

# British History Timeline

1 Look at the pictures and read the texts. Then choose and write the correct caption below each picture.

The Vikings Battle of Hastings Henry VIII  
Industrial Revolution Winston Churchill

In the beginning of history there were no nations in the British Isles. Unity came from conquests.

The **Romans** conquered southern Britain between AD 43 and AD 47. In AD 410 they left Britain to defend Rome. The civilisation they brought to Britain had a lasting effect. Roman buildings and roads can be found all over the country.

In AD 450 the **Anglo-Saxons** successfully invaded England. They came from Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands. They ruled for about 500 years.

The **Vikings** arrived from Scandinavia between 700 and 1000. They were great travellers and sailed on long ships. Following fierce battles, the Vikings conquered a large part of England.



3 \_\_\_\_\_



1 \_\_\_\_\_



2 \_\_\_\_\_

The **Normans** conquered England in 1066. William, Duke of Normandy sailed from France to England. He defeated King Harold of England at the **Battle of Hastings** in 1066. It is the most famous battle in English history. He was crowned king and became known as William the Conqueror.

The **Tudors** ruled England and Wales from 1485-1603. Henry VIII was a famous Tudor king. He married six times and beheaded two of his wives! In 1534 Henry VIII broke from the Roman Catholic Church. He wanted a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, but the Pope refused to annul his marriage. England became a Protestant country.



4 \_\_\_\_\_

Victoria was crowned queen in 1837 when she was 18 years old. She reigned until her death in 1901. During the **Victorian Times** Britain built a huge empire and became the most powerful country in the world.

**The Industrial Revolution** (1750-1850) changed Britain in many ways. It became the first industrial nation in the world. Factories were built and villages grew into towns.

At the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign, only rich children went to school. Children from poor families worked all day in factories. In 1870 the **Education Act** was passed. It offered schools for all children between the age of 5 and 12.

During **World War II** (1939-1945) London and other cities in England were frequently bombed. Children in Britain were sent out of the cities and were evacuated to the countryside. In 1940 Winston Churchill became Prime Minister. For many people he was the symbol of Britain.

In 1973 Britain became a member of the **European Economic Community** (now European Union, EU).



5 \_\_\_\_\_

## Interesting Fact

The Victorians invented the police force.

2 Read the texts in exercise 1 again. Then read the following sentences and tick (✓) T (True) or F (False). Correct the false sentences.

The Romans conquered Britain between AD 40 and AD 42.  T  F

*No, the Romans conquered Britain between AD 43 and AD 47.*

1 The Anglo-Saxons came from France.  T  F

2 The Battle of Hastings was in 1055.  T  F

3 Henry VIII married eight times.  T  F

4 Victoria became queen when she was 18 years old.  T  F

5 During the Industrial Revolution many factories were built.  T  F

6 The Education Act was passed in 1860.  T  F

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3 When did these historic events take place? Write them on the timeline. Then listen and check.

The world's **first railway** opens in Britain.

The **Great Fire** of London.

The United States **Declaration of Independence** from Great Britain.

Sir Berners-Lee invents the **WWW** (World Wide Web).

## Similar or different?

4 What do you know about the history of your country? Discuss the following questions with your partner.

- 1 Did anyone invade your country in past centuries?
- 2 Who was the most famous monarch or political leader of your country?
- 3 What dates are important for the history of your country? Why?

AD 43-410  
The Romans

AD 793  
The Vikings

1485-1603  
The Tudors

1776

1939-1945  
World War II

AD 450  
The Anglo-Saxons

1066  
The Normans

1666

1825

1837-1901  
The Victorian Times

1991