



The
Great
history of
Britain



by

Anne & Paul Fryer



Contents

<i>Chapter Illustrations -</i>	9
Chapter 1 - The Early Britons	15
Chapter 2 - The Battle of Hastings	27
Chapter 3 - How the Normans changed England	41
Chapter 4 - The Church in Medieval England	51
Chapter 5 - The Murder of Thomas Becket	61
Chapter 6 - The Magna Carta	71
Chapter 7 - The Black Death	81
Chapter 8 - The Peasants' Revolt	91
Chapter 9 - The Wars of the Roses	101
Chapter 10 - The Princes in the Tower	111
Chapter 11 - Henry VIII breaks with Rome	119

The Great history of Britain

Chapter 12 -	Henry VIII and his Six Wives	129
Chapter 13 -	Edward VI and the Reformation	141
Chapter 14 -	Mary I and the Martyrs	151
Chapter 15 -	Elizabeth I and the Church of England	161
Chapter 16 -	The Spanish Armada	171
Chapter 17 -	The Virgin Queen	183
Chapter 18 -	The Gunpowder Plot	193
Chapter 19 -	The English Civil War	203
Chapter 20 -	Oliver Cromwell's army	213
Chapter 21 -	The Great Plague and the Fire of London	223
Chapter 22 -	The Glorious Revolution	233
Chapter 23 -	Queen Anne and the Act of Union	243

Contents

Chapter 24 -	The Agricultural Revolution	253
Chapter 25 -	The Industrial Revolution	263
Chapter 26 -	The Battle of Trafalgar	275
Chapter 27 -	The Battle of Waterloo	287
Chapter 28 -	The British Empire	297
Chapter 29 -	Causes of the First World War	309
Chapter 30 -	The First World War	319
Chapter 31 -	Causes of the Second World War	329
Chapter 32 -	The Second World War	339
Chapter 33 -	Modern Britain	351
<i>Glossary -</i>		363
<i>Index -</i>		373

Chapter 1

The Early Britons

Two thousand years ago, at the time of Jesus Christ, England was a small country which hardly anyone knew about.



The Great history of Britain

The people there lived in small tribes and were farmers. One group of people were called the Celts.

Unlike today, they did not have a King or Queen, and the different tribes would not have mixed together.

At this time, the Romans from Italy were becoming more and more powerful and they had heard rumours that this tiny island in the North of Europe had good resources like iron and bronze.

The Early Britons

The Roman Emperor, who was called Julius Caesar, decided he wanted to control England and make it part of the Roman Empire.



The Great history of Britain

So, in the year 43 AD the Romans successfully invaded England and landed in Kent.

With the Romans came Christianity. Jerusalem had been the centre of Christianity after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. But after persecution by the Jews, the Christians were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. Many writers at this time tell us that some of these persecuted Christians came to England too.

The Romans brought with them lots of new ideas. They built roads and walls, like Hadrian's Wall in the North of England.

The Early Britons

They also introduced public baths and toilets. The remains of Roman England can still be seen in some English towns, such as Bath and St. Albans.



The Great history of Britain

London began to grow as a town too, although it was called 'Londinium' then.

Some of the English were not happy that the Romans were taking control. Queen Boudicca of the Iceni tribe decided to lead a rebellion against the Romans.

She managed to burn the towns of St. Albans and London but the Romans managed to fight back and Boudicca lost.

During the next four hundred years the Romans established themselves in England. But there were other people keen on controlling England. These people were the Saxons from Europe.

The Early Britons

The Saxons began attacking England along the East Coast so the Romans built forts all along the Coast.



The Great history of Britain

However, by then Romans were becoming weaker all across Europe and in 407 AD the last Roman Soldiers left Britain.

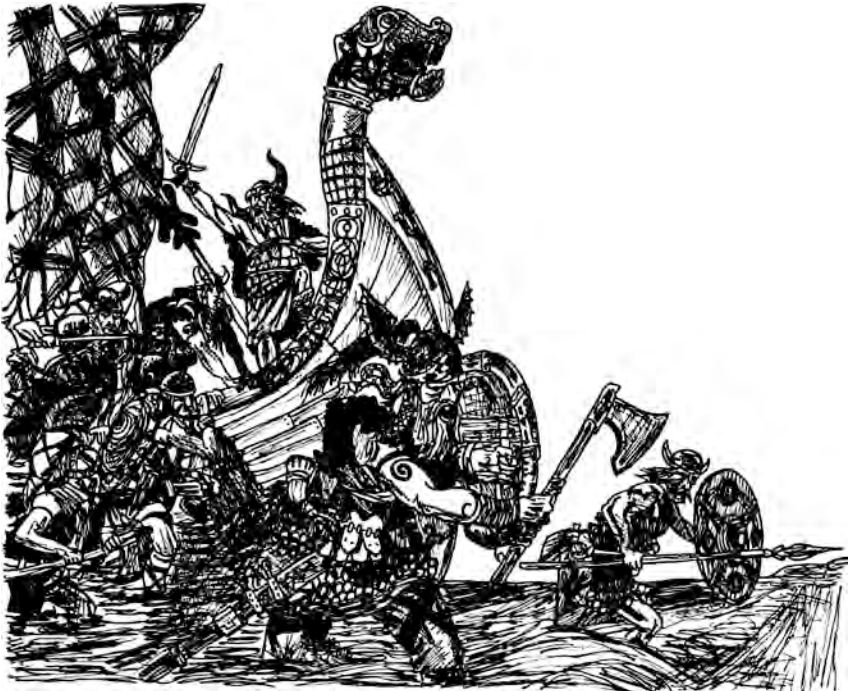
During the next 400 years England was invaded several times. Firstly the Angles and Saxons came in 450 AD. They became known as Anglo-Saxons.

During the Anglo-Saxon period Roman Catholicism came to England.

A Roman Catholic monk, St. Augustine, came and began converting the Saxons. He was then made the first Archbishop of Canterbury in 601 AD.

The Early Britons

The next invasion was by the Vikings in 793 AD, followed by the Danes in 865 AD. The Vikings never settled in England, but the Danes did.



The Great history of Britain

By now though, the English were becoming more powerful. Alfred the Great became King of Wessex in 871 AD.

He was a good King, and tried to bring Christianity and the Bible to the people by translating some of the Bible into English.

Alfred also helped to start uniting England into one country. He defeated the Danes and captured London.

The Early Britons

In 899 AD, Alfred died but his hard work meant that by 939 AD England was a united country with one King.



The Great history of Britain

For the next one hundred years the people of England were at peace, until 1066 when they were invaded again.

In the next chapter we will look at this exciting story ...

Do you know the sequence of events in British history?

'The Great history of Britain' is an introduction to some of the key events in British history aimed specifically at children.

With short, concise chapters, over one hundred and seventy hand-drawn illustrations and an in-depth Glossary and Index it is an ideal first history book which aims to encourage children (and adults!) to ask more questions and to do further research.

Beginning at the time of Jesus Christ and ending with an overview of Modern Britain, this book endeavours to show how events and people over the centuries are all linked together.

Anyone reading this book should finish with a clear and concise overview of the chronology of 'The Great history of Britain'...



www.greathistoryofbritain.co.uk

twitter 
@britainhistory

ISBN 978-1-4717-0622-6

CHILDRENS
/ HISTORY

UK £9.99



9 781471 706226