

A History of Britain

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapter 1

- 1 Write the names from the box in the right places.

Alfred the Great	Julius Caesar	King Cnut
King Edward	Harold Hardrada	
William the Conqueror		

- a He had no children. He died in 1066.
.....
- b He was King of Norway. In 1066 his army invaded England.
.....
- c He was a Norman. He became King of England.
.....
- d He was a great Roman leader.
.....
- e He defeated the Vikings and sent them away from Britain.
.....
- f He was a Viking king of England.
.....

Chapter 2

- 2 Complete the sentences with the words from the box.

Catholic	conquered	destroyed
independence	parliament	
Protestant	terrible	trouble

- a There were a few years of for Wales – in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.
- b Scotland was by Edward I at the end of the thirteenth century.
- c In 1707, the Scottish voted to join England.
- d In 1745, the English complete Scottish villages.
- e British rule brought Ireland very little money and a lot of
- f In the sixteenth century, most people in England became
- g Most people in Ireland ate little except potatoes before 1840.
- h When potatoes failed to grow in Ireland, the result was

Chapter 3

- 3 Put these sentences in order, 1–10.

- a Henry ended his marriage with Anne of Cleves, an ugly German princess. ☐
- b Henry closed the Catholic church and started a new church in England. ☐
- c Anne Boleyn gave Henry a daughter, Elizabeth. ☐
- d Edward started to make England more protestant. ☐
- e Henry married his brother's wife. ☐
- f Elizabeth I ruled England for forty-five years and made the country strong. ☐
- g Henry's son with Jane Seymour, Edward, was born. ☐
- h Thomas Wolsey went to Rome to talk to the Pope about Henry's marriage. ☐
- i England got a Catholic queen – Henry's daughter, Mary. ☐
- j Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, died. ☐

- 4 Choose the right answer.

- a Elizabeth I wanted to find a middle way for
- 1) religion.
2) Catholics.
3) monasteries.
- b For Catholics, the true ruler of England was
- 1) Henry VIII.
2) Elizabeth I.
3) Mary Queen of Scots.
- c For nineteen years, Mary lived in England as a
- 1) queen.
2) prisoner.
3) Protestant.
- d The Spanish ships hit a terrible storm and were
- 1) defeated.
2) decided.
3) destroyed.

Chapter 4

- 5 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Both King John and James I had problems with Parliament. ☐
- b King John wanted strong government, so he wrote the *Magna Carta*. ☐

A History of Britain

Photocopiable

- c In 1264, Parliament had more power in England than the King. ☐
- d Charles I ruled without Parliament for eleven years. ☐
- e The King's men and Parliament's men fought for four years. ☐
- f Charles I was killed in a battle against Parliament. ☐
- g After Charles I, Oliver Cromwell ruled England for eight years. ☐
- h Charles II was England's last Catholic king. ☐

6 These people all helped to shape British government. What did they do? Why were they important?

- a King John
.....
- b Oliver Cromwell
.....
- c George I
.....

Chapter 5

7 There are ten wrong words. Circle them and write the correct words.

The world's first factories were built in Britain
.....
in the 17th century. Inside the factories, big
.....
machines made cloth much faster than before.
.....
They used local wool and cloth from America
.....
too. But these machines did not help the poor
.....
workers – only the factory builders got richer.
.....
Factory-class families often lived in big, cheap
.....
houses in new towns, close to the factories.
.....
There was no clean water and illness travelled
.....
quietly. Workers did not win a lot of money, so
.....
the children had to work too. Some children
.....

worked for eight hours a day. The ordinary
.....
workers became very happy, but it was difficult
.....
to change anything. If workers started a travel
.....
union, they lost their jobs. If they refused to
.....
work, they were not paid.
.....

Chapter 6

8 Answer these questions.

- a Who travelled from England to America to practise their religion?
.....
- b Who attacked British soldiers in Calcutta?
.....
- c Who were sent in large numbers to Australia?
.....
- d Who invaded Egypt in 1798?
.....
- e Who was killed in the Battle of Trafalgar?
.....
- f Who was pleased with her title – 'Empress of India'?
.....
- g Who killed the future emperor of Austria?
.....
- h Who invaded Poland in 1939?
.....

After reading

9 Answer these questions.

- a How many countries are there in the United Kingdom? What are they?
.....
- b Was Britain ever part of the Roman Empire?
.....
- c Whose love life brought a new religion to Britain?
.....
- d Who was Boudica?
.....
- e Why was Elizabeth I important for England?
.....
- f When did Britain lose its empire?
.....

A History of Britain

Photocopiable

1 Are these sentences about Boudica right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Boudica was in the Roman army. ☐
- b Boudica was married to a local English king. ☐
- c Boudica invaded Wales and Scotland. ☐
- d Roman soldiers attacked her and her daughters. ☐

2 What happened to Henry VIII's six wives? Choose the right answer. You can use the same answer more than once.

- a Katharine of Aragon
- b Anne Boleyn
- c Jane Seymour
- d Anne of Cleves
- e Catherine Howard
- f Catherine Parr

- 1) divorced
- 2) died
- 3) survived
- 4) beheaded*

*Her head was cut off.

3 Choose one or more of the words in the box for each character.

queen childless unhealthy intelligent
handsome Catholic Protestant popular
French powerful killed

- a Boudica
.....
- b William the Conqueror
.....
- c Henry VIII
.....
- d Mary I
.....
- e Elizabeth I
.....
- f Charles I
.....
- g Queen Victoria
.....

4 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- a Soon after the Roman army left Britain,
- b The Saxon's language grew into modern English, but as a result of the Norman invasion,
- c Henry VIII closed the Catholic Church
- d The Protestants in the north of Ireland refused to be part of a Catholic Irish state,
- e When the countries of the Empire became independent,

- 1) so Ireland was cut in two.
- 2) most of them joined the Commonwealth.
- 3) invaders from present-day Germany and Denmark, the Angles and Saxons, came to Britain.
- 4) and started a new one, the Church of England.
- 5) half the words in today's English language come from French.

5 Put these names in the right order.

Write 1–5.

- a Alfred the Great
- b Edward
- c Harold
- d King Cnut
- e William the Conqueror

Write 6–9.

- f Edward I
- g Henry II
- h Henry III
- i King John

Write 10–13.

- j Edward VI
- k Elizabeth I
- l Henry VIII
- m Mary I

Write 14–22.

- n Charles I
- o Charles II
- p Elizabeth II
- q George I
- r James I
- s James II
- t Oliver Cromwell
- u Queen Anne
- v William and Mary

6 Were these countries ruled by Britain? Circle YES or NO.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----|----|
| a | America | YES | NO |
| b | Canada | YES | NO |
| c | Japan | YES | NO |
| d | India | YES | NO |
| e | Egypt | YES | NO |
| f | Spain | YES | NO |
| g | Prussia | YES | NO |
| h | Poland | YES | NO |
| i | Australia | YES | NO |
| j | South Africa | YES | NO |
| k | China | YES | NO |
| l | Pakistan | YES | NO |