



13.7 billion years ago

Scientists believe the first stars in the Universe were born from The Big Bang.



13.6 billion years ago

After the first stars, the first galaxies in the universe were formed. Our galaxy is called the Milky Way.



4.6 billion years ago

Planet Earth is formed.

We are part of the Solar System within the Milky Way.



4 billion years ago

First life on Earth.



240 million years ago

First dinosaurs on Earth.



65.5 million years ago

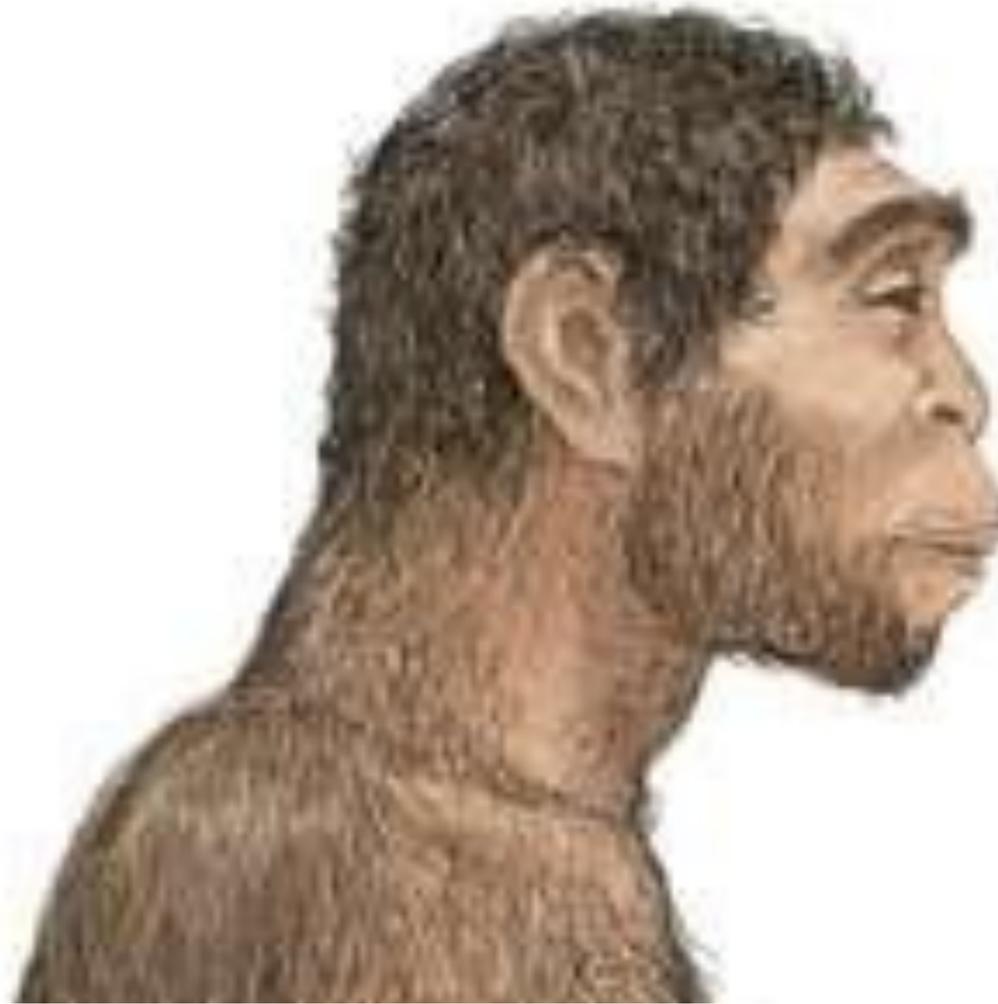
Last dinosaurs to walk on Earth.



55 million years ago

First primitive primates evolve,
many millions of years ago.

Homo erectus



1.8 to 1.5 million years ago

Homo erectus is found in Asia. First true hunter-gatherer ancestor of modern humans, and also first to have migrated out of Africa in large numbers.



195, 000 years ago

Almost 200 thousand years ago, our own species *Homo sapiens* appears on the scene – and shortly after begins to migrate across Asia and Europe. The oldest modern human remains are two skulls found in Ethiopia in Africa, that date to this period.



Cave Paintings: 33, 000 years ago

Around 50 000 years ago, human culture began to develop dramatically, with tool making, hunting skills, clothing from animal hides and rituals around life and death such as burials. The oldest art in the world has been found in French caves, from 33 000 years ago.



6,000 years ago: civilization begins

Farms, towns and eventually cities begin to emerge around great rivers in six parts of the world: first in **Mesopotamia** (modern day Iraq and Iran), then in **Ancient India**, **Ancient Egypt**, **Ancient China**, **Ancient Mesoamerica** (modern day Mexico) and **Ancient Peru**. These are the cradles of civilisation.



Ancient Egypt: 3,100BC to 31 BC

Ancient Egypt developed along the River Nile in north east Africa. The civilization began around 3,100 BC. Egypt was invaded or conquered by a number of foreign powers, including Alexander the Great. In 30 BC, when ruled by Queen Cleopatra, Egypt fell to the Roman Empire.



Ancient Greece: 2, 000 BC to 146 BC

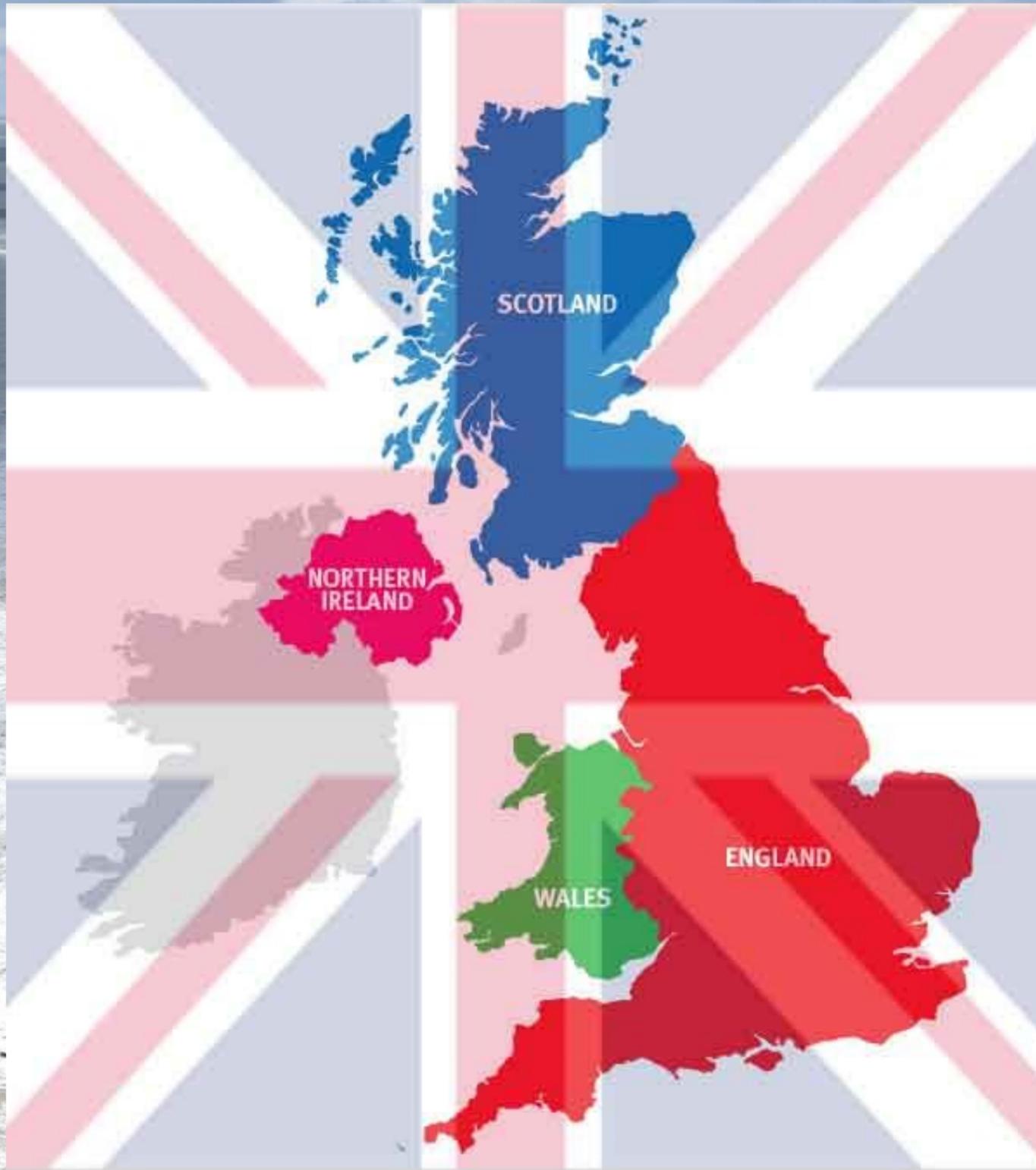
The earliest Greek civilizations began nearly 4,000 years ago. Ancient Greece was split into many different states, each one was ruled in its own way. The two most important city states were Athens and Sparta. The civilisation that developed across the Ancient Greek empire has had huge influence on the whole of European culture through art, politics, literature and sport (the original Olympic games).



Ancient Rome: 753BC to AD476

Around 2,800 years ago , Ancient Rome grew from a small town on central Italy's Tiber River into an empire that conquered most of continental Europe, Britain, much of western Asia, northern Africa and the Mediterranean islands. Among the many Roman legacies are the Romance languages (Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian) which evolved from Roman Latin, the modern Western alphabet, our calendar and eventually the emergence of Christianity as a major world religion.

British History





The history of Britain

Our journey through British history will begin with building of Stonehenge 4000 years ago. We will then travel forwards chronologically across 2,000 years, from the Roman conquest of these islands in AD43 to our present time in the 21st Century.





Stonehenge, over 4, 000 years old.

Stonehenge is one of the world's most famous monuments. It stands on Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire, and its giant stones can be seen from miles around. Stonehenge was built over many hundreds of years. Work began in the late Neolithic Age, around 3000 BC. Over the next thousand years, people made many changes to the monument. The last changes were made in the early Bronze Age, around 1500 BC. Stonehenge was probably built for spiritual and religious reasons.



Romans (AD 43–C.410)

In 55–54 BC, Julius Caesar arrived on the shores of Britain, but thanks to guerrilla resistance and bad weather, his conquest was not successful. Almost 100 years later, in AD 43 the emperor Claudius launched a full-scale invasion, and Britain's Roman era began. The Romans stayed in Britain for almost four centuries. Cities were founded, villas constructed and a network of roads developed that can still be traced today. And in AD 122, the emperor Hadrian, visiting Britain, ordered the building of his famous wall.



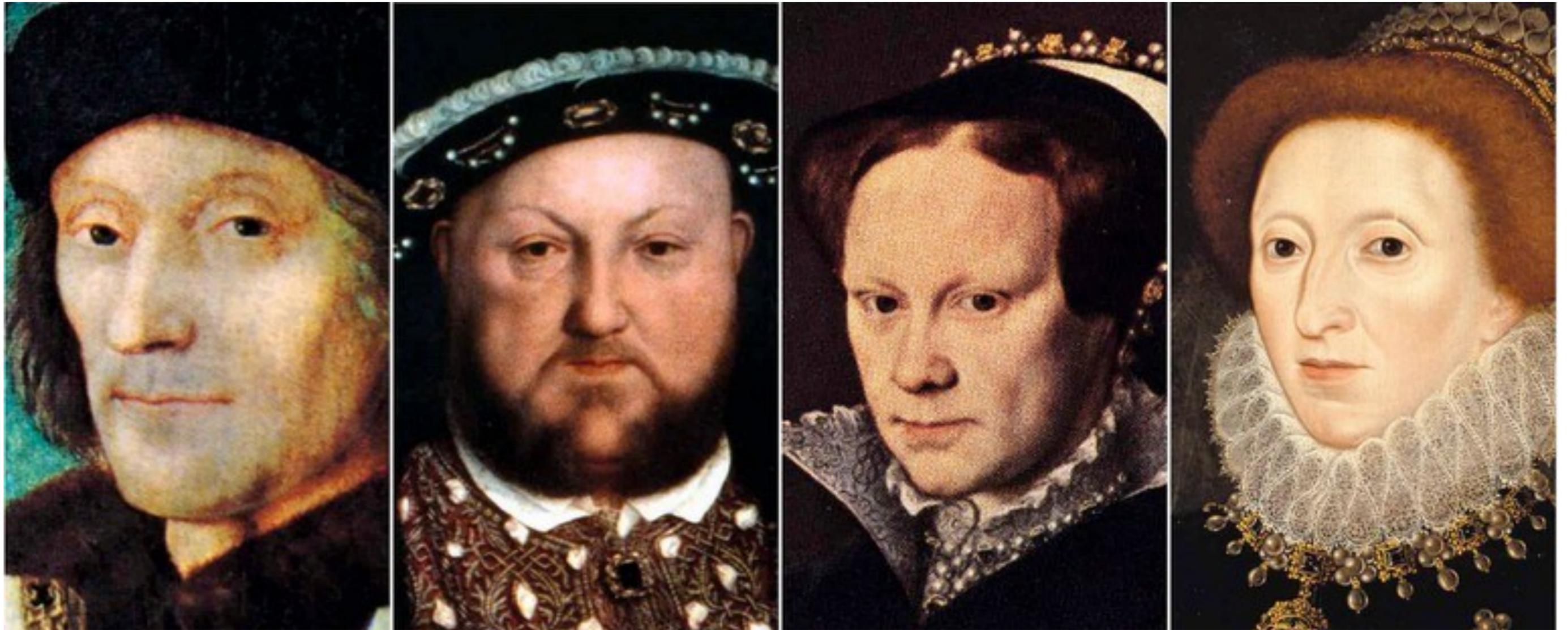
Early Medieval (C.410–1066)

The six and a half centuries between the end of Roman rule and the Norman Conquest are among the most important in English history. This long period is also one of the most challenging to understand – which is why it has traditionally been labelled the ‘Dark Ages’. The Angles, Saxons and Vikings all invaded and settled on these isles in this period. A kingdom of England emerged in these centuries, and with it a new ‘English’ identity and language.



Medieval (1066 to 1485)

Duke William of Normandy's resounding triumph over King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 marked the dawn of a new era. The overthrow of the Saxon kingdom of England was to transform the country the Normans conquered, from how it was organised and governed to its language and customs – and perhaps most visibly today, its architecture. This was also a period of upheaval and change, of revolt, civil war, devastating plague and royal battles: The Wars of the Roses.



Tudors (1485 to 1603)

Henry VII's victory against Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth ended the turbulent Wars of the Roses and began the Tudor dynasty – possibly the most famous royal family in English history. The country underwent huge changes during the reigns of three generations of Tudor monarchs. Henry VIII ushered in a new state religion, and England began to grow as a major power. This time period also saw great development in the arts—The Renaissance—not least through the works of William Shakespeare.



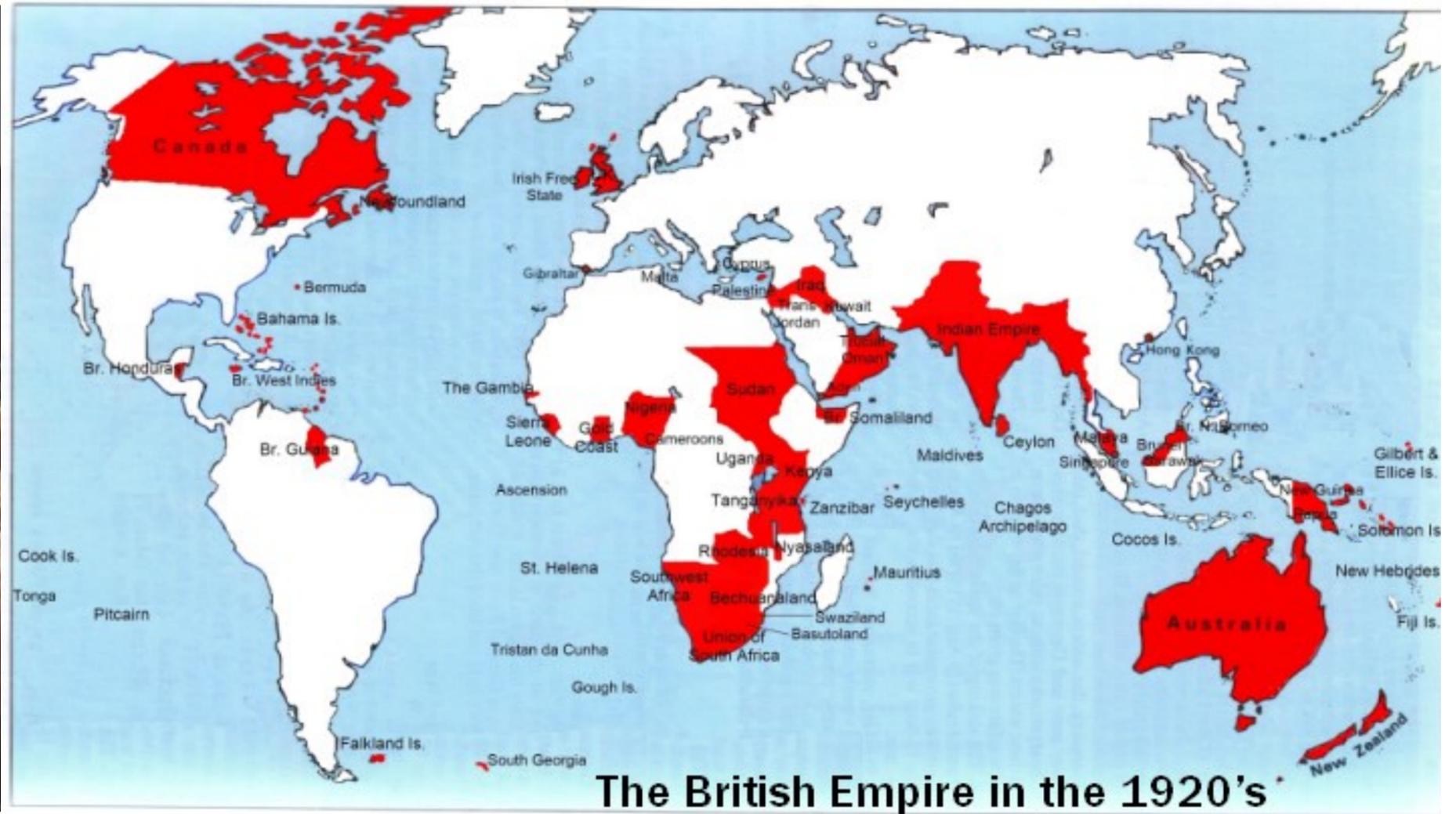
Stuarts (1603 to 1714)

The Stuart era began when James I, who was also James VI of Scotland, succeeded Elizabeth I. She had died childless in 1603. James's ascension to the throne brought together the two long-warring nations of England and Scotland. The Stuart period witnessed intense religious and political conflicts, which shifted power from the monarchy to parliament through the English Civil War. Meanwhile, discoveries and innovations transformed science, architecture and everyday life.



Georgians (1714 to 1837)

When Queen Anne died in 1714 with no surviving children, the German Hanoverians were brought in to succeed her. This began the Georgian age – named after the first four Hanovarian kings, all called George. This period saw Britain establish itself as an international power at the centre of an expanding empire, and accelerating change from the 1770s onwards made it the world's first industrialised nation. Great inequality, shown at its very worst through the slave trade, was dominant across society.



The British Empire (16th to 20th Centuries)

From John Cabot's voyage from Bristol to North America in 1497 through to the 20th Century, Britain colonised other countries to grow an empire. By 1920 it was the largest empire in history, with over a quarter of the world's population living under British rule. The empire was built on British sea power, which enabled both invasion and trade. The empire was most powerful in Victorian times. Whilst the empire spread many advancements around the world, it has to be remembered that, like other powerful empires, it was built on invasion, war and slavery, taking wealth and resources from other countries. The empire broke up after the Second World War, as more and more countries gained their independence. The Commonwealth replaced the empire. The wonderful diversity and multiculturalism of modern Britain is the strongest legacy.



Victorians (1837 to 1901)

With the industrial revolution constantly accelerating, Queen Victoria came to the throne when she was just 18 years old. She would rule Britain for over 60 years. During this long reign, the country acquired unprecedented power and wealth. Britain's reach extended across the globe because of its empire, political stability, and revolutionary developments in transport and communication. It was also a time of great inequality, with huge poverty in every industrial city, and demands for social change began.

