

The National CV 2018

'Applying for an Independent Future'

Name: **Britain**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, the UK

Age: **8,000 years an island**

Everyone else is 'overseas' – since the ice melted that covered most of Britain during the Ice Age; sea levels rose, cutting off the Continent

Capital city: **London**

One of the world's oldest capitals; the Greenwich Meridian is 0° longitude; this is the central line of reference for measuring time anywhere on Earth and, along with the equator, location

Family members: England, Scotland & Wales are parts of the island known as Great Britain (named to contrast with 'Lesser Britain', on the opposite shore to the south, now known as Brittany); **Northern Ireland** is another part of the island group known as the British Isles, which is made up of more than 1,000 islands

Overarching statement: Britain has made the most disproportionate contribution to civilisation of anywhere on Earth, whilst representing less than 0.2% of the world's land and having under 1% of its people at any given time; Britain launched the modern world (constitutional monarchy & parliamentary democracy, science, Age of Reason, industry, second agricultural revolution) and has made many other pioneering contributions (TV, jet engine, antibiotics, World Wide Web, English language); the British are *The Influential Islanders* whose history and destiny are calling them to 'Apply for an Independent Future'

Contact details: www.thenationalecv.org.uk

To find out more about any of the items on this CV, consult The National CVpedia of Britain at www.thenationalecv.org.uk. We thank our gracious sponsors for their support. All views are those of The National CV Group



Summary – Britain has given the world:

Megalithic Culture (3800-1500 BC), started before Sumer & Ancient Egypt

Tin to harden copper for tools & weapons in the Bronze Age (2500-750 BC)

Druidism (BC) & **Roman Empire**

Christianised by Helen of Britain & her son Constantine the Great (AD 300s)

Wool: AD 700s-1500s, the Middle Ages

Writing standards: Alcuin of York, AD 789

Common law (880s), **trial by jury** (1166), **habeas corpus** (1305)

Constitutional monarchy & parliamentary democracy (1600s); reigning, Elizabeth II

Modern science (Royal Society, 1660)

Age of Reason (1680s & 1700s)

Coal & manufactured goods after the

Industrial Revolution, which started in Britain c1750; Great Exhibition, 1851

War heroes: Arthur of the Britons, Richard the Lionheart, Henry V, Marlborough, Nelson, Wellington, Churchill; fighting tyranny with Allies

Inventions: pencil, dairy ice cream, steam engine, vaccination, postage stamp, jet engine, antibiotics, milk chocolate, sandwich, business suit, modern novel

Ideas: liberty, gravity, evolution, liberal economics, anti-slavery, medical leaps (e.g. scurvy, sanitation, asepsis, nursing), maths symbols (=, x, π), Greenwich Meridian, organised sport, the weekend, names like 'Easter', 'USA' & 'Big Bang'

Globalisation: Britain linked up the world (late 1800s) when she was the first global superpower (with history's most extensive empire) & made crucial contributions to the second link-up (1990s), e.g. packet switching, World Wide Web, English

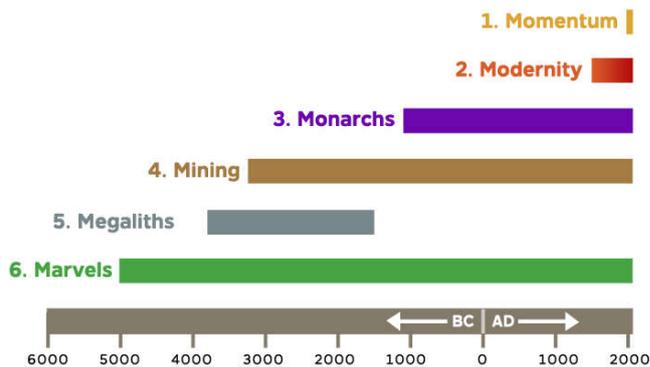
Legends: Giants, St George & the Dragon, Lady Godiva, King Arthur, Robin Hood

Culture: Chaucer, Shakespeare, Austen, Burns, Dickens, Elgar, Constable, Turner; genre & children's fiction, films/TV, pop, art

English as the first world language

'This sceptred isle, this green and pleasant land of hope and glory'

The Influential Islanders



1. Momentum HM Queen (world's longest serving head of state); armed forces in action; Higgs boson & myriad other science finds; fun (Downton Abbey, Harry Potter, Wallace & Gromit, 007, Beatles, Red Nose Day); firsts (stem cell bank, solo Pacific oarsman, supersonic car, personal digital assistant, balloon circumnavigation, clockwork radio, bagless vacuum cleaner, World Wide Web, genetic profiling & genomic decoding, cloned mammal – Dolly the sheep – privatisation, National CV); sporting triumphs (Football World Cup 1966, Rugby World Cup 2003, 29 & 27 golds at London 2012 & Rio 2016 Olympics, with record medal haul at Winter Olympics 2018); traditional values (freedom, democracy, tolerance, fair play, empiricism, individualism & originality, civility, seeing the funny side of things & looking outwards as part of a global destiny)

2. Modernity Britain launched the modern world through (1) science (gravity, atomic theory, evolution, electromagnetism), (2) industry, (3) thinking (the Age of Reason) & (4) agriculture; she (5) linked up the world (globalisation) and gave great ideas about (6) freedom & democracy and (7) humanitarianism & health; also, Britain has been influential through (8) six great wars won, (9) the British Empire (450 years from late 1400s; maritime, trading, liberal), (10) language & culture, (11) invention of modern sport & (12) as a hot spot for firsts (car, 1711, dynamo, 1831, penicillin, 1928)

3. Monarchs World's oldest monarchy; 3,000-year history, ~140 kings & queens, representing extraordinary continuity; ancient tradition is of mixed government of regal and democratic; now, a constitutional monarch within a parliamentary democracy; some nations have not allowed women to rule, but Britain has proudest tradition of queens anywhere, to Elizabeth II – today's most Influential Islander – and is personified by a goddess, Britannia

4. Mining Longest tradition anywhere of extracting riches from the Earth; Britain was 'Tin Island' in the Bronze Age; copper, the other component of bronze, has also been mined since remote antiquity; pioneered extraction of salt from seawater & deep mines; graphite (for pencils); coal & iron for the industrial revolution, which started in Britain; North Sea oil & gas; recently, Northern Irish gold, Yorkshire potash, Devonian tungsten

5. Megaliths 'Great stones' for burial chambers & standing stones; full-on Megalithic Culture by 3500 BC, before Sumer & Ancient Egypt; Britain is a fabulously ancient land; unique chalk hill figures; island had been reinhabited after Ice Age (ended c8000 BC); of ethnic British genes, 2/3rd relate to this founder population

6. Marvels Unique flood story (Welsh Triads); home of Druidism (literate BC); birth of Christendom (Constantine the Great, half British, decreed Sunday holy); female pope (Joan); Domesday Book (1086); cathedrals; wool trade; woollen business suit (c1860); week-end (Robert Walpole, 1700s); Uranus found (1781); Scotch whisky; 1st bottled beer & sparkling wine; dairy ice cream; stilton, cheddar; fine wine appreciation; milk chocolate; sandwich; Western curries; pubs & beer; fish 'n' chips; roast lunch, proper puddings; cup of tea

2016 EU Referendum: Brexit 2019 **Key dates**

2015 800th anniversary Magna Carta

2001 Human genome decoded, 31% in UK

1990s Second globalisation; WWW (1989, UK)

1982 Falklands War won; Margaret Thatcher PM

1973 Britain enters EU (see above, 2016)

1953 DNA structure solved in UK; Elizabeth II

1939-45 WWII won; Winston Churchill; first functional computer, Colossus; George VI

1925 Television invented in Britain (J L Baird)

1918 British women gain vote

1914-18 WWI won; Lloyd George; George V

1880-1914 First globalisation (railways, iron steamships, telegraph); Victoria, Edward VII

1859 Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species*

1833 Slavery abolished in British Empire

1803-15 Napoleon vanquished (Trafalgar, 1805, Waterloo, 1815); George III (lost US in 1776)

1776 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*

1759 Best-ever year for British arms; wins in North America, India & Europe; George II

c1750 Industrial Revolution starts in Britain

1733 Invention of flying shuttle (John Kay)

1712 Newcomen steam engine, refined Watt 1768

1709 Smelting iron with coke (Abraham Darby)

1701-14 War of the Spanish Succession won; Blenheim, 1704; Marlborough; Anne

1700s Age of Reason (the Enlightenment)

1690 John Locke describes rights to life, liberty & property; rulers should serve the people

1688 Glorious Revolution; William & Mary; Bill of Rights, 1689

1687 Isaac Newton, *Principia* (laws of motion)

1670 Juries don't need to convict or say why

1666 Great Fire of London; Charles II

1660 Royal Society founded; modern science

1642-51 English Civil War; Charles I beheaded as traitor, 1649; republic under Cromwell

1640 Star Chamber abolished as unjust; accused's right to silence affirmed

1564-1616 William Shakespeare; *Holinshed's Chronicles*; Guy Fawkes (1605); Bible (1611)

1588 Spanish Armada defeated, Elizabeth I

1534 Protestant Reformation, Henry VIII

1455-85 Wars of Roses; Richard III killed 1485

1415 Agincourt won by Henry V, during Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)

1381 Peasants' Revolt; Wat Tyler & Richard II

1348 Black Death; Edward III; Order of Garter

1200s Science based on evidence; Roger Bacon & other proto-scientists; Henry III, Edward I

1265 Elected parliament; Simon de Montfort

1215 Magna Carta; John

1166 Trial by jury; Henry II

1102 Slavery outlawed in England; Henry I

1066 Battle of Hastings, William beat Harold

973 Coronation Oath, pledging justice; Edgar

880s Common law; Alfred the Great

789 Alcuin of York standardises writing

c670 *Tysilio Chronicle* started by monk Tysilio

55 BC – AD 51 Britons resist Romans, then in Roman Empire to AD 410; Boudicca, AD 60

390 BC Sack of Rome by Brennus of Britain

c420 BC Molmutine Laws; Molmutius

c1100 BC Brutus the Trojan names island 'Britain' & founds London; traditional tale

2500-750 BC Bronze Age Cornish tin

3800-1500 BC Megalithic monuments erected

c6000 BC Britain becomes an island