



# British Dynasties

History Study Guide Version 3.1

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Dynasties are listed chronologically within each region. In this sheet, "Place" refers to the kingdom or polity with which the dynasty or house is primarily associated; "Period" refers to the approximate time during which the dynasty or house maintained active power; and "Founded" indicates the establishment of the dynasty or house as a ruling power, and not as a family.

Dynasty	Place, Period	Details
House of <b>Lancaster</b> or <b>Lancastrians</b>	England, 1300s-1400s	cadet branch of the Plantagenets, claiming descent from John of Gaunt; opposed the Yorks in the <b>Wars of the Roses</b> , using a red rose emblem; Henry IV deposed Richard II of York
House of <b>York</b>	England, 1400s	cadet branch of the Plantagenets; opposed the Lancasters in the <b>Wars of the Roses</b> , using a white rose emblem; their final king, Richard III, was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field
House of <b>Tudor</b>	England, 1400s-1600s	descended from the <b>Lancasters</b> ; founded by Henry VII when he defeated Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field, taking power at the end of the Wars of the Roses; <b>Henry VIII</b> participated with Francis I of France in the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and signed the <b>Act of Supremacy</b> to establish what became the Church of England so that he could divorce Catherine of Aragon, the first of his six wives; he was briefly succeeded by his sickly son with Jane Seymour, Edward VI; Edward was succeeded by <b>Mary I</b> , the daughter of Henry with Catherine of Aragon, who was nicknamed "Bloody Mary" for trying to return England to Catholicism; she was succeeded by <b>Elizabeth I</b> , the daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn; Elizabeth was nicknamed the "Virgin Queen" because she never married during her long reign, and was a patron of Shakespeare
House of <b>Stuart</b>	Scotland, 1300s-1600s England, 1600s-1700s	took power after the death of Elizabeth I, who had executed her Stuart cousin, <b>Mary, Queen of Scots</b> , after the discovery of the Babington Plot, an attempt to put Mary on the throne of England; founded in England by <b>James I and VI</b> (first of England and sixth of Scotland), who authorized the King James Bible and was targeted in the Gunpowder Plot; Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell beheaded <b>Charles I</b> , and his own government was overthrown by <b>Charles II</b> during the Restoration; <b>James II</b> was deposed by the <b>Glorious Revolution</b> and the reign of <b>William and Mary</b> (see "House of Orange-Nassau" on the European Dynasties Cheat Sheet), who were succeeded by <b>Anne</b>
House of <b>Hanover</b> or <b>Hanoverians</b>	England, 1700s-1900s	final monarch was <b>Victoria</b> ; her husband, Prince Albert, was from the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, which took over as ruling house after Victoria's death (see below); <b>George III</b> , known as the "mad king," reigned during the American Revolution, and was succeeded by the <b>Regency</b> of his son, George IV; George I took power from the Catholic Stuart line due to the Act of Settlement
House of <b>Windsor</b>	England, 1900s-Present	originated under Edward VII as the House of <b>Saxe-Coburg and Gotha</b> , and was renamed in 1917 by George V due to anti-German sentiments from World War I; current royal house of England, including <b>Elizabeth II</b> ; Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry the American divorcée Wallis Simpson