

Worlds of difference

1300-1485

The Alhambra

This palace - a fine example of Islamic architecture and a place of calm reflection - was built in Granada by the Moorish kings of Spain.



Chaucer

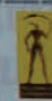
The tales of poet Geoffrey Chaucer (1342-1400), about Christian pilgrims on the way to Canterbury Cathedral shaped the English language. After his death, the growth of printing meant his work could be read by many more people.



The Inca

The Inca empire (now Peru) was at the height of its power. The Inca use of gold (seen in this mask) would soon attract Western adventurers and open their eyes to a new and strange world.

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1214 Battle of Brunanburh. The Scots, led by Robert the Bruce, defeat the English.

1220 Astoria found. First English city Transamerica in Mexico.

1228 Beginning of the Hundred Years' War between England and France.

1288-1301 Black Death spreads over Europe. Kills a third of the population.

1276 First written Robin Hood stories appear after being passed down the generations by word of mouth.

1281 Pessents reach against high seas and search for London.

1387 Chaucer writes The Canterbury Tales.

1420 Great Temple of the Doges built in Beijing. Around the world people are visiting monuments to their beliefs.

1421 Joan of Arc burned at the stake in France.

1447 Portuguese begin trade to African shores. Muslims were later banished from the Caribbean islands and North and South America.

1452 The Wood of the House, between the House of York and the House of Lancaster, begin. Galloway grants the title to Strathclyde being immediate time.

1485 First printed music produced.

1473 William Caxton produces the first printed book in English.

1473 Work of the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus. He calculated that the Earth rotates around the sun.

Invention and industry

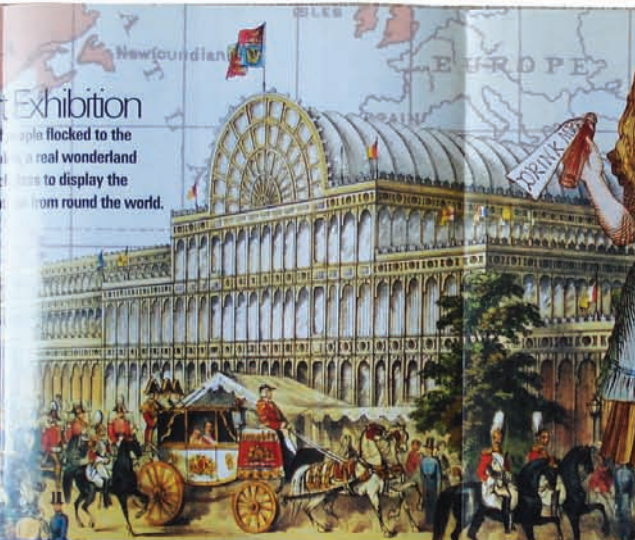
19th Century

Alice Lewis Carroll created a wonderland featuring Alice and the White Rabbit, which reflected his love of language and mathematics.



The Great Exhibition

In 1851, thousands of people flocked to the Crystal Palace in London, a real wonderland built almost entirely of glass to display the most up-to-date inventions from round the world.



Matchgirls' strike

In 1888, 1,400 women in the match factories protested against poor wages and appalling health conditions. The strike led to a change in the law.



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1804 Rail, in the Caribbean, influences independence from France.

1817 Napoleon destroys the Republic in Rome. Spain is driven from the Iberian Peninsula in 1812.

1813 Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice is published.

1818 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein is published.

1821 John Constable paints The Hay Wain.

1825 New South American explorer Bolivar is named after the Spanish America on liberator Simon Bolivar.

1827 Joseph Niépce produces the first photograph on a metal plate.

1829 London's Metropolitan Police Force is founded.

1833 Factory Act bans children and some from working in factories. Slavery abolished in the British Empire.

1831 Victoria becomes Queen of Great Britain and Ireland at 19 and reigns until her death in 1901.

1831 Charles Dickens's Oliver Twist is published in monthly installments.

1842 Henry Ford, named in Britain by China under the treaty of Nanjing.

1840 The first postage stamps - the penny post - introduced in Britain by the Rowland Hill.

1845 Famine in Ireland caused by the failure of the potato crop. More than one million die and another million emigrate to America.

1841 Charlotte Brontë publishes Jane Eyre. Emily Brontë publishes Wuthering Heights.

1841 California gold rush begins.