1688-1750

1680 1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840

* Glorious Revolution, 1688, replaces Catholic James II with Protestant William of Orange and Queen Mary
  * Anne Stuart becomes Queen Anne
  * Union of England and Scotland, 1707
  * Pope, *Essay On Criticism*, 1711
  * Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*, 1712
  * Queen Anne dies, George I Hanover becomes king, 1714
  * Jacobite Rebellion, 1715 ("Jacobite" means "followers of James"; they advocated the restoration James II's line to the throne)
    * Sir Robert Walpole takes power (as Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Treasury), 1722
    * George I dies, George II becomes king, 1727
      * Thomson, *The Seasons*, 1730
      * Walpole becomes "Prime Minister" (not the official title until 1905), 1730
        * Walpole resigns, 1742
        * Pope dies, 1744
        * Swift dies, 1745
        * Jacobite Rebellion, 1745, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie the English Monarchy
          * Battle of Culloden, 1746, a rout for the English, ends the Jacobite Rebellion and extinguishes realistic Jacobite hopes forever
            * Thomas Gray, "Ode On a Distant Prospect of Eton College," 1747
1750-1770

1750  1760  1770  1780  1790  1800  1810  1820  1830  1840  1850  1860  1870  1880  1890  1900

* Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Church-Yard," 1752
* England solidifies control of India (over France), 1754
* Seven Years' War (with France) begins, 1756
* William Blake born November 28, 1757
* William Pitt the Elder (Earl of Chatham) becomes Prime Minister (his two ministries span 1757-61, 1766-68), 1757
* England takes political as well as economic control of India, 1758
* Edward Young, *Conjectures on Original Composition*, 1759
* Robert Burns born January 25, 1759
* Conventional date beginning the first "Industrial Revolution," 1760
* George II dies, George III becomes King, 1760
* Pitt resigns, ending his first of two terms, 1761
* Seven Years' War ends, 1763; the treaty with France gives back some gains, but the British Empire has still added huge gains
* Stamp Act taxes American colonies, 1765
  * James Watt invents and patents the steam engine, 1769
1770-1790

1750  1760  1770  1780  1790  1800  1810  1820  1830  1840  1850  1860  1870  1880  1890  1900

* Lord North becomes prime minister, 1770, to remain in office until 1782
* Wordsworth born April 7, 1770
* Gray dies, 1771
* Coleridge born, 1772
* Boston Tea Party, 1773
  * War with American Colonies begins, 1775
* Jane Austen born, 1775
* American Declaration of Independence, 1776
* War with Spain, 1779
  * Gordon Riots, June 1780, as a mob takes over London in response to a relief measure for Roman Catholics
  * North ministry falls, 1782
* End of American War of Independence, 1782
* Fox-North Coalition falls, Pitt the Younger takes over as Prime Minister, 1783
* Romantic Movement begins, according to some accounts, 1785
* Robert Burns, *Poems, Chiefly In the Scottish Dialect*, 1786
  * U.S. Constitution signed, 1787
* The Regency Crisis, 1788, as George III's mental illness causes political turmoil
* Byron born January 22, 1788
  * French Revolution Begins, 1789 (Bastille falls on July 14)
1790-1795

1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940

* Thomas Paine, *Rights of Man* part I, 1791
* Foundation of United Irishmen, a group instrumental in the Rebellion of 1798, in Belfast and Dublin
* Freedom of the press restricted in Britain, 1792
* Shelley born, August 4, 1792
* Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, 1792
* Girondins come to power in France, advocating spread of revolution throughout Europe, and the monarchy is overthrown, 1792
* George III issues a Royal Proclamation against seditions writings; Paine charged with sedition and *Rights of Man* banned, 1792
* Paine tried *in absentia* and condemned to death, December 1792
* The Terror, 1793, causes, well, terror in France and alarm in England
* Charlotte Smith, *The Emigrants*, 1793
* England Declares War on France, 1793
* William Godwin, *Political Justice*, 1793, a longer and more philosophical radical work than Paine's *Rights of Man*
* Scottish Treason Trials, 1793, with "United Scotsmen" Muir and Palmer sentenced to exile in Botany Bay (and likely death)
* Felicia Browne (Hemans) born September 25, 1793
* British Treason Trials, 1794, in which a jury acquits three radical writers
* Habeas Corpus suspended, 1794, allowing radicals to be imprisoned without being charged
* Coleridge and Robert Southey plan the Pantisocracy, a polity to be established in Pennsylvania without private property, 1794
* "The Famine Year," 1795
* Wordsworth and Coleridge meet, September 1795
* Keats born October 31, 1795
* George III's carriage attacked by a mob shouting "Bread! Peace! No Pitt", 1795
* Pitt introduces the "Two Bills," or "Gagging Acts" outlawing mass meetings and political lectures; in spite of mass protests, they become law in December, 1795
1796-1800

* Pitt's "Reign of Terror": more treason trials, emigration of leading radicals, 1796
* Irishman Theobald Wolfe Tone goes to France to seek French aid in an armed Irish rebellion, 1796
* House of Commons narrowly defeats a bill for the abolition of the slave trade, one of the leading causes of the period, 1796
* Burns dies, 1796
* Insurrection Act in Ireland, imposing curfews, arms searches, and the death penalty for oath-taking, 1796
* Napoleon Bonaparte wins key victories for France in Italy
* Godwin and Wollstonecraft marry, 1797
* 4,000 troops disperse an illegal meeting of the radical London Corresponding Society, 1797
* Mary Godwin (later Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley) born September 10, 1797; Wollstonecraft dies because of complications
* Bonaparte's campaigns in Egypt and the Middle East, including the Battle of the Nile, 1798
* *Lyrical Ballads*, Volume I, published anonymously, 1798 (including "Tintern Abbey" describing his visit there on July 13)
* The Irish Rebellion, 1798: approximately 100,000 peasants revolt, with temporary success; about 25,000 die
* Wolfe Tone arrested and commits suicide in prison, November 1798
* More suppression of Corresponding Society, Combination Acts against unionization, 1799
* Pitt advocated union between England and Ireland, 1799
* Bonaparte's coup: Napoleon overthrows the Directory, becomes the First Consul of France, 1799
  * Act of Union of England and Ireland, 1800
  * Second edition of *Lyrical Ballads*, now with (only) Wordsworth's name in two volumes with the famous Preface, 1800