

Chronology

HISTORY AND CULTURE		LITERATURE
1819	Queen Victoria born	
1824	<i>Westminster Review</i> founded	
1829		
1830	Passenger railway line opens between Liverpool and Manchester <i>Fraser's Magazine</i> founded Charles Lyell, <i>Principles of Geology</i> (–1833)	Thomas Carlyle, 'Signs of the Times' Edward Bulwer, <i>Paul Clifford</i> Alfred, Lord Tennyson, <i>Poems, Chiefly Lyrical</i>
1831	Reform Bill introduced Cholera outbreak in England British Association for the Advancement of Science founded	John Stuart Mill, 'The Spirit of the Age' Robert Surtees, <i>Jorrock's Jaunts and Jollities</i> (–1834)
1832	First Reform Act <i>Chambers' Edinburgh Journal</i> and <i>Penny Magazine</i> (–1837) begin Harriet Martineau, <i>Illustrations of Political Economy</i> (–1834)	
1833	Factory Reform Act First of John Henry Newman's <i>Tracts for the Times</i> issued Abolition of Slavery Act	
1833	<i>Penny Cyclopaedia</i> (–1843)	Carlyle, <i>Sartor Resartus</i> (–1834)
1834	Poor Law Amendment Act	
1836		Charles Dickens, <i>Sketches by Boz; The Pickwick Papers</i> (–1837)
1837	Victoria succeeds to throne Smallpox epidemic Brunel, Great Western Railway	Carlyle, <i>The French Revolution</i> Dickens, <i>Oliver Twist</i> (–1838)
1838	People's Charter issued Anti-Corn Law League formed	Dickens, <i>Nicholas Nickleby</i>
1839	Charles Darwin, <i>The Voyage of the Beagle</i> Sarah Stickney Ellis, <i>The Women of England: Their Social Duties and Domestic Habits</i>	
1840	Victoria marries Albert Penny post established	Dickens, <i>The Old Curiosity Shop</i> Frances Trollope, <i>Michael Armstrong, Factory Boy</i>
1841	Peel becomes Prime Minister William Henry Fox Talbot awarded patent for calotype process (positive/negative photographic process) <i>Punch</i> begins	
1842	Mudie's Lending Library opens Chadwick's <i>Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population</i> Poor Law renewed <i>Illustrated London News</i> begins Copyright Act	Tennyson, <i>Poems</i> (2 vols.) Robert Browning, <i>Dramatic Lyrics</i>
1843	Theatre Regulation Act	Dickens, <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Carlyle, <i>Past and Present</i> John Ruskin, <i>Modern Painters</i> (vol. 1) Wordsworth named Poet Laureate

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1844	Factory Act (women and children) Railway mania Robert Chambers, <i>Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation</i> J. M. W. Turner, <i>Rain, Steam and Speed – the Great Western Railway</i> Henry Fox Talbot, <i>The Pencil of Nature</i>	Benjamin Disraeli, <i>Coningsby, or The New Generation</i>
1845	Onset of the Irish potato famine	Disraeli, <i>Sybil, or The Two Nations</i> Dickens, <i>Dombey and Son</i> (–1848) George Eliot translates <i>Das Leben Jesu</i>
1846	Corn Laws repealed Lord John Russell, Prime Minister	
1847	Ten Hours' Factory Act	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> Emily Brontë, <i>Wuthering Heights</i> Anne Brontë, <i>Agnes Grey</i> Disraeli, <i>Tancred</i> W. M. Thackeray, <i>Vanity Fair</i> (–1848)
1848	Chartist rebellion Marx and Engels, <i>Communist Manifesto</i> Cholera epidemic Public Health Act Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood founded	Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>Mary Barton</i> John Henry Newman, <i>Loss and Gain</i>
1849	Henry Mayhew, <i>London Labour and the London Poor</i> (series begun in <i>Morning Chronicle</i>) Bedford College for Women founded	Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i> (–1850)
1850	Public Libraries Act	Tennyson named Poet Laureate Tennyson, <i>In Memoriam</i> Dickens, <i>Household Words</i> founded <i>The Germ</i> founded (literary magazine of the Pre-Raphaelites) Elizabeth Barrett Browning, <i>Sonnets from the Portuguese</i> Charlotte Brontë, <i>Shirley</i> Charles Kingsley, <i>Alton Locke</i>
1851	Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace Harriet Taylor Mill, <i>The Enfranchisement of Women</i>	Gaskell, <i>Cranford</i> Ruskin, <i>The Stones of Venice</i>
1852		Dickens, <i>Bleak House</i> (–1853)
1853	Cholera epidemic	Matthew Arnold, <i>Poems</i> Charlotte Brontë, <i>Villette</i> Charlotte Yonge, <i>Heir of Redclyffe</i>
1854	Onset of Crimean War	Coventry Patmore, <i>The Angel in the House</i> Dickens, <i>Hard Times</i> Gaskell, <i>North and South</i> (–1855)
1855	<i>Daily Telegraph</i> Repeal of stamp duty on newspapers	Browning, <i>Men and Women</i> Dickens, <i>Little Dorrit</i> (–1857)
1856	First exhibition of Holman Hunt's <i>The Scapegoat</i>	Barrett Browning, <i>Aurora Leigh</i> (post-dated 1857 on title page) Dinah M. Craik, <i>John Halifax, Gentleman</i>
1857	Indian Mutiny Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act David Livingstone, <i>Missionary Travels and Researches In South Africa</i> Social Science Association founded	Anthony Trollope, <i>Barchester Towers</i> Mary Seacole, <i>The Wonderful Adventures of Mary Seacole in Many Lands</i> George Eliot, <i>Scenes of Clerical Life</i> Thomas Hughes, <i>Tom Brown's Schooldays</i>
1858	Medical Act	Robert Ballantyne, <i>Coral Island</i> <i>English Woman's Journal</i> begins

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1859	Darwin's <i>On The Origin of Species</i>	Wilkie Collins, <i>The Woman in White</i> Samuel Smiles, <i>Self-Help</i> Eliot, <i>Adam Bede</i> Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> Dickens, <i>All the Year Round</i> founded Dickens, <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> David Masson, <i>British Novelists and their Styles</i>
1860	<i>Cornhill Magazine</i> begins	Eliot, <i>The Mill on the Floss</i> Ruskin, essays published in the <i>Cornhill</i> , later collected as <i>Unto This Last</i> (1862) Dickens, <i>Great Expectations</i> (–1861)
1861	Isabella Beeton's <i>Book of Household Management</i> <i>Hymns Ancient and Modern</i> Prince Albert dies	Mrs Henry Wood, <i>East Lynne</i> Eliot, <i>Silas Marner</i>
1862		Mary Braddon, <i>Lady Audley's Secret</i> Collins, <i>No Name</i> Christina Rossetti, 'Goblin Market' Tennyson, <i>Idylls of the King</i>
1863	World's first underground railway, the steam-operated Metropolitan line, opens in London Charles Lyell, <i>Antiquity of Man</i> Thomas Henry Huxley, <i>Man's Place in Nature</i>	Charles Reade, <i>Hard Cash</i> Kingsley, <i>The Water-Babies</i> Thackeray, <i>The Roundabout Papers</i>
1864	First Contagious Diseases Act	John Henry Newman, <i>Apologia Pro Vita Sua</i> Dickens, <i>Our Mutual Friend</i> (–1865) Tennyson, <i>Idylls of the Hearth</i> Trollope, <i>Can You Forgive Her?</i> (–1865)
1865	Women's Suffrage Campaign Transatlantic cable laid Joseph Lister establishes antiseptic surgery St Pancras railway station completed	Lewis Carroll, <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> Arnold, <i>Essays in Criticism (First Series)</i>
1866	Cholera epidemic	Ruskin, <i>The Crown of Wild Olives</i> Algernon Charles Swinburne, <i>Poems and Ballads</i> Eliot, <i>Felix Holt</i>
1867	Second Reform Act Marx, <i>Das Kapital</i> Fenian Rising in Ireland	Hesba Stretton, <i>Jessica's First Prayer</i>
1868	Disraeli, Prime Minister (Feb.) Gladstone, Prime Minister (Dec.) Huxley, <i>On the Physical Basis of Life</i> (lecture)	Eliza Linn Linton, <i>The Girl of the Period</i> Browning, <i>The Ring and the Book</i> (–1869) Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i>
1869	Girton College, Cambridge, founded <i>The Graphic</i> founded Suez Canal opened John Stuart Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i>	Arnold, <i>Culture and Anarchy</i> R. D. Blackmore, <i>Lorna Doone</i>
1870	First Married Women's Property Act Forster's Education Act Herbert Spencer, <i>Principles of Psychology</i>	Dickens, <i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i>
1871	Trade Union Act Darwin, <i>The Descent of Man</i> Stanley meets Livingstone	Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> (–1872)
1872	Darwin, <i>The Expression of Emotions in Man</i>	Thomas Hardy, <i>Under the Greenwood Tree</i> Samuel Butler, <i>Erewhon</i> George MacDonald, <i>The Princess and the Goblin</i>
1873		Mill, <i>Autobiography</i> Walter Pater, <i>Studies in the Renaissance</i>
1874	Disraeli, Prime Minister	Hardy, <i>Far From the Madding Crowd</i> James Thomson, 'The City of Dreadful Night'

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1876	Telephone invented Queen Victoria named Empress of India	Eliot, <i>Daniel Deronda</i>
1877		Harriet Martineau, <i>Autobiography</i> Hardy, <i>The Return of the Native</i>
1878	Whistler vs Ruskin libel trial Gilbert and Sullivan, <i>HMS Pinafore</i>	Browning, <i>Dramatic Idylls</i>
1879	Electric lightbulb invented	
1880	Gladstone, Prime Minister Cecil Rhodes elected to Cape Parliament	
1881	First Anglo-Boer War	Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>Treasure Island</i> Mark Rutherford, <i>Autobiography of Mark Rutherford</i>
1882	Married Women's Property Act	
1883	Fabian Society founded	Olive Schreiner, <i>The Story of an African Farm</i> John Addington Symonds, <i>A Problem in Greek Ethics</i>
1884	Third Reform Act	Ruskin, <i>Storm Cloud of the Nineteenth-Century</i>
1885	Salisbury, Prime Minister	Rider Haggard, <i>King Solomon's Mines</i> Pater, <i>Marius the Epicurean</i>
1886	Gladstone, Prime Minister (Feb.) Salisbury, Prime Minister (Aug.) Repeal of Contagious Diseases Acts	Stevenson, <i>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> Hardy, <i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i>
1887	Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee	Conan Doyle, <i>A Study in Scarlet</i> Haggard, <i>Allan Quatermain</i> Pater, <i>Imaginary Portraits</i>
1888	Jack the Ripper murders five women in London Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society	Hardy, <i>Wessex Tales</i> Mary Augusta Ward, <i>Robert Elsmere</i> Arnold, <i>Essays in Criticism</i> (Second Series) Rudyard Kipling, <i>Plain Tales from the Hills</i>
1889		George Gissing, <i>The Nether World</i>
1890	William Booth, <i>In Darkest England and the Way Out</i> Moving-picture shows appear William James, <i>Principles of Psychology</i> The electrically operated City and South London line becomes world's first deep-tunnel ('tube') underground railway Sir James Frazer, <i>The Golden Bough</i> (first two vols.; complete 13 vols., –1915)	William Morris, <i>News from Nowhere</i> Oscar Wilde, <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>
1891	William Morris, Kelmscott Press	Gissing, <i>New Grub Street</i>
1892		Wilde, <i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i>
1893	Independent Labour Party formed	George Bernard Shaw, <i>Mrs Warren's Profession</i> (first produced 1902) Wilde, <i>A Woman of No Importance</i>
1894		<i>The Yellow Book</i> begins
1895	Oscar Wilde arrested and imprisoned for homosexuality	Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest: An Ideal Husband</i> Hardy, <i>Jude the Obscure</i>
1897	Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee	Bram Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> Mona Caird, <i>The Morality of Marriage</i>
1898		Hardy, <i>Wessex Poems</i>
1899	Irish Literary Theatre founded Second Anglo-Boer War (–1902)	
1901	Death of Queen Victoria Marconi's transatlantic wireless radio message	Kipling, <i>Kim</i>
1902		Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i>
1903		Butler, <i>The Way of All Flesh</i>
1907		Edmund Gosse, <i>Father and Son</i>