

# History: the Age of Revolutions



## Restoration and the Glorious Revolution

1660-1689

After Cromwell's death, his son took his place, but in 1660, the Parliament decided to restore the monarchy and chose **Charles II**, Charles I's son. The *Glorious Revolution* (1688-1689) definitely established the supremacy of parliament over the monarchy. Because of the fear of Catholic Restoration, **James II** was replaced by his protestant daughter Mary and his Dutch husband, William of Orange. Bloodshed was limited in England, but there were many losses in Scotland and Wales.

## Georgian Age

1714-1830

The Georgian Age is remembered for its elegance and style.

In 1714 George of Hanover, the great grandson of James I, became king, **George I**. He only spoke German and ruled thanks to his ministers. During his reign, the Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole built Britain's trade and wealth.

**George III** reigned for 60 years, from 1760 to 1820. He is remembered for his madness and because the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution and the American war for independence happened during his reign.

The *Industrial Revolution* (c. 1760-1830) was a process that gradually transformed Britain into an industrial country and world market.

Stephenson created the first steam engine and the railway in 1814. The steam engine made it possible to create machinery and change the system of production. The industrial Revolution created a new system of production, the factory system, with appalling conditions for the workers.

## Napoleonic Wars

1803-1815

The Napoleonic Wars between England and France began in 1803 because Napoleon had made plans to invade Britain.

In 1805 the Royal Navy, with Admiral **Horatio Nelson**, defeated a joint French and Spanish fleet at Trafalgar.

In 1815 Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, defeated Napoleon, who was forced to abdicate, at Waterloo.



## American Revolution

1775-1783

The American Revolution, or Independence War, started in 1775, but some previous episodes determined the conflict:

- the *Boston Massacre* in 1770, when British troops killed 5 people during a protest
- the *Boston Tea Party* in 1773, when a group of colonists, disguised as Native Americans, went on board British ships and dumped tea overboard as a sign of protest against the Tea Tax imposed by the British government.

The battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 marked the beginning of the war between Britain and the 13 American colonies. The British general Charles Cornwallis surrendered to general George Washington at Yorktown in 1781. Great Britain formally recognised the American Independence with the *Treaty of Paris* in 1783. In 1787, delegates from the original colonies met in Philadelphia to draft the *American Constitution*.



*The Boston Tea Party*



*The battle of Trafalgar  
(W. Stanfield, 1836)*



King George III (A. Ramsay, c.1761)



**1** Watch this video on King George III and answer the questions.

▶ [George III - Mad or Maligned](#) posted by henleydev

1. What are the five reasons why George III is usually remembered?
2. What two qualities did he like?
3. How did the Americans consider him?
4. How long did his reign last?
5. When did he become king?
6. When was the Regency declared?
7. How did he spend his last nine years?



**2** Read the text on Georgian Style and fill in the gaps with the given words.

architects ■ century ■ decoration ■ Ionic ■ Neoclassicism ■ Palladio ■ Rome ■ style

A new generation of **1** ....., theorists and wealthy amateurs set out to reform architecture in accordance with the classical tenets of the Italian architect Andrea **2** ....., The second important Georgian architectural style, **3** ....., came into fashion about the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The models for the architecture of this period were no longer the buildings of the Italian Renaissance but those of Classical Greece and **4** ....., Neoclassicism's austere use of Doric and **5** ..... architectural elements increasingly dominated English architecture in the late 18<sup>th</sup> **6** ....., Toward the end of the century and during the reign of George IV, a number of other styles of building and interior **7** ..... became popular, chief among them Gothic Revival and the Regency **8** .....

*Adapted from <https://www.britannica.com/art/Georgian-style>*



**3** Watch the video on the 10 most important facts about the American Revolution and take notes.



Then discuss the topics and agree on the three most important events for you. Justify your choice.

▶ [10 facts you need to know about the American Revolution](#) posted by Cate O' Donnell

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....
7. ....
8. ....
9. ....
10. ....



**4** Watch the video on the Boston Massacre and answer the questions. Then, use your notes to write a summary of no more than 50 words.



▶ [John Adams and The Boston Massacre – American Revolutionary War](#) posted by One Minute History

1. When did the Boston massacre happen?
2. What caused it?
3. Who was John Adams?
4. How did the trial end?

