

THE HISTORY OF BRITISH LITERATURE

ERA	RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, OR SOCIAL CONDITION	LITERARY FIGURES AND THE LITERARY WORKS
<p>1. Old English (Anglo-Saxon) 450-1050 BC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The literary works were influenced by Saxon Literature. - (410) Romans began to leave Britain. - (664) Roman Catholicism became the official religion throughout England. -(878) English Kingdom was established (in Alfred reign) - (1016)-1042) Danish invaders ruled England. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of literary works came up with anonymous authors. - Beowulf (a folk epic discovered and edited in 19th century) appeared. Later, it was claimed by Danish and German scholars as their earliest epic.

<p>2. Anglo-Norman Period (1066-1350)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The English were defeated by the Normans. - This broke down the Old English Grammar and provided the country with new vocab. - The language: French was superior than English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chrétien de Troy's - The Legend of King Arthur
<p>3. Middle English Period (1350-1400)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latin was the language of Church and of learning. - The literary culture was more international. - English was more spoken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geoffrey Chaucer's <i>Canterbury Tales</i> - William Langland's <i>Piers Plowman</i> - <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (anonymous)

<p>4. Renaissance (1400-1440) The Age of New Discoveries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geographical discoveries: explorations of the new world - Intellectual discoveries: Copernicus found that the sun is the center of planetary system - Religious movements: Martin Luther challenged Church as the major institution - Henry VI I I founded a new Protestant Church in England. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sir Philip Sidney's <i>A Strophe And Stella</i> (poetry) - Drama and music flourished.
<p>5. Elizabethan Period (1550-1620)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebellion of Martin Luther in Germany against Roman Catholic authority. - Sonnet was popular. - The poets had a strong love of music and lyrics - Emphasizing on beauty and imagination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edmund Spenser's <i>The Fairy Queen</i> - Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet</i> - Francis Bacon's <i>Of Travel</i> - John Bunyan

<p>6. Puritan Age (1620-1660)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The religious and intellectual awakening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Protestant wanted to purify the Church b. There was Cromwell's rebellion, which began the Civil War c. The Civil War dominated all aspects of life & thought - Puritan migrated to New England - Theatres were closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sermon of John Donne - John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>
<p>7. The Restoration Period (1660-1700)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was the time of amazing expansion. - People were interested in seeing whether harmony & balance can be created in society. - There was a view that correctness & good sense was essential. - Theatres were reopened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daniel Defoe's <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>

<p>8. Neo Classic Age (Pre Romantic) (1700-1800)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a great use of satire - The French Revolution gave a big influence to the entire world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jonathan Swift's <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> - Alexander Pope's <i>I liad</i> - William Blake's <i>Songs of Innocence</i>
<p>9. Romantic Age (1800-1850)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lyrical Ballads emerged. - They viewed nature as free & wild - There was a worship of natural beauty. - I t rebelled on tyrannical authority. - I t had a belief in liberty for the individual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William Wordsworth, Samuel T Coleridge, Lord Byron, John Keats - Percy B Shelley's <i>Ode to the West Wind</i> - Jane Austen's <i>Pride & Prejudice, Emma</i>

<p>10. Victorian Age (1837-1901)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A great period of industrial development - There was a mass migration of workers to industrial towns - Literary works portrayed the real condition of social life - Arguing the benefits & evil of industrial rev. - Darwin's theory of The Origin of Species emerged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charles Dickens's <i>Oliver Twist</i>, <i>David Copperfield</i>, <i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>, etc. - W.M. Thackeray's <i>Vanity Fair</i>
<p>11. Modern Era (1901-1939)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People were fed up with wars. - The Great Depression in the USA - Drama was revitalized after many years of Stagnation - Literary works have more personal & Individual themes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joseph Conrad, Virginia Wolf, T.S. Elliot - Bernard Shaw's <i>Pygmalion</i>, <i>Arms & the Man</i>, <i>The Doctor's Dilemma</i>

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