

# UK and Brexit Part I

## Introduction

- The United Kingdom (UK) is an island nation off northwestern continental Europe, made up of four constituent parts: **England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.**
- The UK has roughly 70 million people (2025 est.), with about 84% living in England.
- It is a constitutional monarchy (**King Charles III**) with a bicameral Parliament (**House of Commons and Lords**).
- The UK was a member of the European Economic Community (later EU) from 1973 until voters in a 2016 referendum chose to leave (a process completed in 2020).

## Basic information

- **London** is the largest city and capital; other major cities are: **Birmingham, Edinburgh, Manchester, Glasgow, and Cardiff.**
- Language & Culture: English is the official language (plus Welsh in Wales, Scots Gaelic in parts of Scotland).
- London is a global financial center
- The currency is **pound sterling**
- The national flag is **Union Jack**
- National anthem is God Save the King (or Queen) depending on the ruler.

## History overview

- Firstly the **Romans** ruled Britain until about 410 AD and influenced early culture and language. Later, the Angles and Saxons formed kingdoms in England and developed Old English from Germanic languages. In 1066, **William the Conqueror** invaded England. After this French language was used by the rulers and it mixed with Old English, helping to form the English language.
- One important early event was the **Magna Carta in 1215**. This document limited the king's power and gave people basic rights.
- England created important medieval literature, such as the works of Geoffrey Chaucer. Later, during the Renaissance, famous writers like William Shakespeare and John Milton appeared.
- The Reformation under **Henry VIII** made England a Protestant nation, and led to the creation of **Church of England**.
- From the mid-1700s, Britain led the Industrial Revolution. The country changed from farming to machine-based production. New inventions, such as the steam engine, machines, and railways, greatly increased production.
- This industrial growth created wealth and a large middle class in cities, but conditions in factories were often poor, causing the **rise of labor unions**. Britain's industrial goods fed a large Empire. At its peak the British Empire controlled about one-quarter of the world's land and population.



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## Famous things from United Kingdom

**Instructions:** Match each picture (A–E) with the correct description (1–5):

- A. Union Jack
- B. Fish and chips
- C. Palace of Westminster
- D. Tea
- E. 10 Downing Street

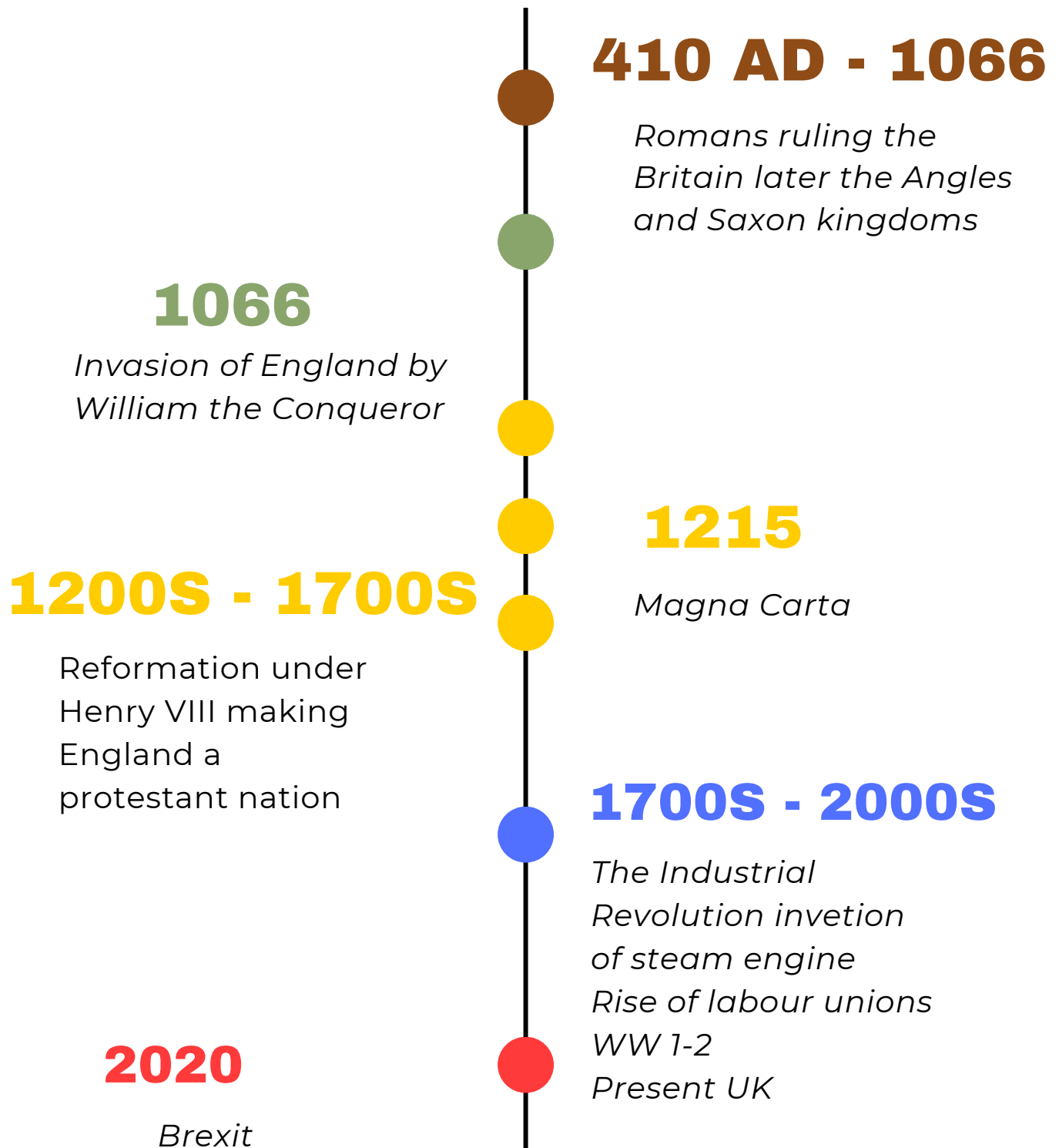
### Descriptions

1. Traditional British meal made of fried fish and chips.
2. Official residence and office of the British Prime Minister.
3. The national flag of the United Kingdom.
4. Historic building where the UK Parliament meets, including Big Ben.
5. A popular British drink often enjoyed with milk.



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## Timeline



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## Lesson Plan

### Lesson Objectives

- Identify basic facts about the United Kingdom (location, capital, population, political system).
- Understand key historical events that shaped the UK.
- Recognize important symbols and famous things from the UK.

### Materials

- Printed UK and Brexit material

### Warm-up (5 minutes)

- Discussion questions:
  1. What do you already know about the United Kingdom?
  2. What cities or symbols do you associate with the UK?
- Visual introduction:
  3. Show the Union Jack flag.
  4. Ask students what country it represents.

### 2. Basic Information (10 minutes)

Teacher briefly explains key facts from the material:

- Location and parts of the UK (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- Capital city (London) and other major cities.
- Population (about 70 million).
- Political system (constitutional monarchy – King Charles III, Parliament: House of Commons and House of Lords).
- Currency (pound sterling).
- EU membership and Brexit (1973–2020).

### 3. History Overview (10 minutes)

Teacher presents key historical milestones:

- Roman rule until AD 410
- Anglo-Saxons and development of Old English
- 1066 – William the Conqueror
- Magna Carta (1215)
- Reformation under Henry VIII (Church of England)
- Industrial Revolution (steam engine, factories, railways)
- British Empire

### 4. Activity – Matching Images to Definitions (15 minutes)

- Students work in pairs or small groups.
- Match pictures (A–E) to the correct descriptions (1–5):
  - Union Jack - A
  - Fish and chips - B
  - Palace of Westminster - C
  - Tea - D
  - 10 Downing Street - E
- Check answers together as a class.

### 5. Wrap-up & Reflection (5 minutes)

- Quick recap questions about basic facts and history.
- Students say one new fact they learned.



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