Kings and Queens of England
From Before the Norman Conquest to the Act of Union with Great Britain
Pre-1066

House of Wessex

• Alfred the Great 871-899
  – Fought against the Danes; military reforms
  – Legend of the cakes
  – Doom Book

• Æthelred the Unready 978-1013 and 1014-16)
  – Name mistranslated from “noble-counsel” or Unræd

House of Denmark

• Canute 1016-1035
  – United crowns of Denmark, England, and Norway plus part of Sweden
  – Couldn’t rule the waves
House of Wessex (restored)

• **Saint Edward the Confessor 1042-1066**
  – Last king of the House of Wessex
  – Spent 25 years in exile in Normandy
  – Canonized in 1161, patron saint of kings, but replaced by Saint George
  – Founded Westminster Abbey
  – Died childless

• **Harold Godwinson 1066**
  – Shipwrecked and turned over to William of Normandy
  – Consort – Edith Swanneck; Wife – Edith of Mercia
  – Last Anglo-Saxon king
  – Defeated Harold Hardrada of Norway and brother Tostig at the Battle of Stamford Bridge
  – Died at Battle of Hastings – only one of 3 kings to die in battle (Richard I and III)
  – Killed by an arrow through the eye, identified by Edith Swanneck
The House of Normandy

• William I - William the Conqueror
  – Bastard of Robert I and the daughter of a tanner
  – Born in Falaise, Normandy
  – 1066 and all that – Battle of Hastings
  – Wife – Matilda of Flanders
  – Bayeux Tapestry – commissioned by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux
  – Domesday book 1086

Tower of London
The Normans

• William II or William Rufus
  – Redfaced
  – Rebellion by Bishop Odo of Bayeux in favor of his brother Robert Curthose
  – Killed in hunting accident

• Henry I
  – Defeated his elder brother, Robert Curthose to unite the Norman possessions
  – Henry Beauclerc or the “Lion of Justice”

• The Anarchy: Stephen vs. Matilda
The Plantagenets

- Henry II or Henry FitzEmpress or Henry
  - Son of Geoffrey of Anjou and the Empress Matilda
  - Treaty of Wallingford
  - Married Eleanor of Aquitaine (widow of Louis VI, 2nd Crusade, Court of Love)
  - First to use the title King of England rather than King of the English
  - Angevian empire
  - Thomas à Becket
  - Founded Assizes – first move to trial by jury instead of trial by ordeal or combat
  - Rebellion of his sons
  - Mistress: Rosamund Cifford
• Richard I the Lionheart
  – Massacre of Jews
  – Third Crusade against Saladin
  – Spent only 6 months in England “I would have sold London if I could find a buyer.”
  – Married Berengaria of Navarre
  – Held captive by Holy Roman Emperor

• John Lackland or John Softsword
  – Worked with Philip Augustus of France against his brother
  – Then fought against his nephew, Arthur, and Philip and built navy – founding of Royal navy
  – Excommunicated by Innocent III
  – Magna Carta 1215 – Runnymede, barons led by Robert FitzWalter
  – Lost crown jewels

• Henry III
  – Son of King John and Isabella of Angoulême
  – Revolt of Simon de Montfort in the Second Barons’ War and was taken prisoner for a time
  – Inspired by Edward the Confessor and built up Westminster Abbey
• **Edward I or Longshanks**
  – Subdued Wales
  – Expelled Jews from England
  – Wars to extend control over Scotland, stole the Stone of Scone
  – William Wallace won at the battle of Stirling Bridge, but was defeated at the Battle of Falkirk

• **Edward II**
  – First Prince of Wales
  – Lost Battle of Bannockburn which led to Scottish independence
  – Had favorite - Piers Gaveston who was murdered by his barons
  – Later captured by his wife, Queen Isabella, and her lover, Roger Mortimer, and forced to abdicate, and then murdered.

• **Edward III**
  – Began Hundred Years’ War based on his mother’s claims, but French claimed Salic Law: victories at Crécy and Poitiers
  – Black Death > Statute of Labourers
  – Order of the Garter: *Honi soit qui mal y pense*
  – Burghers of Calais
Onset of the Wars of the Roses

- Richard II
  - Regency under John of Gaunt, Peasants Revolt
  - House of Lancaster

- Henry IV, Henry of Bolingbroke
  - Wars against Wales under Owen Glyndwr

- Henry V, Henry of Monmouth
  - Suppressed Lollards
  - First king to use English regularly
  - Battle of Agincourt
  - His widow, Catherine, remarried to Owen Tudor >Tudor line

- Henry VI
  - Bouts of insanity
  - Lost throne to Edward of York but his wife, Margaret won throne
  - Later died in captivity
House of York

• Edward IV
  – Warwick the Kingmaker
  – Victory at Tewksbury
  – Marriage to Elizabeth Woodville
  – Executed brother, George, Duke of Clarence in a butt of Malmsey wine

• Richard III
  – Claimed his nephews were illegitimate
  – Died at Battle of Bosworth Field
  – Last Plantagenet King
The Tudor Dynasty

- Henry VII
  - Claim through his mother, Margaret Beaufort
  - Married Elizabeth of York
  - Star Chamber
  - False claimants: Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck
  - Built up economy; “Morton’s Fork” tax collection
Henry VIII

- Field of the Cloth of Gold
- Cardinal Wolsey
- Reformation
- Dissolving the monasteries
- Pilgrimage of Grace

Catherine of Aragon
Anne Boleyn
Jane Seymour
Anne of Cleves
Catherine Howard
Catherine Parr
Heirs of Henry VIII

• Edward VI
  – Lord Protector – Edward Seymour
  – Religious reforms: Thomas Cranmer, Book of Common Prayer
  – Lady Jane Grey

• Mary I, Mary Tudor, Bloody Mary
  – Marriage to Philip II of Spain

• Elizabeth I
  – Elizabethan Religious Settlement
  – Mary Queen of Scots, Babington Plot
  – Spanish Armada
The Stuart Dynasty

• James I
  – Son of Mary Queen of Scots
  – Gunpowder Plot – Guy Fawkes
  – Addled Parliament – Divine Right of Kings
  – Favorite: George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham
  – King James Bible
  – *A Counterblaste to Tobacco*

• Charles I
  – Archbishop Laud
  – Personal Rule (Eleven Years’ Tyranny)
  – Bishops’ Wars
Oliver Cromwell and the English Civil War (1642 – 1651)

- Battles of Marston Moor, Naseby
- New Model Army
- Pride’s Purge
- Rump Parliament
- Massacre of Drogheda
- The Protectorate
The Restoration of the Stuarts

- Charles II
  - Second and Third Anglo Dutch Wars
  - Treaty of Dover with Louis XIV
  - Popish Plot (Titus Oates) and Exclusion Crisis
  - Birth of Whig and Tory Parties
  - Mistresses: Barbara Villiers, Lady Castlemaine; Nell Gwyn

- James II
  - Monmouth Rebellion
  - Wives: Anne Hyde and Mary of Modena
  - Glorious Revolution
    - Immortal Seven
    - Bill of Rights
The Last of the Stuarts

- William III and Mary II (William of Orange – Stadtholder)
  - Grand Pensionary Johan de Witt and the Act of Seclusion
  - Battle of the Boyne
  - Jacobite Revolts, Massacre of Glencoe
  - War of the Grand Alliance (9 Years War) > Treaty of Ryswick
  - War of the Spanish Succession > Treaty of Utrecht
  - Act of Settlement

- Anne
  - Act of Union
  - Prince George of Denmark
  - Sarah and John Churchill (Duke of Marlborough), Battle of Blenheim
  - Technically - last Queen of England and Queen of Scots and first Queen of Great Britain
Rulers of Great Britain

• House of Hanover
  – George I, George II, George III, George IV, William IV, Victoria

• House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha
  – Edward VII, George V

• House of Windsor
  – George V (WWI)
  – Edward VIII (abdication to marry Wallis Warfield Simpson)
  – George VI (WWII)
  – Elizabeth II