence of the magnates, as well as the disintegration of the Anglo-Saxon society and weakening of the state's defense. These factors, coupled with the orientation of the king to Normandy, facilitated William the Conqueror to subjugate England shortly after Edward's death in 1066. Edward the Confessor paid much attention to the propaganda of Christian virtues and asceticism. Later he was canonized and is now revered by the Roman Catholic Church.

HAROLD II 1066



Harold II was the last king of England of the Anglo-Saxon origin. Though his official reign was extremely short – from January till October 1066 he actually ruled the country since 1053. He died in a battle with the Norman troops at Hastings during the Norman Conquest of England of 1066.

In 1051, Harold's father Godwin was expelled by Edward the Confessor for insubordination of royal power. In 1052 Harold got hold of England and made the king to restore the rights of his family. In 1053 Earl Godwin died, and Harold became the main force in the country.

Whether Edward transferred the rights of inheritance to Harold is not known for certain. Earlier, he declared William, Duke of Normandy, his heir. In addition, Harold himself, landing in the Norman possessions of William after

the shipwreck, promised to support his claims. On January 5, 1066 Harold declared himself the king and faced the threat of invading the armies of three rivals at once – William of Normandy, Norwegian King Harold III and his brother Tostig. In May, Harold mobilized the fleet and army, awaiting the invasion of William, but was forced by these forces to repel Tostig's raids on the southern and eastern coasts of England. In early September, due to the lack of forage for the standing army, Harold dismissed the people, and William began the invasion across the English Channel. On September 25, the battle at Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire took place, in which the troops of Harold won. Three days later, William invaded the country. Harold joined the battle on September 14 at Hastings. The battle lasted the whole day, and Harold and his brothers were killed. Harold's death at the Battle of Hastings was the end of the Anglo-Saxon line and the beginning of the Norman dynasty.

EDGAR ETELING 1066

The last representative of the Wessex royal dynasty he was proclaimed (but not crowned) as the king of England during the Norman Conquest of 1066. Later, he actively participated in the Anglo-Saxon resistance to William the Conqueror, but was forced to submit and leave his claim to the English throne. When William the Conqueror died, Edgar for some time supported his eldest son, the Duke of Norman Robert, against the younger – William II Rufus.



NORMAN KINGS

WILLIAM I (THE CONQUEROR) 1066-1087

Also known as William the Bastard, he was the illegitimate son of Robert the Devil, whom he succeeded as Duke of Normandy in 1035. William invaded England with his band of Normans, defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, seized the country and brutally suppressed subsequent English revolts in what has become known as the Norman Conquest.

William came to England from Normandy, claiming that his second cousin Edward the Confessor had promised him the

throne, and defeated Harold II at the Battle of Hastings on 14th October 1066. In 1085 the Domesday Survey was begun and all of England was recorded, so William knew exactly what his new kingdom contained and how much tax he could raise in order to fund his armies.

The Normans were seen by the English as foreigners who took over their country and imposed feudalism on the comparatively free, democratic and meritocratic Anglo-Saxon society. Another consequence was that for several centuries, French was the language of the rulers of England, the language of the law courts and the language of government. The Normans built most of the castles to be found in England and Wales to protect themselves from the people they ruled. The conquest left the class system as a legacy that only started to fade away in the past 50 years. It also strengthened the power of the monarch by disenfranchising the traditional English aristocracy.

William died at Rouen after a fall from his horse whilst besieging the French city of Nantes. He is buried at Caen. No authentic portrait of William has been found but he was described as a muscular man, strong in every sense of the word, balding in front, and of regal dignity.

WILLIAM II (Rufus) 1087- 1100



William Rufus was the third son of William the Conqueror. He was the closest to his father and enjoyed his special love. From his early age, Rufus was distinguished by his courage, determination, and passion for hunting and military affairs.

William II entered the English history as a warlike and ruthless monarch who cares little for his subjects and disdains about the Anglo-Saxons and their culture. There is a widespread view that only due to the short period of his reign, he did not destroy the foundations of the Anglo-Norman monarchy laid by his father. On the other hand, England under William II experienced a period of relative stability and strength of the state power.

On August 2, 1100, William Rufus set out on a hunt in New Forest along with four others, including his younger brother Henry. The hunting party was divided into groups, and William became a partner of the excellent archer Walter Tirel. During the hunt, they overtook a deer. A great archer shot and hit ... in the chest of King William Rufus! The monarch died within a few minutes.

HENRY I 1100-1135

Henry Beauclerc was the fourth and youngest son of William I. Henry immediately signed the Charter of Liberties. The document returned to the

Saxon nobles a part of the freedoms selected by William II. Henry also reconciled with the church.

His two sons were drowned in the White Ship so his daughter Matilda was made his successor. She was married to Geoffrey Plantagenet. When Henry died of food poisoning, the Council considered a woman unfit to rule and so offered the throne to Stephen, a grandson of William I.

STEPHEN 1135-1154

Stephen was born in Normandy, grew up and raised under the King Henry I. After the death of Henry's son in 1120, Stephen was considered the heir to the throne, but in 1125 he, together with the secular barons, made an oath to recognize Henry's daughter Matilda the heiress. Nevertheless, among the English nobility, many people did not want to see as a woman on the throne. Therefore, when after the death of Henry in 1135 Stephen made a claim to the throne and arrived in England, a warm welcome awaited him: he was supported by the citizens of London, and on December 25, 1135 he was crowned in Westminster.



Matilda was not going to easily give up her rights to the English throne. In September 1139, she invaded England. That was the beginning of a decade of the Civil War known as the Anarchy. Having shown unparalleled chivalry, Stefan provided her escort to Bristol, where Robert was entrenched, and then the western counties finally got out of his control. In 1141, at the battle of Lincoln, Stephen was defeated and captured by the Duke of Gloucester. After that Matilda was an autocratic ruler for six months. However, soon the manifestation of her severity and arrogance caused a change in attitude towards her, and in November 1141, Stephen was released and again proclaimed the king. Until 1148, when Matilda left England, Stephen waged an incessant struggle with the empress and her supporters. In 1153, when Matilda's son Henry, Duke of Normandy (later Henry II) invaded England, Stephen exhausted by a long struggle, signed the document, according to which Henry was recognized as the heir to the throne.

PLANTAGENET KINGS

HENRY II 1154-1189

Henry of Anjou was a strong king. Being a strong soldier, he extended his French lands until he ruled most of France. He laid the foundation of the English Jury System and raised new taxes (scutage) from the landholders to pay for a militia force. Henry is mostly remembered for his quarrel with Thomas Becket,

and Becket's subsequent murder in Canterbury Cathedral on 29th December 1170. His sons turned against him, even his favourite John.

RICHARD I (The Lionheart) 1189 – 1199

Richard I the Lionheart is the English king of the Plantagenet dynasty, who ruled England in 1189-1199. The name of Richard I remained in history not because of the administrative success of his father and brother. The Lionheart became famous for his love of adventure, romanticism and nobility, combined with incredible deceit, immorality and cruelty.

Richard, the third son of Henry II of England and Alienor of Aquitaine, was born on September 8, 1157. He received excellent education and liked to read and write poetry. He knew many foreign languages, but did not speak his native English. One of the most famous crusaders, he spent most of his reign outside of England in crusades and other wars, became famous as an outstanding commander; however, in fact, in his absence the country was ruled by his mother and brother John.

Since Richard did not have legitimate children, the throne passed to his brother John after Richard's death on April, 6, 1199.

JOHN 1199 -1216

He was the youngest of five sons of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. By the way, that's why he got the nickname "Lackland" – because, unlike his older brothers, he did not get possessions in France.

His reign is one of the most disastrous in the whole history of England. The beginning of his reign was marked by the conquest of Normandy by French King Philip II, and ended in the civil war, which almost overthrew him from the throne.

Unsuccessful foreign and domestic policies, the fiscal and political pressure on the major feudal lords, often accompanied by outright arbitrariness, led to an uprising of the barons, which was supported by the clergy, knights and citizens. The rebellious barons forced John to sign the Magna Carta (Great Charter of Liberties), which, however, John refused to follow. After that, in 1216 the barons started the war campaign against him, during which the king died. John Lackland died from dysentery on October 19, 1216 in Newark Lincolnshire. Subsequently, it was rumored that he was poisoned.

HENRY III 1216 -1272

Henry III is one of the most obscure British monarchs (despite the fact that he reigned for 56 years - the longest period of all other medieval kings of England). The reign of Henry III in England happened in very difficult years. In fact, he accepted the country in 1216 in a disastrous state.

Henry became king of England at the early age of 9. During the infancy and the regency (until 1227) of Henry, the state was governed according to the Great Charter of Liberties, which was formally confirmed in 1217.



As he was brought up by priests he liked church, art and learning. He built many churches in honor of the holy King Edward the Confessor across England. The reign of Henry III is associated with the flourishing of the church. Priests received more rights and privileges. The state treasury paid for the construction of churches and monasteries. The cathedrals themselves began to be built with a different technology, they became more

airy and openwork. Henry was the greatest of all patrons of medieval architecture and ordered the rebuilding of Westminster Abbey in the Gothic style.

Henry III was a weak man, dominated by churchmen and easily influenced by his wife's French relations. In 1264 Henry was captured during the rebellion of barons led by Simon de Montfort and was forced to set up a 'Parliament' at Westminster, the start of the House of Commons.

MONARCHS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

EDWARD I (LONGSHANKS, HAMMER OF THE SCOTS) 1272 – 1307

The eldest son of Henry III, Edward I, was born in 1239. Prior to his ascension to the throne, he was already considered a very cunning man, since Edward was in the conflict between his father and the barons on the side of the barons, and then began to support the king. Edward I began to rule the country in 1265, and five years later he made a crusade to the Holy Land.

Aiming at a united Britain, he defeated the Welsh chieftains and created his eldest son Prince of Wales. He was known as the 'Hammer of the Scots' for his victories in Scotland and brought the famous coronation stone from Scone to Westminster. He died on the way to fight the national Scottish hero Robert Bruce.



Edward restored the authority of the monarchy, fallen to the lowest level under Henry III, and influenced the formation of British institutions and the social structure of the country, primarily as one of the founders of the parliament. Edward had such a strong influence on the law as a legislator that most of his statutes have been maintained in customary law for many generations.



EDWARD II 1307 – deposed 1327

Edward was a weak and incompetent king. He had many 'favourites', Piers Gaveston being the most famous. He was beaten by the Scots at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Edward was deposed and held captive in Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. His wife joined her lover Mortimer in deposing him: by their orders he was murdered in Berkeley Castle. His beautiful tomb in Gloucester Cathedral was built by his son, future king Edward III.

EDWARD III 1327 – 1377

Eldest son of Edward II, he reigned for 50 years. His ambition to conquer Scotland and France plunged England into the Hundred Years War, which started in 1338. The two great victories at Crecy and Poitiers made Edward and his son, the Black Prince, the most renowned warriors in Europe, however the war was very expensive. The outbreak of bubonic plague, the 'Black Death' in 1348-1350 killed half the population of England.



RICHARD II 1377 – deposed 1399

The son of the Black Prince, Richard was extravagant, unjust and faithless. He was proclaimed king despite the presence of Edward III's other sons.

In 1381 came the Peasants Revolt, led by Wat Tyler. The rebellion was put down with great severity. The sudden death of his first wife Anne of Bohemia completely unbalanced Richard and his extravagance, acts of revenge and tyranny turned his subjects against him. In 1399 Henry of Lancaster returned from exile and deposed Richard, becoming elected King Henry IV. At

the beginning of 1400 several notable grandees plotted and attempted to return the throne to Richard. Their intentions failed. The rebels were executed, and a few days later Richard himself was murdered, probably by starvation, in Pontefract Castle.

Richard was married twice, but had no children of his own. His heir was considered Roger Mortimer, and then his seven-year-old son Edward. The seizure of power by Henry Lancaster led to the beginning of a civil war between separate branches of the offsprings of Edward III.

HOUSE OF LANCASTER

HENRY IV 1399 – 1413

The son of John of Gaunt (third son of Edward III), the first of the Lancaster dynasty, came to power, having deposed his cousin Richard II. Throughout his reign, Henry was forced to wage wars with other pretenders for the English crown. After the victory over the duke of Northumberland, which finally consolidated the throne beyond the Lancaster house, Henry ruled in a more relaxed atmosphere. He was a cautious man and did not allow himself to go to the extreme. He tried to reconcile all the parties with his dominion. Unlike his predecessor, the new king never clashed with parliament, respected its rights and followed its advice.

At the end of his life, Henry had serious health problems, suffering from some kind of skin disease: either leprosy, or psoriasis, or the effects of syphilis. He died at Westminster Abbey at the age of 45 and was embalmed before burial. The English throne was inherited by his eldest son, Henry.

HENRY V 1413 – 1422

Henry was born in September 1387 in the family of Henry IV and his wife Mary, and was his eldest son. During the expulsion of his father, he was brought up by King Richard II, who treated his nephew cousin rather mercifully. At the age of twelve, the boy who quickly proved himself in the art of war, was knighted by the king. In the same year of 1399 his father, leading the opposition, deposed his cousin and was crowned as King Henry IV.

Henry V was a pious, stern and skilful soldier. He had honed his fine soldiering skills putting down the many rebellions launched against his father and had been knighted when aged just 12. He pleased his nobles by renewing the war with France in 1415.

Received an excellent education, Henry was fond of music and reading. The king actively patronized Oxford University and its professors.

Henry died of dysentery whilst campaigning in France and before he could succeed to the French throne, leaving his 10-month old son as King of England and France. According to the testimony of chroniclers, before his death, the king expressed strong regret that he did not have time to undertake a crusade in Jerusalem. His body was solemnly delivered to Paris, and then shipped to

England. The funeral procession reached London only on November, 11. The burial was performed in the chapel of Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey.

HENRY VI 1422 – deposed 1461

Beginning of the Wars of the Roses

The son of Henry V. Henry VI inherited the throne being a 9-month-old baby. Weak-willed and subject to more and more prolonged fits of madness, he was a toy in the hands of frequently replaced regents and favorites. In 1461, during the war of the Red and the White Rose which began in 1455, Henry VI was deposed by Edward IV of York and fled to Scotland. In 1465 he was captured and imprisoned in the Tower of London. Warwick's rebellion led to the temporary restoration of the insane Henry VI. He was again deposed and killed in the Tower in 1471.

Being a well-educated person Henry founded Eton College and King's College in Cambridge.

HOUSE OF YORK

EDWARD IV 1461- 1483

Edward IV was the son of Richard Duke of York and Cicely Neville, and not a popular king. His morals were poor (he had many mistresses and had at least one illegitimate son) and even his contemporaries disapproved of him. Edward had his rebellious brother George, Duke of Clarence, murdered in 1478 on a charge of treason. But it was during his reign when the first printing press was established in Westminster by William Caxton. Edward died suddenly in 1483 leaving two sons aged 12 and 9, and five daughters.

EDWARD V 1483 – 1483

Edward was actually born in Westminster Abbey, where his mother Elizabeth Woodville had sought sanctuary from Lancastrians during the Wars of the Roses. Being the eldest son of Edward IV, he succeeded to the throne at the tender age of 13 and reigned for only two months, the shortest-lived monarch in English history. He and his brother Richard were murdered in the Tower of London – it is said on the orders of his uncle Richard Duke of Gloucester. Richard (III) declared The Princes in the Tower illegitimate and named himself rightful heir to the crown.

RICHARD III 1483 – 1485 End of the Wars of the Roses

Richard III was the brother of King Edward IV. He ruled the country for 2 years, but more than other British monarchs left a mark in history and in literature. His name is associated with the murder of his two nephews, the sons of king Edward IV who died in the Tower of London being announced as illegitimate children of the former king.

Soon after the death of his wife, Richard III wooed to Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV. But the opposition united around Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond (future King Henry VII). Having received assistance from France, Henry landed at Milford Haven with the army on August 7 or 8, 1485. Many supporters of Richard III took his side. King Richard was murdered on August 22, 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth, the culminating battle of the wars of Red and White Rose. His crown went to Henry Tudor.

THE TUDORS

HENRY VII 1485 – 1509

When Richard III fell at the Battle of Bosworth, his crown was picked up and placed on the head of Henry Tudor. He married Elizabeth of York and so united the two warring houses, York and Lancaster. The Wars of the Roses had been a constant battle between two of England's most powerful families – the families of York and Lancaster. Henry was a member of the Lancaster family and to bring the families closer together he married Elizabeth of York soon after being crowned king.



He was a skillful politician but avaricious. He was a clever man who was determined not to lose his throne. He quickly understood the main problem he faced – the powerful barons of England, rich and well-armed. During the Wars of the Roses, they had not been loyal to either side – renting out their private armies to the family that paid the most. Henry had to control them.

Henry had a three-way plan to bring the barons under his control. Thus, he outlawed private armies. Now any baron dared to disobey this royal command would be accused of treason which carried the capital punishment.

Also he levied enormous taxes on the barons to reduce their wealth. The money raised could be used by Henry to develop his own royal army. A powerful royal army was an obvious threat to the barons.

The third way of controlling the barons was to use the Court of Star Chamber. This was a court run by men who were loyal to Henry VII and they could be relied on to severely punish any baron who angered the king.

The material wealth of the country increased greatly. Unlike many kings before him, Henry took a keen interest in financial matters as he knew that a

wealthy king was a strong king and a poor king was a weak one. He also knew that money would expand his army and the larger his army was, the more powerful he was in the eyes of the barons. This alone, he believed would keep them loyal.

Though he was very careful with money, he also enjoyed himself. He was keen on playing cards. During Henry's reign playing cards were invented and the portrait of his wife Elizabeth has appeared eight times on every pack of cards for nearly 500 years.

When he died in 1509, the country was by past standards wealthy and the position of the king was good. The barons by 1509 had been all but tamed. Many barons believed that it was better to work with the king than against such a powerful man.



The Tudor Rose: a combination of the Red Rose of Lancaster and the White Rose of York

Henry VIII inherited many advantages from his father's reign as king. The reign of the Tudor family – 1485 to 1603 – is famous for many occurrences and two monarchs stand out (Henry VIII and Elizabeth I), but the 118 years of Tudor England has a great deal to thank Henry VII for as he got the Tudor family off to a stable and powerful start.

MONARCHS OF ENGLAND, WALES AND IRELAND

HENRY VIII 1509 – 1547



Henry was the second son of Henry VII, first of the Tudor line, and Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV, first king of the short-lived line of York. When his elder brother, Arthur, died in 1502, Henry became the heir to the throne.

Notable events during his reign included the break with Rome and the subsequent establishment of the independent Church of England, the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and the union of England and Wales.

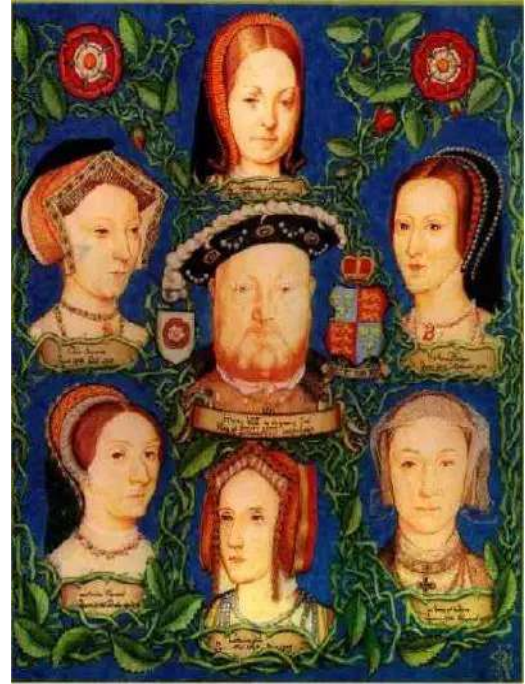
Several significant pieces of legislation were enacted during Henry VIII's reign. They included the several Acts which severed the

English Church from the Roman Catholic Church and established Henry as the supreme head of the Church in England.

Henry was an avid gambler and dice player, and as well, an accomplished musician, author, poet, and sportsman. He was also involved in the construction and improvement of several buildings, including King's College, Cambridge; Christ Church, Oxford; Hampton Court Palace, Nonsuch Palace, and Westminster Abbey. His sponsorship of education and of the arts contributed to the English Renaissance which continued under the reign of his daughter, Elizabeth I.

His enduring legacy is the start of the English Reformation, initially triggered not by theological but political reasons. As a result of the church-state relationship that emerged under Henry VIII (with the king as head of the church, following Martin Luther's model) and of efforts to impose membership of the Church of England on the whole population, other denominations evolved during the years that followed Henry's reign. These include the Congregationalists, Baptists, Unitarians, and Presbyterians.

The best known fact about Henry VIII is that he had six wives! Most school children learn the following rhyme to help them remember the fate of each wife: "Divorced, Beheaded, Died; Divorced, Beheaded, Survived". Henry's six wives reigned in the following order: Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Katherine Howard and Catherine Parr. He had three children by the first three, each of whom succeeded him on the throne.



His first wife was Catherine of Aragon, his brother's widow, whom he later divorced to marry Anne Boleyn.

This divorce caused the split from Rome and Henry declared himself the head of the Church of England. The Dissolution of the Monasteries began in 1536, and the money gained from this helped Henry to bring about an effective Navy. In an effort to have a son, Henry married four further wives, but only one son was born, to Jane Seymour. Henry had two daughters both to become rulers of England – Mary, daughter of Catherine of Aragon, and Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn.

EDWARD VI 1547 – 1553

The long-awaited son of Henry VIII and his third wife, Jane Seymour Edward had poor health, probably suffered from tuberculosis.



Edward inherited the English throne at the early age of 9. Due to his youth and poor health, he practically did not take part in the state affairs. In fact, the country was ruled by the regents. The main person in the country was Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, who was called Lord Protector. When Edward died a severe dispute over the heir or heiress of the throne happened.

Because of his half-sister Mary being Catholic, Lady Jane Grey who was the eldest daughter of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk and the great-grand-daughter of Henry VII was named as the next heir in the succession.

She was proclaimed Queen after the death of her cousin, the protestant King

Edward VI, son of Henry VIII. She was actually fifth in line to the throne, but it was his personal choice as she was a Protestant. On 6th July 1553 and Lady Jane ascended to the throne with her husband Lord Guildford Dudley at her side – she was just sweet sixteen.

Lady Jane was beautiful and very intelligent. She knew Latin, Greek and Hebrew and was fluent in French and Italian.

However the country rose in favour of the direct and true royal line, and the Council proclaimed Mary, king Henry VIII eldest daughter, queen only nine days later. Unfortunately for Lady Jane, her advisors were grossly incompetent, and her father was partly responsible for her untimely execution as he was involved in an attempted rebellion.

When Mary appeared in London together with her supporters, Jane was arrested and later kept in Tower Green within the Tower. Her short reign lasted only 9 days. She was executed in 1554 at the age of 17. Her reign was the shortest of any English monarch, before or since. Lady Jane Gray is known in history as The Nine Days' Queen because of her extremely short reign.



MARY I (BLOODY MARY) 1553 – 1558



Mary I was the daughter of Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon. A devout Catholic, Mary was the first queen to rule England in her own right. A pawn of potential marriage alliances in her youth, although none came to fruition, she was also declared illegitimate when her father, Henry VIII, divorced her mother Catherine, and was only later brought back into the succession. On taking the throne, Mary took part in an unpopular marriage to Philip II of Spain and returned England to the Catholic faith. Her actions in bringing back the heresy laws and executing 300 Protestants earned her the nickname Bloody Mary. But Mary's life isn't just a tale of religious killing. She was desperate for an heir, resulting in a false but very advanced pregnancy, and as a woman fighting to rule a nation, broke the barriers Elizabeth later walked through. Historians are now assessing Mary in a new light. Upon her death in 1558, the pair was succeeded by her Protestant half-sister Elizabeth I.

ELIZABETH I 1558-1603

The daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife Anne Boleyn executed on May, 19 1536 in the Tower of London after being accused of treason and adultery to the king.

Elizabeth survived the plotting which threatened Mary, and which, in turn, cast doubt on the young princess, to become Queen of England when she might have been executed. Elizabeth was a remarkable woman, famous for her learning and wisdom. Up to the very end she was popular with the people and had a genius for the selection of capable advisors. Drake, Raleigh, Hawkins, the Cecils, Essex and many more made England respected and feared. The Spanish Armada was decisively defeated in 1588 and Raleigh's first Virginian colony was founded.



The execution of Mary Queen of Scots damaged what was a glorious time of the English history. Shakespeare was also at the height of his popularity. One of the nation's most highly regarded monarchs, Elizabeth returned the country to the Protestant faith, fought wars against Spain and Spanish-backed forces to protect England and other Protestant nations, and cultivated a powerful image of

herself as a virgin queen wedded to her nation. She remains masked to historians, her true feelings and thoughts hidden away. Her reputation as a great ruler is faulty, as she relied far more on dithering and her inbuilt difficulty in making decisions than canny judgment.

IT'S INTERESTING TO KNOW

1. **WILLIAM I.** A heckler interrupted the funeral of William I in 1087, shouting from the back of the church that it had been built on his father's land without his family being compensated. Just when his royal send off couldn't get any worse, William's sarcophagus was found to have been built too small to accommodate his body and after an attempt was made to squeeze the body into it – In the words of the English chronicler Orderic Vitalis - “the swollen bowels burst, and an intolerable stench assailed the nostrils of the by-standers and the whole crowd.”

2. **WILLIAM II.** William II died under questionable circumstances while out hunting in the New Forest in 1100; some have claimed that he was assassinated to secure his younger brother Henry's claim to the throne. Oddly, he wasn't the only member of the family to succumb to that fate: William's elder brother, Richard, also died in an accident during hunting in the New Forest around the 1070s, while his nephew, another Richard, died in a hunting accident in the New Forest in 1099.

3. **HENRY I.** When Henry I died in 1135, his entrails were removed and buried in Rouen in northwest France. The rest of his body was buried in England.

4. **STEPHEN.** Stephen, son of one of William the Conqueror's daughters, could credit a bout of diarrhea with saving his life. On November 25, 1120, a vessel called the White Ship was chartered to carry the present king Henry I and much of his family and court (Stephen among them) across the English Channel from France to England. Henry, however, had made other arrangements for himself, leaving the rest of his court to travel on the White Ship as planned. Off the coast of Normandy, the overcrowded ship sank. Of the 300 or so people on board, only one or two survived; among those who died was the king's only surviving legitimate son, William. Henry I decided to name his daughter Matilda as the successor, but when Henry died she was an unpopular choice, allowing Stephen to claim the throne in a period of civil crisis known as The Anarchy. He had reportedly left the White Ship before it departed due to a sudden bout of diarrhea.

5. **HENRY II.** Henry II rode his horse so frequently that he was bow-legged.

6. **RICHARD I.** Richard I was shot through the shoulder with a crossbow outside of Chalus Castle in France in March 1199. The injury was serious, but survivable – but the infection that followed it was not, and he died two weeks later on April 6. As for the shot that brought down the king? It was a lucky shot

over the side of the castle from a young boy. It became immortalized as “the lion by the ant was slain.”

7. KING JOHN. King John was reportedly the first British monarch – and perhaps even the first medieval king in Europe – to own what Latin wardrobe records refer to as a “*supertunicam domini Regis ad surgendum de nocte*,” or a “king’s over-shirt for rising in the night.” In other words, John owned a dressing gown.

8. HENRY III. Henry III was given a polar bear by King Haakon IV of Norway in 1252. He kept it in the Tower of London, and had it taken down to the River Thames each morning to swim and catch fish.

9. EDWARD I. In his campaign against Scotland, Edward I more than earned his nickname “The Hammer of the Scots.” During the Siege of Stirling Castle in 1304, Edward commissioned the construction of a gigantic trebuchet (perhaps the largest in history) that became known as the Warwolf. The sight of the enormous catapult being constructed outside the castle walls was enough to compel those inside to offer an unconditional surrender—but Edward had none of it, and did not accept the surrender until after he had tried the Warwolf out.

10. EDWARD II. In 1313, Edward II enacted a statute forbidding the wearing of armor in Parliament. It remains in force to this day.

11. EDWARD III. Edward III once attended a Christmas fancy dress banquet dressed as a pheasant.

12. HENRY IV. The first king of the House of Lancaster, Henry IV was the first king since the Norman Conquest to be a native English speaker.

13. EDWARD V. Edward V is both shortest-lived English monarch post-conquest and the shortest-reigning English king (albeit uncrowned). Although his fate as one of the ill-fated Princes in the Tower is unclear, it has long been (controversially) assumed that he was murdered after just 78 days on throne on the orders of his successor, Richard III. He was just 12 years old at the time.

14. RICHARD III. When the skeleton of Richard III was unearthed in a car park in Leicester in 2012, analysis of his skull showed that he suffered from tooth decay (a result of the king’s rich diet – he drank a bottle of wine every day) and bruxism, better known as teeth grinding.

15. HENRY VII. Henry VII was the first English monarch to have a fully realized portrait stamped onto his coins. Before then, royal monetary portraiture was largely stylized and comprised little more than a crowned head, but a groat (equal to four pence) minted in London sometime around 1507 was embossed with a surprisingly realistic profile portrait of the king.

16. HENRY VIII. In 1520, Henry VIII challenged the king of France, Francis I, to a wrestling match. Henry lost.

17. EDWARD VI. Despite his youth (he was 9 when he was crowned and 15 when he died), Edward VI is credited with being the first English monarch to charter an exploration of the Arctic. The king was a keen geographer and had learned to read a compass from the Venetian explorer Sebastian Cabot. In 1553, Cabot championed an expedition, led by Sir Hugh Willoughby, to reach China

via the Arctic Sea; Willoughby took with him letters signed by Edward VI and addressed to “the Kings, Princes, and other Potentates inhabiting the Northeast parts of the world.” Unfortunately, after a harsh storm Willoughby’s ships became encased in ice east of Murmansk and the entire crew perished. But one of the other captains, Richard Chancellor, found himself in Russia, where the letter was delivered to Ivan the Terrible and opened trade between England and Russia.

18. **MARY I.** Mary had two female court jesters, one of whom was named Lucretia the Tumbler.

19. **ELIZABETH I.** Elizabeth I had effigies of foreign dignitaries and other guests to her court made out of gingerbread.

TASKS ON THE HISTORY OF BRITISH MONARCHY

1. Which British kings and queens had the following nicknames?

- a) Bloody Mary
- b) The Hammer of the Scots
- c) The Great
- d) The Confessor
- e) The Conqueror
- f) The Virgin Queen
- g) The Lionheart
- h) The She-wolf of France
- i) The Nine Days' Queen
- j) The Martyr
- k) The Unready
- l) Ironside

2. Relate the following events to the names of the British kings and queens and put them in their historical order:

- 1. Formation of the Parliament in England
- 2. Wars with Spain and other Protestant nations
- 3. The creation of the first Code of English Law
- 4. The battle of Hastings (the Norman Conquest)
- 5. The Hundred Years' War
- 6. Restoration of the Catholic faith in Britain
- 7. The unification of England and Wales
- 8. The English Reformation

3. Say what events do the following dates refer to?

10 July 1553 – 19 July 1553, October 14, 1066; 1215; 1603; 1485; 1455 – 1487;

- 1. The creation of the first Code of English Law
- 2. The battle of Hastings (the Norman Conquest)

3. The unification of England and Wales
4. Formation of the Parliament in England
5. The Hundred Years' War
6. The English Reformation
7. Restoration of the Catholic faith in Britain
8. Wars with Spain and other Protestant nations

4. Give answers to the following questions:

1. *Which English monarch was crowned on Christmas Day in Westminster Abbey being the illegitimate son of Duke Robert I of Normandy?*

- a) Edward I b) William I c) Henry I

2. *Who was the first Norman king of England to speak fluent English?*

- a) Henry IV b) Henry VIII c) Edward III

3. *Who was the last king of England from the Anglo-Saxon dynasty?*

- a) William I b) Harold II Godwinson c) Edgar Eteling

4. *Who was the first Tudor monarch, the king who formed a personal bodyguard known as the Yeomen of the Guard?*

- a) Henry VII b) Henry VIII c) Elizabeth I

5. *Which Anglo-Saxon kingdom became the strongest in the 9-10th centuries?*

- a) Essex b) East Anglia c) Wessex

6. *The last male representative of the Tudor dynasty, whose parents were Henry VIII and Jane Seymour, was...*

- a) Henry IV b) Henry VIII c) Edward VI

7. *Famous English monarch remembered for the execution of 300 Protestants and thus gaining her nickname "Bloody"...*

- a) Mary I b) Elizabeth I c) William I

8. *English king of the 14th century disposed by his wife Isabella of France.*

- a) Edward III b) Edward II c) Edward I

9. *English king who began the Hundred Years War of 24 May 1337 – 19 October 1453 between England and France was ...*

- a) Edward I b) Edward II c) Edward III

10. *English king who spent most of his reign outside of England in the Crusades and other wars, became famous as an outstanding commander; however, in fact, in his absence the country was ruled by his mother and brother John.*

- a) Edward I b) Richard I c) William I

11. *Who was the first English king of the Plantagenet dynasty?*

- a) Henry II b) Henry VIII c) Edward VI

12. *During the reign of this king the first English Parliament (Simon de Montfort's Parliament) was formed in 1265.*

- a) Henry II b) Henry III c) Henry VIII

13. *Domesday Book* is a manuscript record of the "Great Survey" of England and parts of Wales completed in 1086 by order ...

- a) William I b) Richard I c) Edward I

14. This English king ordered to build Westminster Abbey gaining his nickname *The Confessor* as being unworldly and pious.

- a) William I b) Edward c) Richard I

15. Who forbade wearing of armor in Parliament in the 14th century which is the law until now?

- a) Henry II b) Edward II c) Edward VI

16. This king gained his nickname "*The Hammer of the Scots*" due to his campaigns against Scotland in the 12-13th centuries.

- a) William I b) Edward II c) Edward I

17. The reign of this English queen is famous for the flourishing of English drama, led by playwrights such as William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe.

- a) Mary I b) Elizabeth II c) Elizabeth I

18. The first English monarch, a keen geographer, chartered an exploration of the Arctic the result of which was opening of trade between England and Russia.

- a) Edward I b) Edward II c) Edward VI

19. The king of England whose body was buried in England but his entrails removed and buried in France.

- a) Henry I b) Richard I c) William I

20. English king of the first half of the 16th century who initiated the English Reformation and separated the Church of England from papal authority.

- a) Henry II b) Henry VIII c) Henry III

21. Who did William the Conqueror defeat to become King of England at the Battle of Hastings on October, 14 in 1066?

- a) Egbert b) Edgar Eteling c) Harold II Godwinson

22. At what age did Edward VI succeed his father King Henry VIII and become the King of England?

- a) 13 b) 9 c) 15

23. How many of Henry VIII's wives were beheaded in the Tower of London?

- a) 1 b) 2 c) 3

24. Which royal house did William the Conqueror represent?

- a) Plantagenet b) Norman c) Windsor

25. The Tudor Era is associated with the name of ...

- a) Henry II b) Henry III c) Henry VIII

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