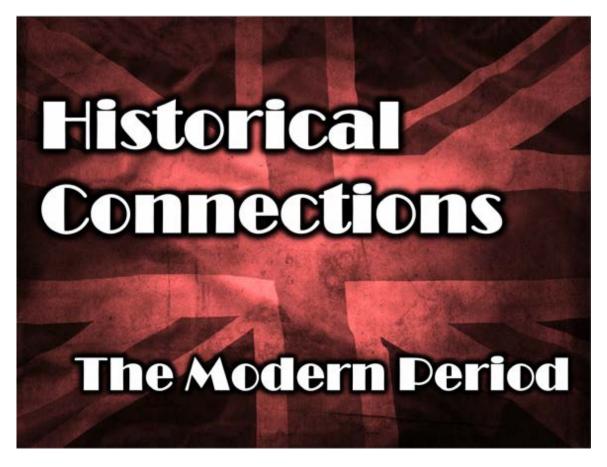
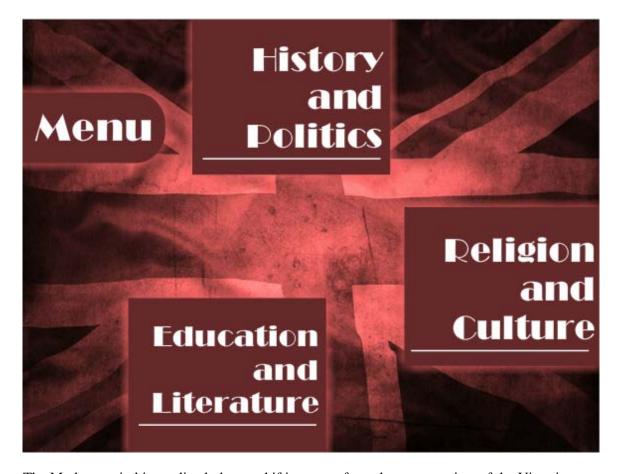
#### Introduction



Historical Connections to the Modern Period



#### Main Menu



The Modern period immediately began shifting away from the conservatism of the Victorian era. Additionally, the devastation of two world wars had an important impact on British culture and literature. 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 Modern Period



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



1914 A.D.



During World War I, the countries of Russia, France, and Britain were poised against Austria and Germany. Beginning with a dispute over control of Serbia, this war raged on until November 1918. Europe was literally and figuratively torn apart because of intense and bloody trench warfare. Nearly an entire generation of young men were killed, maimed, or traumatized by the war.



1921 A.D.



The Irish, who had long lived under English rule, were faced with the question of whether or not to join the British in the battles of World War I. A small Irish uprising in 1916 created more tension, and after a lengthy struggle, the British split Ireland into two self-governing dominions: Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State (later the Republic of Ireland).



1929 A.D.



War-wounded nations of Europe turned to the United States for loans, but the U.S. stock market crash in 1929 caused a worldwide economic depression and resulted in feelings of chaos and uncertainty. Leaders of Russia, Germany, and Italy began to annex and invade neighboring countries.



1939 A.D.



Britain and France declared war on Germany, thus beginning World War II. Japan and Italy allied with Germany, but the United States would not join the war and ally with Britain and France until the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 by Japan.



1945 A.D.



In 1945, the U.S. attacked Japan with the world's first atomic bombs, and Hitler was defeated by the Allies. In the war's aftermath, Britain faced numerous burdens: cities were destroyed and needed to be rebuilt, finances were drained, debt was crippling, and the human loss was devastating. A new Labor government was created to revitalize Britain, and domestic issues took precedence over colonial needs.



1947 A.D.



In 1947, India gained its independence from Britain. Meanwhile, the rest of the British Empire continued to dissolve. Its colonies would eventually become part of the Commonwealth of Nations, in which each country is considered free and equal.



#### 1949 A.D.



Irish independence (except for Northern Ireland) was achieved after a long struggle. However, tensions between Protestant and Catholic factions in Northern Ireland, which remains a part of Great Britain, still exist today.



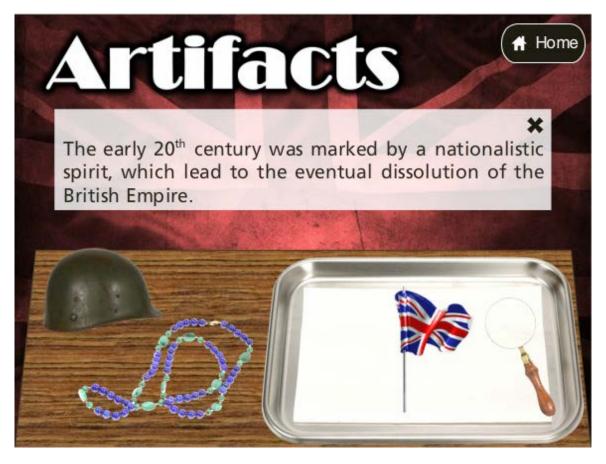
#### **Artifacts**



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



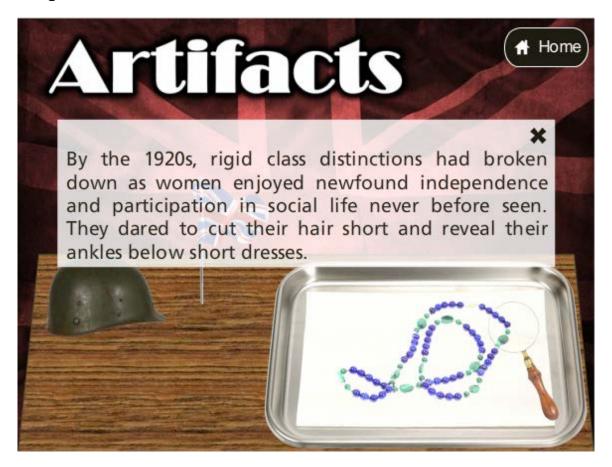
### **British Flag**



The early 20<sup>th</sup> century was marked by a nationalistic spirit, which lead to the eventual dissolution of the British Empire.



#### **Long Beaded Women's Necklace**



By the 1920s, rigid class distinctions had broken down as women enjoyed newfound independence and participation in social life never before seen. They dared to cut their hair short and reveal their ankles below short dresses.



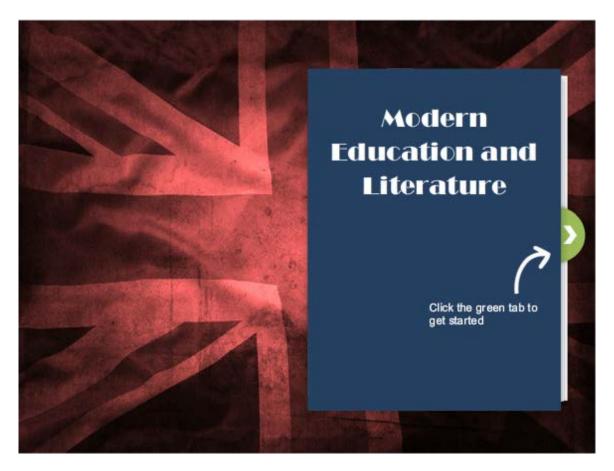
#### **Soldier's Helmet**



Soldier-poets such as Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, and Rupert Brooke reflected the disillusionment of a generation of young men sent off to war.



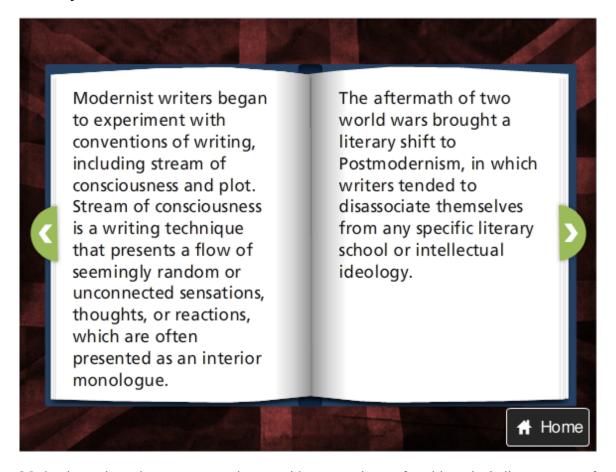
#### **Education and Literature**



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



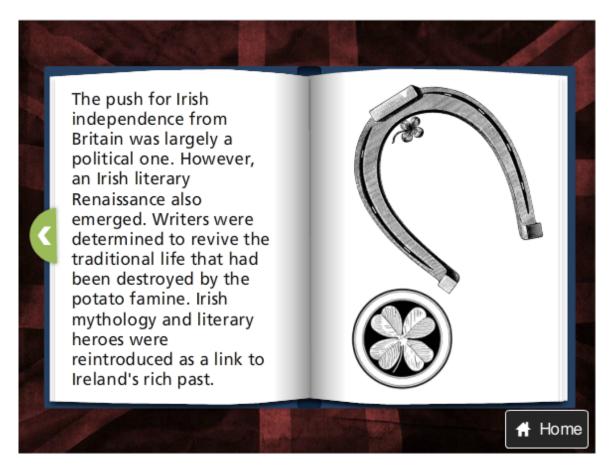
#### **Literary Trends**



Modernist writers began to experiment with conventions of writing, including stream of consciousness and plot. Stream of consciousness is a writing technique that presents a flow of seemingly random or unconnected sensations, thoughts, or reactions, which are often presented as an interior monologue. The aftermath of two world wars brought a literary shift to Postmodernism, in which writers tended to disassociate themselves from any specific literary school or intellectual ideology.



#### Irish Literature



The push for Irish independence from Britain was largely a political one. However, an Irish literary Renaissance also emerged. Writers were determined to revive the traditional life that had been destroyed by the potato famine. Irish mythology and literary heroes were reintroduced as a link to Ireland's rich past.

