The British Isles

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn about British History.
Test your listening and reading comprehension.
Discuss and exchange ideas.
Practice using the past tense and revise the simple past and present perfect.

Activity One - **W**hat do you know about the British Isles?
With your partner ask and answer these quiz questions to see how much you know!



1. The British Isles are:

a. England, Scotland and Wales
b. Great Britain, Ireland and over 6000 other small islands
c. Great Britain and Northern Ireland

2. Wales is in the:
a. North of England
b. West of England
c. East of England

3. What is the total population of the British Isles?

a. 55 million
b. 40 million
c. Over 68 million

Activity Two - You have Two minutes to draw a map of the British Isles with your team and label it with as many cities as you can! Let the countdown begin!

Activity Three **-** Comprehension on the history of the British Isles.

Listen to the video for key information and answer the following questions. Don't worry if you don't understand everything!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPew6lA4mLc

1. Which different parts of the British Isles do we see in the video?
2. Where is the presenter at the beginning of the video?
3. What is good about the British Isles? List the qualities the presenter tells us. There are lots, so listen carefully!
4. How high is Ben Nevis?
5. How does the presenter describe the Isles of Scilly?
6. List the animals you see in the video.
7. At the end of the video, what does the presenter compare the British Isles to?

Activity Four: Read the text with your partner and put the PAST TENSES back into it correctly...

The history of Britain in Brief

Little is known about people inhabiting the British Isles in the pre-Celtic period (before 800 BC) Some monuments built by them PRESERVED 1 such as Stonehenge, ERECT 2 some time before 1000 BC.

The first Celtic tribes, COME 3 to the British isles between 800 & 700 BC. Two centuries later they FOLLOW 4 by the Brythons or ancient Britons after whom the country CALL 5 Britain.

The first Roman invasion LEAD 6 by Julius Caesar in 55 BC. But Britain CONQUER 7 *(not)* until some 90 years later, under Emperor Claudius, in 43 AD.

Although the Roman occupation of Britain LAST 8 nearly 400 years, it's effects were few. The people ADOPT 9 (not) the Latin language & so Latin did not displace Celtic.

In the middle of the 5th century, three Germanic tribes – The Angles, Saxons and Jute's INVADE 10 Britain from the continent. From the 8th century the Anglo-Saxons FACE Scandinavian invaders – the Danes and the Norsemen sometimes refereed to as Vikings – who OCCUPY 1 parts of Britain & MAKE 11 some permanent settlements. The Scandinavian invasions continued till the 11th century. The Anglo Saxon period can be characterised as a period of transition from a tribal to feudal organisation of society.

The period of feudalism START 12 around 1066 and LAST 13 to the 15th century. In this period the modern English nation and language COME 14 into being. It was a period of struggle for power between kings & between powerful nobles a period of frequent wars, bloodshed. But it was also a period in which the development of the wool trade and the early decline of feudalism PREPARE 15 the way for England's rise as a world power.

The period between 1485 and 1603 CALL 16 the 'Tudor' Period. It was a turning point in English history. England BECOME 17 one of the leading powers. The two famous rulers of the House of Tudor were. Henry VIII and Elisabeth I. The Elizabethan age PRODUCE 18 the world's greatest playwright William Shakespeare.

The first 40 years of the 17th century can be characterised as a period of growing conflict between the King and parliament, representing the interests of the bourgeosie. The conflict let to the civil war in the 1640 which RESULT 19 in the abolition of the monarchy and in Cromwell's military rule in the middle of the century. This period END 20 in the Glorious Revolution which MARK 21 the end of the English bourgeoise revolution.

In the period of 1688 to 1760 England definitely TAKE22 the lead in European commerce created the conditions necessary for the establishment of an empire and PREPARE23 the way for the industrial revolution.

Now let's discuss your answers. When do we use the SIMPLE PAST and when do we use the PRESENT PERFECT?

http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/presentperfect.html

Activity Five - **Wall Dictation** - change partners and see which pair can complete the wall dictation correctly in the least time.

British History from the Industrial Revolution.

During the Industrial Revolution (1760 – 1850) Britain became the first industrial power in the world, "the workshop of the world." The Anglo- French rivalry for world domination which had started in the previous period continued and culminated in the Napoleonic Wars (1803 – 1815).

The Victorian era which comprised the second half of the 19th century, called after queen Victoria, was a period in which Britain became the strongest world power: besides being the greatest financial and commercial power, the greatest sea power and the greatest colonial power. In was the era of the greatest colonial expansion, especially in Africa.

The 20th century is a period of the decline of Britain as a world power a period of crises of the two world wars, from which Britain emerged as a victor, but greatly weakened. It is characterised by the disintegration of Britain's colonial empire and the effort to adjust Britain to the new situation by joining the other developed capitalist countries of western Europe in EEC.

Activity Six - Let's learn some more from **Horrible Histories!** Watch the videos and answer the following questions -

1/ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVMj_bwQQ3Q

Which strange Tudor laws are revealed in this video?



2/ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbyBtiwAXX0
What do we learn about how people ate in Tudor times?

3/ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UueAyDBCnig

What do we learn about tudor hygiene?

Activity Seven - The Terrible Tudors!

(They were called the Tudors because Henry VII was otherwise known as Henry Tudor. Henry Tudor became Henry VII when he won the throne from King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. Elizabeth I didn't *marry and was queen by herself which was unusual for the time She also didn't have any children so when she died in 1603, the Tudor dynasty came to an end.* Henry VII (1485-1509) • Henry VIII (1509-1547) • Edward VI (1547-1553) • Lady Jane Grey (for nine days in 1553) • Mary I (1553-1558) • Elizabeth I (1558-1603).

Read these **strange facts about Tudor England** with your partner and then create a role play to illustrate one of them (a little like in the videos we just watched).



Strange facts about Tudor England

1. Many dishes were for show rather than eating for example a '*cockerice*' would be made by sewing the front half of a cockerel onto the back half of a baby pig before roasting.

2. Eating was an important part of life at court. One feast of Henry VIII went on for seven hours!

3. Tudor women, men and children in England drank beer, wine, sherry, mead and cider. Not because they were drunkards- because the water was so polluted it could not be drunk unless it was boiled!

4. A foul job was that Henry VIII employed somebody to wipe his own bottom called the groom of the stool!
5. Even though Henry VIII was a large man, he had a very high voice!

6. All the sewage of Cambridge was pumped straight into the river.This was also the case in London, and the smell in summer was disgusting.



Activity Eight - Here are some more fascinating history facts about Britain. Now make a news announcement, in the style of the BBC news, as if you were reporting on one of these events as it happened!

1. Captain Cook lost 41 of his 98 crew to scurvy (a lack of vitamin C) on his first voyage to the South Pacific in 1768. By 1795 the importance of eating citrus was realized, and lemon juice was issued on all British Navy ships.
2. The shortest war in history was between Zanzibar and the UK in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.
3. 1666 The Great Fire of London - the whole of medieval London was burned down and 80 000 people lost there homes.
4. Henry VI was only 6 months old when he was crowned king of England.
5. William the Conqueror ordered that everyone should go to bed at eight o'clock.
6. In 1945, a flock of starlings landed on the minute hand of Big Ben and put the time back by five minutes.

