

## Highlights: Nineteenth-Century British Timeline

- 1719 Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
- 1773-1858 The East India Company (Inc.1600) governs Hindustan
- 1789 Storming of the Bastille begins French Revolution
- 1798 Wordsworth and Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads*  
Dorothy Wordsworth, *The Alfoxden Journal*
- 1800 Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*  
Second Edition of *Lyrical Ballads*; Wordsworth's Preface included
- 1800 Iron hand-press, impact on printing technology
- 1800-03 Dorothy Wordsworth, *The Grasmere Journal*
- 1807 Abolition of the slave trade  
Mechanization of paper making
- 1811 Regency begins (Prince of Wales acts for George III)
- 1814 First use of steam in printing
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo  
End of Napoleonic War  
Corn Law Passed
- 1817 Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria* (response to Wordsworth's Preface)
- 1818 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein***
- 1819 Birth of Victoria
- 1819 Peterloo Massacre
- 1822 Rudolph Ackermann publishes the *Forget Me Not*, the first English Annual
- 1825 Macaulay, *Essay on Milton*
- 1826 Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge
- 1828 Test and Corporation Acts Repealed  
First publication of the *Keepsake*, another annual
- 1828 Catholic Emancipation Act
- 1830 Lyell, *Principles of Geology*
- 1830 First Steam-powered railway
- 1832 The Reform Bill
- 1833 Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire  
Factory Act passed
- 1837 Accession of Queen Victoria (to 1901)
- 1838 People's Charter published  
Anti-Corn League founded  
First regular Atlantic steamship
- 1839 Photography established by Louis Daguerre and William Henry Fox Talbot
- 1840 Dickens, *Old Curiosity Shop* (serialized)**  
Percy Shelley, *A Defence of Poetry*
- 1842 Mudie's Circulating Library founded  
Copyright extended to 42 years or 7 yrs after dead
- 1843 Wordsworth Poet Laureate
- 1844 Factory Act (women and children)
- 1845 Repeal of the Corn Laws  
Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*
- 1845-50 Famine in Ireland
- 1846 Repeal of Corn Laws.  
Commercial telegraph service begins (patented 1837)
- 1847 Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*
- 1847 First operation using chloroform  
Ten Hours Act (limits working day)
- 1848 Irish uprisings  
The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood  
Revolutions through western Europe  
Public Health Act  
Christian Socialist Movement begins  
Gov't temporarily takes over telegraph system  
WH Smith sets up bookstalls in railway stations
- 1848 Queen's College founded (to instruct women)  
*Communist Manifesto* published (Marx)

- 1849 Bedford College for women established
- 1850 Tennyson, *In Memoriam*  
Tennyson Poet Laureate
- 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition
- 1854 The Crimean War (1854-56)
- 1854 London Working Men's College founded
- 1855 Abolition of Newspaper Tax  
*Daily Telegraph*, first mass circulation daily newspaper
- 1856 Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh***
- 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act
- 1857 The Indian Mutiny
- 1858 Victoria proclaims permanent British rule of India
- 1859 Darwin, *Origin of Species*
- 1860 Collins, *Woman in White***
- 1861 American Civil War (through 1865)
- 1865 Transatlantic cable opened  
antiseptic surgery  
**Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland***
- 1867 Karl Marx, *Das Kapital*  
The Second Reform Bill
- 1869 Girton College, Cambridge, admits women
- 1870 Franco-Prussian War (emergence of German as industrial world power)  
Education Act  
London linked to Bombay
- 1871 Darwin, *Descent of Man*  
**Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass***
- 1872 Secret Ballot adopted for elections
- 1876 Victoria proclaimed Empress of India  
**Carroll, *Hunting of the Snark***
- 1879 Incandescent lamp created (Edison & Swann)  
British Museum lights up
- 1880 Huxley, *Science and Culture*
- 1882 Arnold, *Literature and Science*
- 1884 The Third Reform Bill
- 1885 Radio invented
- 1886 Remington Typewriter Company establishes dealership in Britain
- 1886 Haggard, *King Solomon's Mines & She***  
Golden Jubilee  
"Bloody Sunday" (Socialist demonstration at Trafalgar Square)
- 1888 Kipling, *Plain Tales from the Hills*
- 1892 Internal combustion engine patented (Rudolf Diesel)
- 1895 X-ray created
- 1895 Wilde, "The Importance of Being Earnest," performed  
Wilde arrested, begins Trials of Oscar Wilde and enforcement of sodomy laws
- 1897 Victoria's Diamond Jubilee  
**Stoker, *Dracula***
- 1899-1902 Boer War
- 1901 Kipling, *Kim*  
Death of Victoria
- 1902 Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
- 1903 First powered flight by the Wright brothers