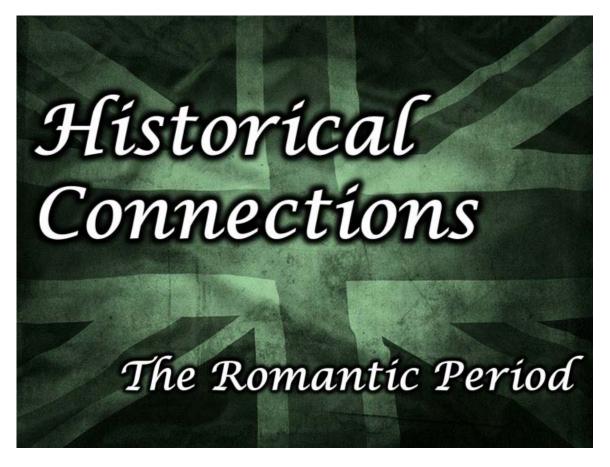
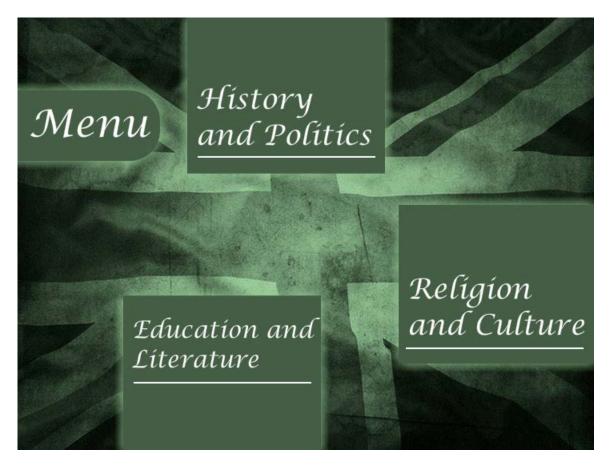
Introduction



Historical Connections to the Romantic Period



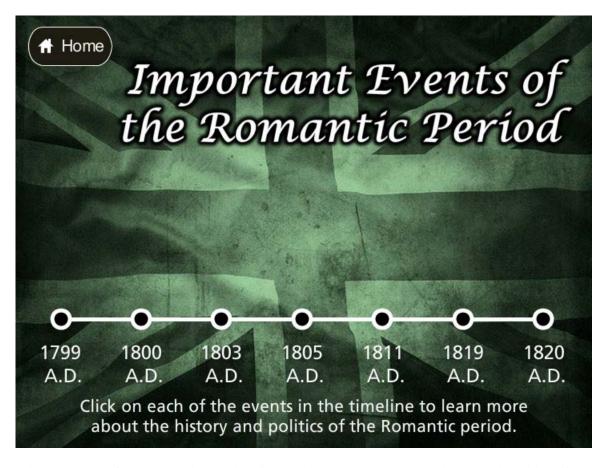
Main Menu



The Romantic period in Britain was witness to the Industrial Revolution, rebellion against injustice, and a reverence for nature. Learn more about this period by exploring the history and politics, religion and culture, and education and literature. Click on each of the menu items.



Important Events of the Romantic Period



Click on each of the events in the timeline to learn more about the history and politics of the Romantic period. Once you have viewed each of the events, click the home button to return to the main menu.



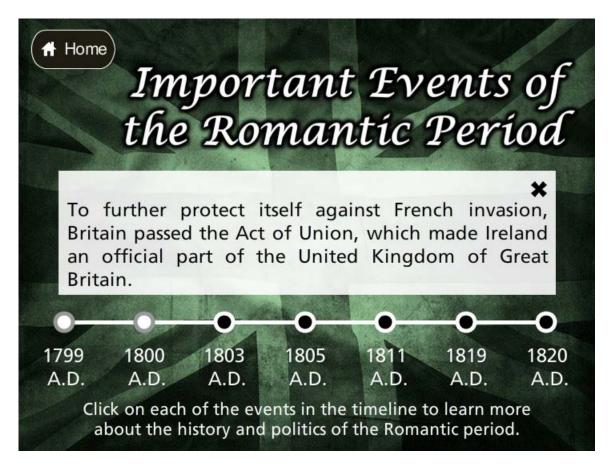
1799 A.D.



Political events in France had ramifications throughout Europe, especially for Britain. In 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte became a dictator of France and a formidable threat of invasion. Both the increasing armed conflict and the bloody Reign of Terror in France left British writers disillusioned.



1800 A.D.



To further protect itself against French invasion, Britain passed the Act of Union, which made Ireland an official part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain.



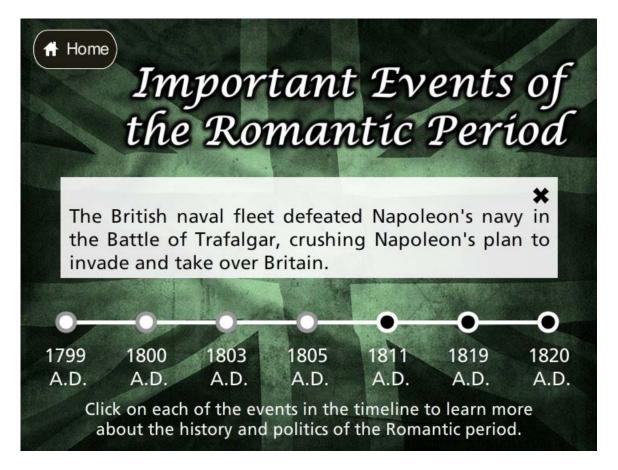
1803 A.D.



To fund his military campaigns, Napoleon sold French territories in North America to the U.S. government led by President Thomas Jefferson. The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States.



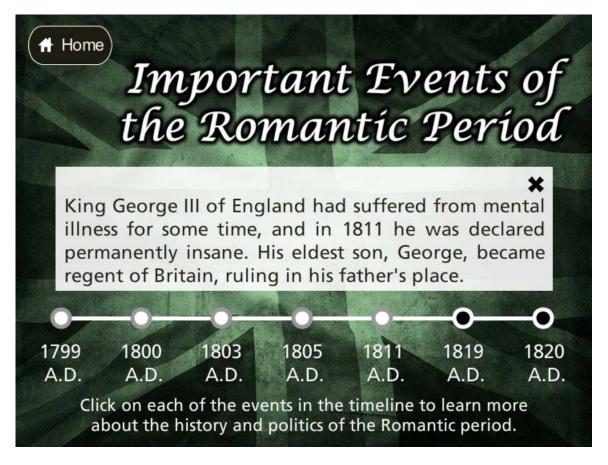
1805 A.D.



The British naval fleet defeated Napoleon's navy in the Battle of Trafalgar, crushing Napoleon's plan to invade and take over Britain.



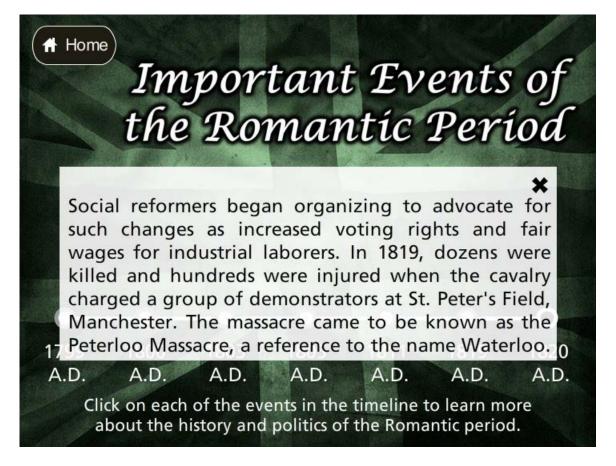
1811 A.D.



King George III of England had suffered from mental illness for some time, and in 1811 he was declared permanently insane. His eldest son, George, became regent of Britain, ruling in his father's place.



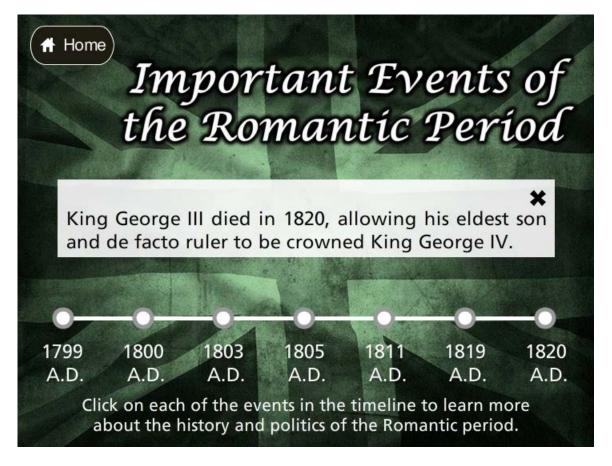
1819 A.D.



Social reformers began organizing to advocate for such changes as increased voting rights and fair wages for industrial laborers. In 1819, dozens were killed and hundreds were injured when the cavalry charged a group of demonstrators at St. Peter's Field, Manchester. The massacre came to be known as the Peterloo Massacre, a reference to the name Waterloo.



1820 A.D.



King George III died in 1820, allowing his eldest son and de facto ruler to be crowned King George IV.



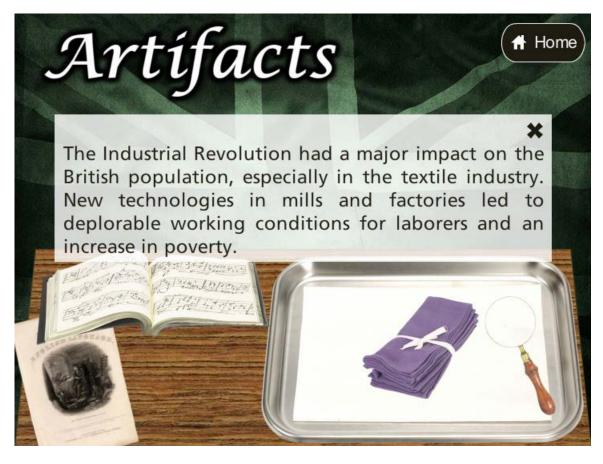
Artifacts



Drag and drop each of the cultural artifacts into the examination tray to learn more about the religion and culture of the Romantic period. Once you have examined each of the artifacts, click the home button to return to the main menu.



Textiles



The Industrial Revolution had a major impact on the British population, especially in the textile industry. New technologies in mills and factories led to deplorable working conditions for laborers and an increase in poverty.



Sheet Music



The most talented musical composers moved from performing for private aristocratic audiences to large middle-class audiences. The Romantic movement in music spanned the later works of Mozart to the masterpieces of Tchaikovsky. Beethoven was a famous German composer who planned to dedicate his Third Symphony *Eroica* (1803–1804) to Napoleon, until Napoleon decided to crown himself emperor.



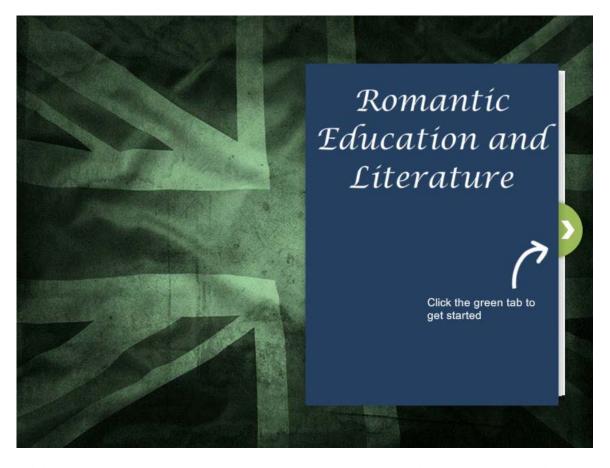
Dictionary



Once the U.S. gained independence from Britain after the American Revolution, the English language used in North America grew increasingly divergent from its British counterpart. This evolution can be seen in Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1828. This dictionary featured spellings such as *public* instead of *publick*, *color* instead of *colour*, and *theater* instead of *theatre*.



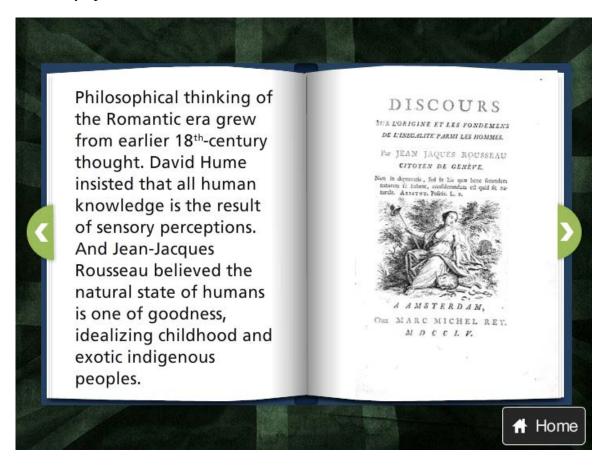
Education and Literature



Click the green tabs to move through the book and learn more about education and literature during the Romantic period. Once you have completed the book, click the home button to return to the main menu.



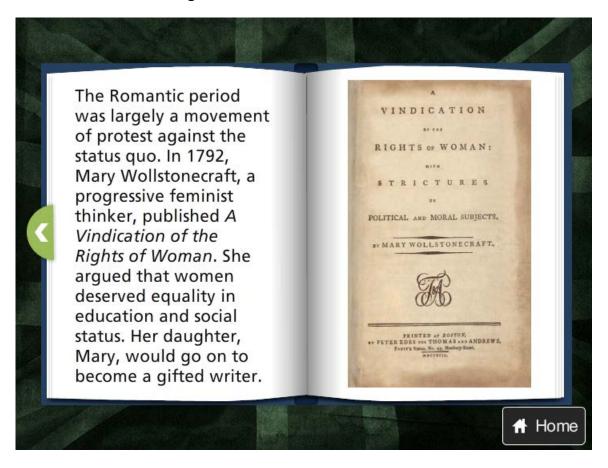
Philosophy



Philosophical thinking of the Romantic era grew from earlier 18th-century thought. David Hume insisted that all human knowledge is the result of sensory perceptions. And Jean-Jacques Rousseau believed the natural state of humans is one of goodness, idealizing childhood and exotic indigenous peoples.



A Vindication of the Rights of Woman



The Romantic period was largely a movement of protest against the status quo. In 1792, Mary Wollstonecraft, a progressive feminist thinker, published *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. She argued that women deserved equality in education and social status. Her daughter, Mary, would go on to become a gifted writer.

