

Brief history of Great Britain



The British Isles have a rich history going back thousands of years. This history is about kings and queens, about ordinary people and how the events influenced them.



- Long ago, the British Isles were not isles at all. Britain was the part of the European continent. About 10,000 years ago the last Ice Age ended and the climate grew warmer. New rivers and seas were formed and Europe was slowly formed into its present shape.



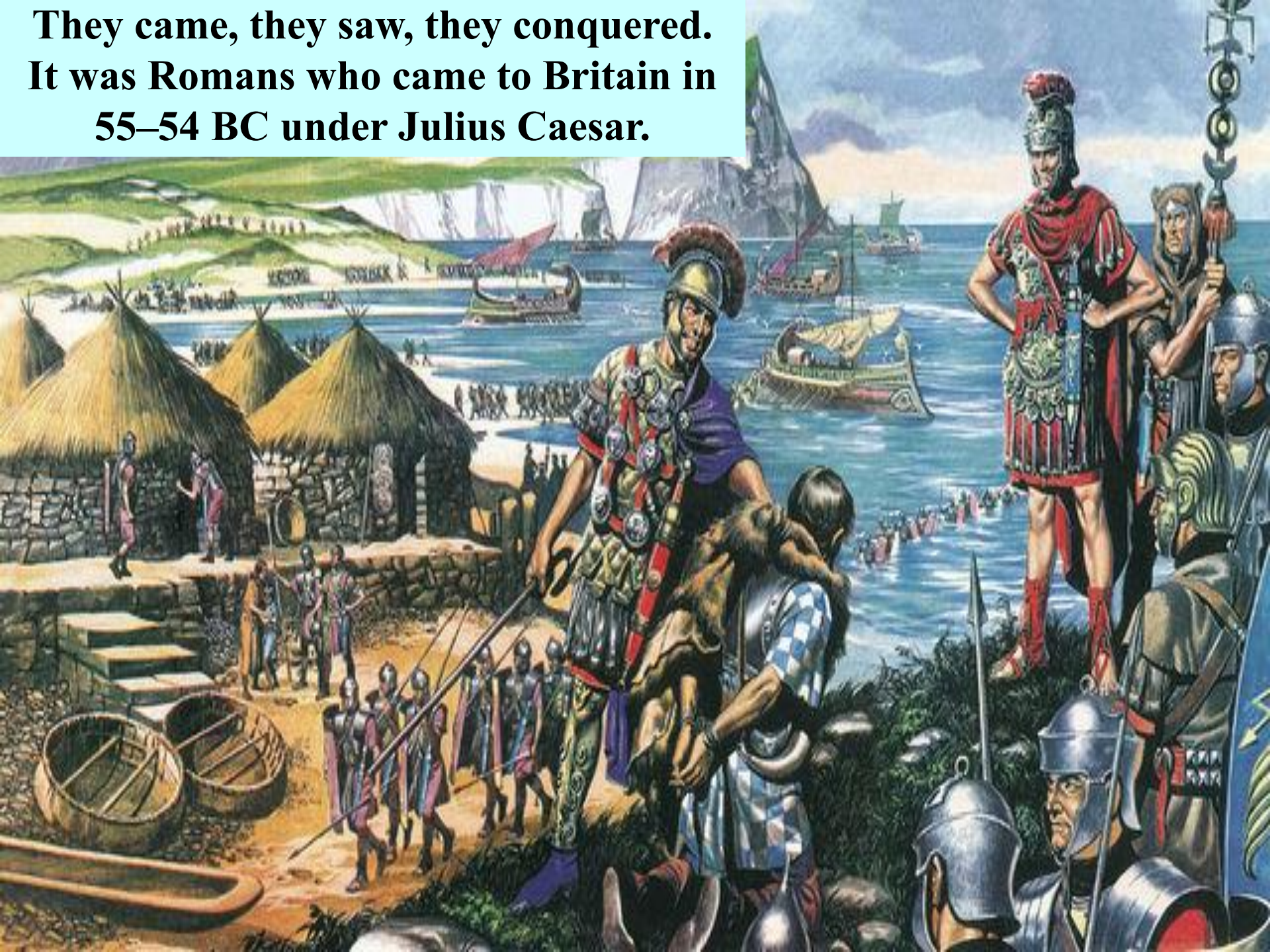


- **The first civilized people came to Britain from northern Europe at the Stone age. Stonehenge is as the remaining about them. Nobody knows what it was built for till our days.**



At the Iron Age tribes of Celts arrived in Britain. These tribes were represented by the Picts, the Scots and the Britons. The Britons were the most powerful of all the Celtic tribes and they occupied most of the country. Later it was named Britain after them.

**They came, they saw, they conquered.
It was Romans who came to Britain in
55–54 BC under Julius Caesar.**



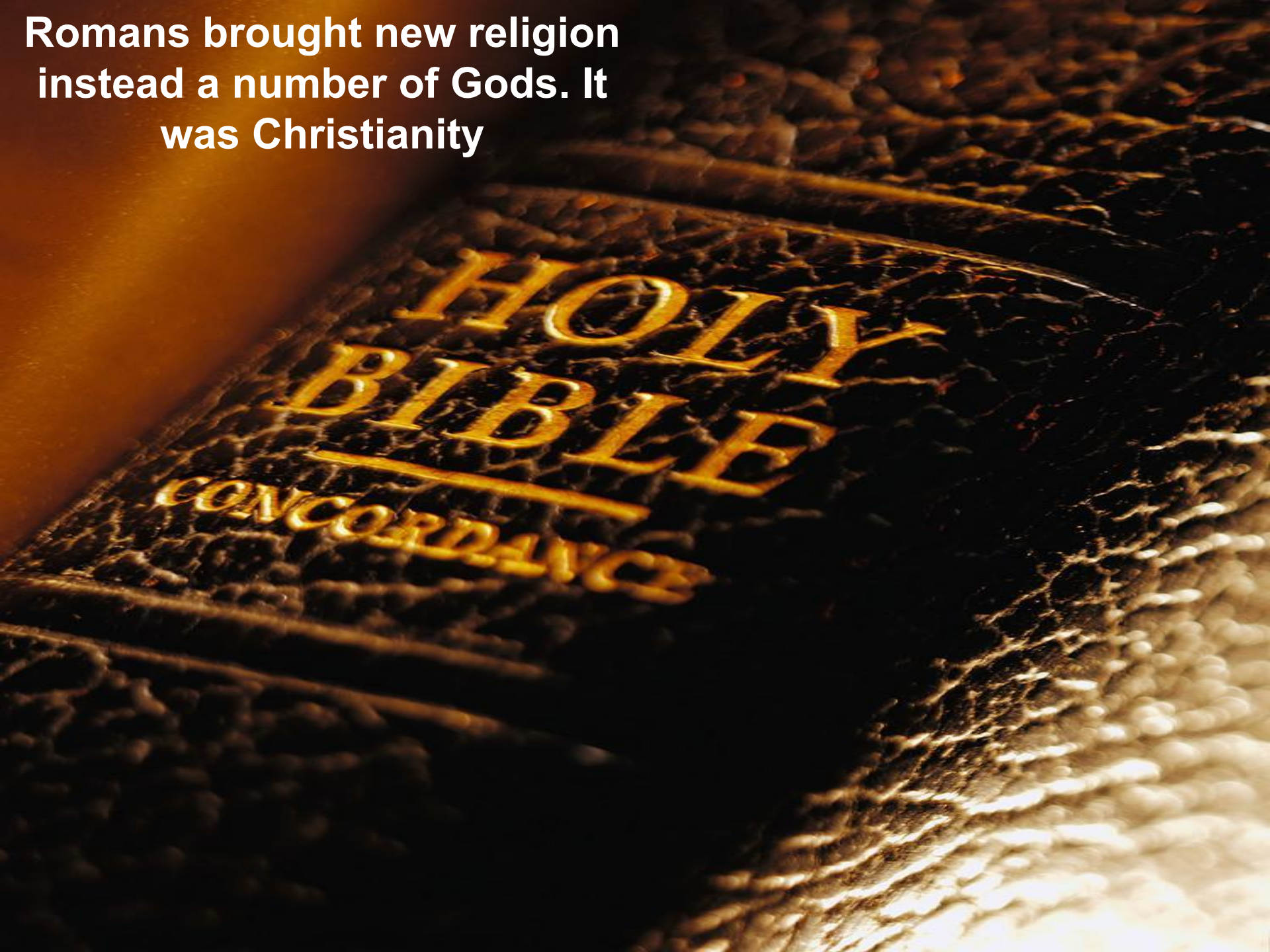
- They settled in Cardiff and built a military fort on the site of Cardiff Castle.
- Cardiff became a city in 1905 and was crowned the capital of Wales in 1955.



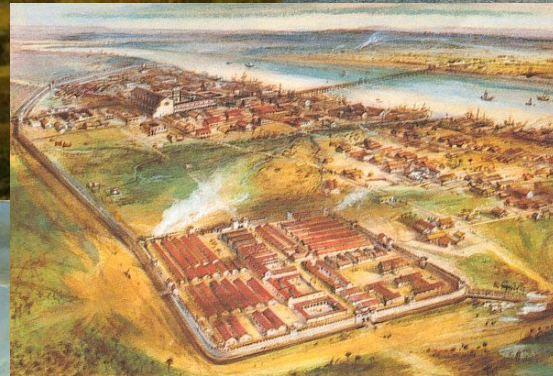
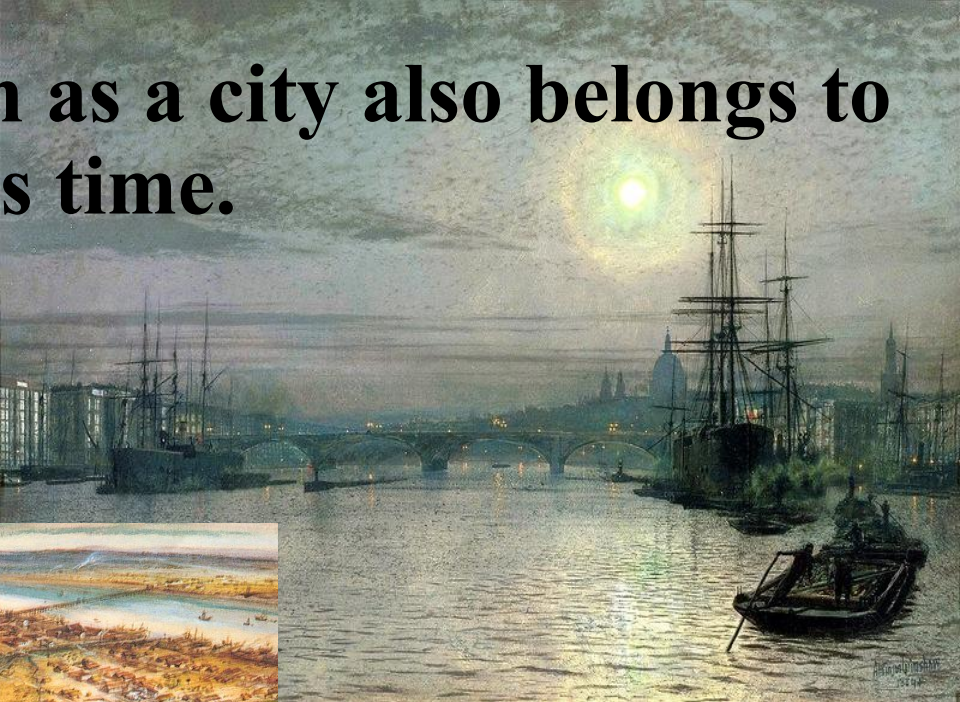


- **The Romans were in Britain for over 350 years. They influenced Britain greatly in the different spheres of life .**

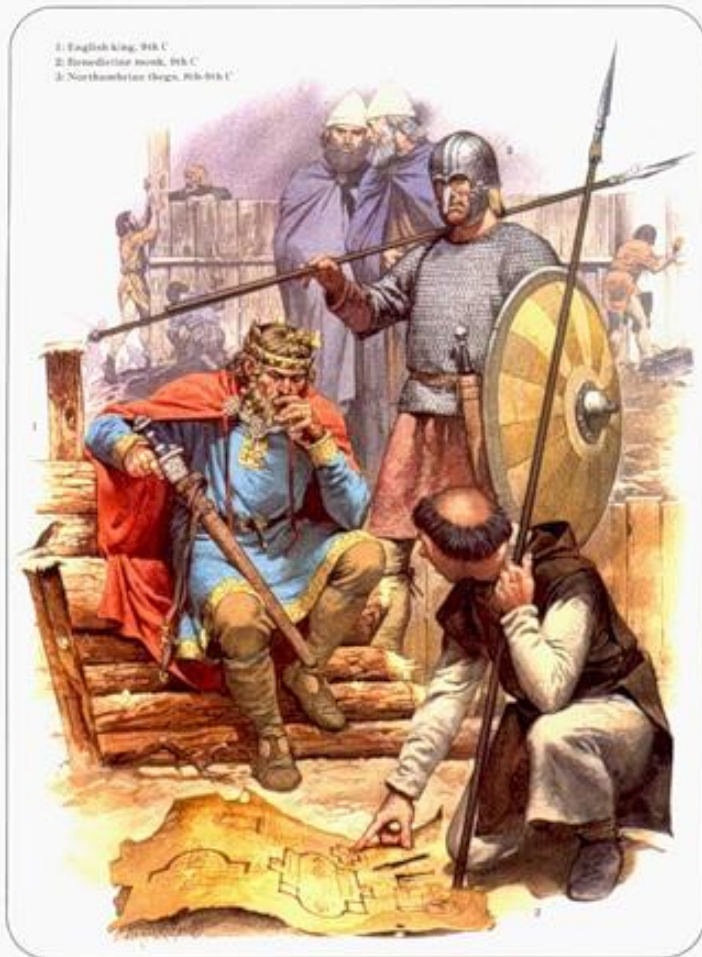
Romans brought new religion
instead a number of Gods. It
was Christianity



- The origin of London as a city also belongs to this time.



In the middle of the 5th century German tribes - the Angles and the Saxons came to Britain from the continent.



The strength of Anglo-Saxon culture is obvious even today. Days of the week are named after German Gods and possibly they brought the game of chess.

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday



In the the 8th century Vikings occupied some parts of Britain. The Scandinavian invasions continued till the 11th century.



The Normans conquered Britain in 1066, and imposed a legal and administrative system much of which still exists today.



The Tower of London was founded in 1078 and it stands there still unchanged. It was built for protection the Normans from the people of London and to protect London from outside invaders.



**At the Middle Ages the well-known Westminster
Abbey was finished.**



**William was the first King to be crowned there.
Since then all English kings were crowned in
Westminster Abbey.**



The beginning of the 17th century can be characterized as a period of growing conflict between the King and parliament, representing the interests of the bourgeoisie. The conflict led to the civil war in 1640. The result of the war is England became a republic.



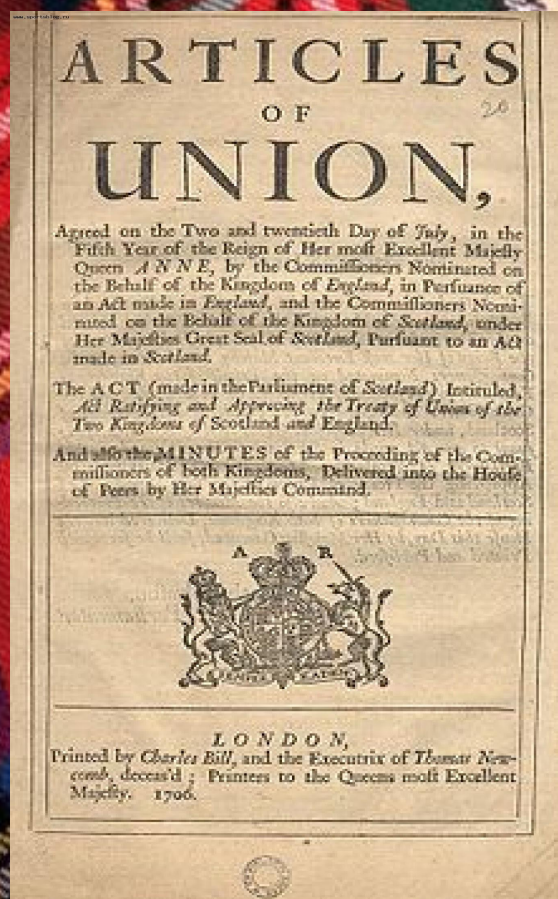
In 1665 the greatest epidemic of the Bubonic Plague broke out in London.



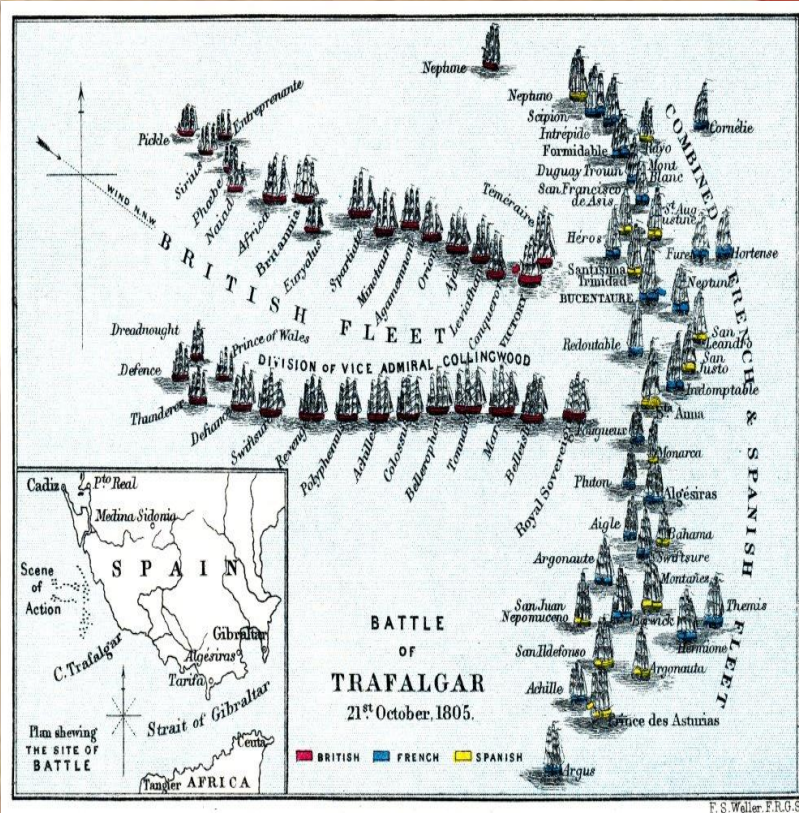
A year later after it was the Great Fire.



Great Britain was formed in 1707, when the Parliament of the Kingdom of England and Wales, and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Scotland each passed the Act of Union. This act joined two Kingdoms under one government.



In 1805 was the Battle of Trafalgar. Nelson defeated Napoleon's invasion armies.



In 1815 was the Battle of Waterloo. Napoleon defeated.



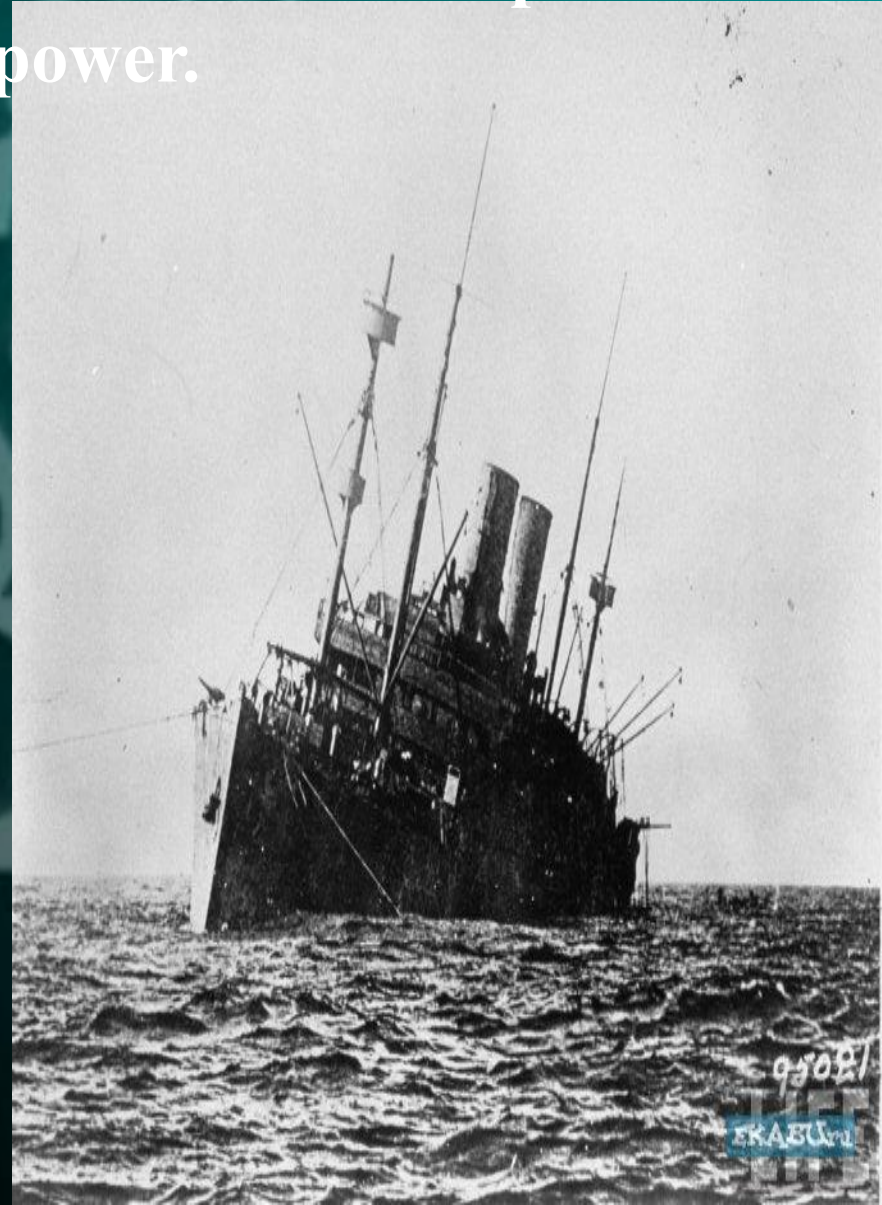
The 19th century is the period of glorious for Britain. The period is called the Victorian Age. The queen Victoria reigned for 63 years — the longest reign in the British history.



At those times Britain conquered a lot of colonies — large territories in India, Australia, America and Africa, Canada, New Zealand. Britain became to rule over one quarter of the Earth.



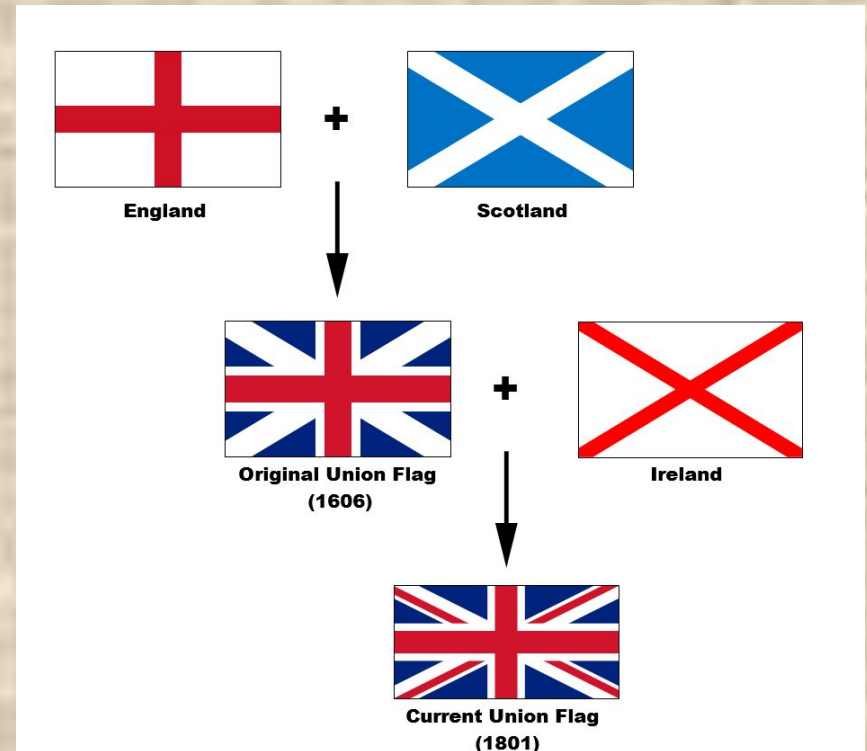
World war I began in 1914. The war created economic problems for Britain and shook its position as a world power.





After the world war II great Britain lost its colonies. 1947 is the date of ending British Empire. But its economy was still powerful. In the middle of the 20th century the UK was a highly developed industrial country.

Now the United Kingdom consists of four countries: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



The UK is a constitutional monarchy. In a law, the Head of State is the Queen. In practice, the Queen reigns, but doesn't rule.



The country is ruled by the elected Government with the Prime Minister at the head.



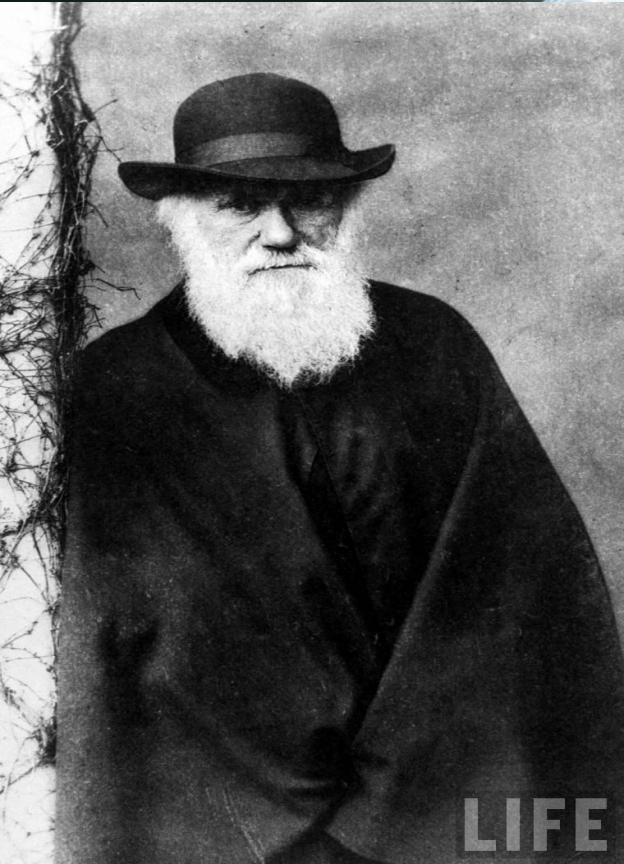
As you can see Great Britain is a multi-cultural country with its long history and traditions. The greatest writers, painters and scientists are from Great Britain



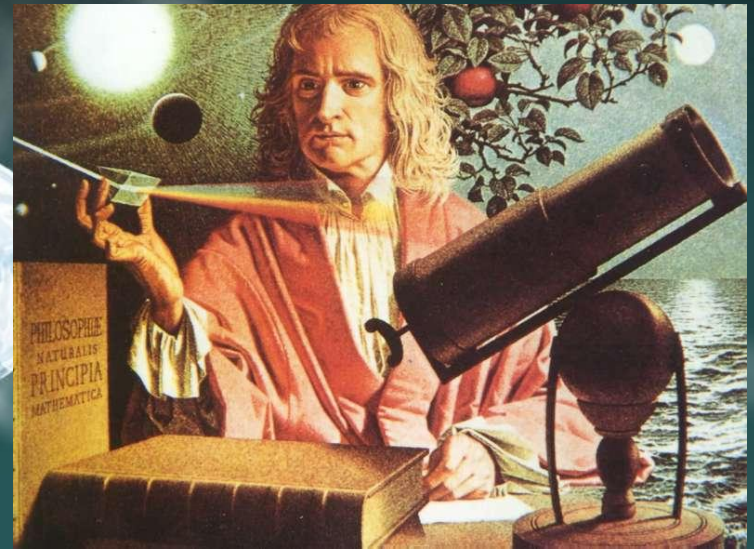
- They are: William Shakespeare, Daniel Defoe, Francis Bacon.



Pablo Picasso, Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin.



LIFE



Everybody knows the icons of Great Britain such as double-deckers, telephone booths, Hadrian's wall.



The Rose, the V-sign, the angels of the north.



Wimbledon, the oak tree and of course English tea.



The End

