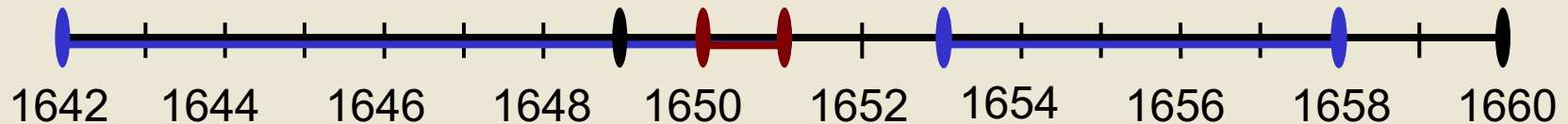


The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century

1660–1800

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Leading Up to 1660



1642–1651: English Civil Wars

1649: Charles I is beheaded on orders of a special Parliamentary court.

1650–1651: Charles II flees to Scotland, attempts to invade England, and escapes to France.

1653–1658 : Oliver Cromwell rules England, Scotland, and Ireland as lord protector.

1660: Parliament restores Charles II to the throne.

The Restoration

During Charles II's reign (1660–1685),
the Church of England regained its power
theaters reopened and censorship of the arts declined
religious persecution of Catholics and Dissenters by Anglicans
became widespread

Enlightened England

The period from 1660 to 1800 in England is known as the Enlightenment, the Age of Reason, the Augustan Age, or the neoclassical period.

This period brought many changes to

- society
- science
- religion
- literature

Society

- A. The rich lived lavishly. They
1. attended newly reopened theaters
 2. wore expensive, heavily ornamented clothing
 3. used make-up and wore heavy wigs that extended high over their heads (both men and women)
 4. attended or hosted balls, masquerades, and dinners in London and in fashionable resort cities such as Bath

Society

B. Conditions for the poor of England's great cities deteriorated. The poor

- lived in filthy, overcrowded slums
- suffered from poor sanitation and disease

- were often sent to debtors' prisons
- had access to cheap gin and had high rates of alcoholism



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Night (18th century) by William Hogarth

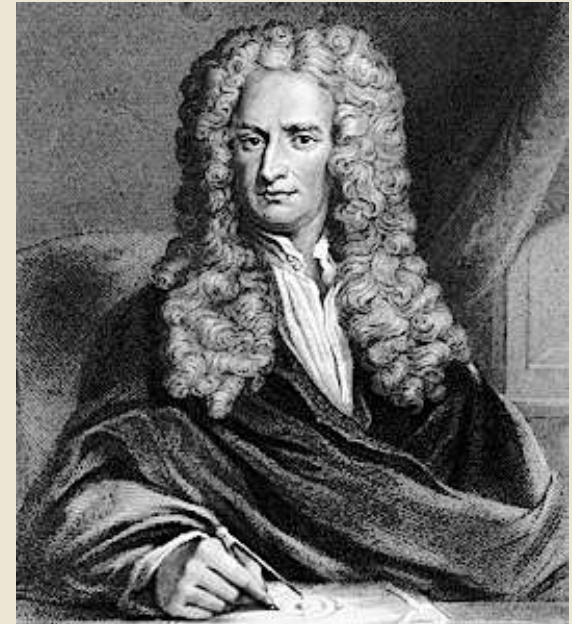
Science

A. Advances in science led to a better understanding of nature and its laws.

Sir Isaac Newton published his groundbreaking *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*.

Robert Hooke contributed to the fields of astronomy, biology, chemistry, and physics.

Robert Boyle laid the foundation for the study of chemistry.



Sir Isaac Newton

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Religion

Catholics and Dissenters (members of non-Anglican Protestant churches) were persecuted.

Many Dissenters immigrated to other countries in search of religious freedom.

Deists, believers of a new and controversial religious doctrine, viewed the universe as a perfect mechanism that God had built and then left to run on its own.

Literature—Drama

- A. Drama was very popular during the Restoration and the eighteenth century.
 - 1. Female actors were allowed on stage.
 - 2. Comedies of manners reflected the life of the rich and leisured classes.
 - 3. Heroic dramas entertained audiences with melodramatic devices—exaggerated dialogue, emotional outbursts, and stereotypical characters.

Literature—Prose

- A. Scientists developed a more precise style of writing than their Elizabethan predecessors. They
 - 1. avoided ornate metaphors and allusions
 - 2. used shorter, more concise sentences
- B. Essayists and journalists developed a prose style pleasing to middle-class readers, rather than the aristocracy. They
 - 1. addressed political and social matters and sought reform
 - 2. established periodicals such as *The Tatler* and *The Spectator*

Literature—Poetry

A. Neoclassical poetry

appealed to the intellect and reason more than to emotions
was often witty and filled with classical allusions
had a public use—to celebrate, mourn, or ridicule
followed strict rules of form, rhyme, and meter
popular poetic forms: odes, elegies, and satires

“True *Ease in writing* comes from *Art*, not *Chance*,
As those move easiest who have learn’d to dance.”

from *An Essay on Criticism* by Alexander Pope

Literature—Satire

- A. Eighteenth-century English writers excelled in satire—a kind of writing that ridicules human weakness, vice, or folly in order to bring about social reform.

Alexander Pope gently satirized the immorality and bad taste of the leisured classes in works such as *The Rape of the Lock*.

Jonathan Swift harshly satirized the hypocrisy and smugness of human behavior in works such as *Gulliver's Travels*.

Literature—The Novel

The novel form came into being in the eighteenth century and was immediately popular. Eighteenth-century novels described middle-class life and were often earthy and comical
explored the emotional lives of characters in detail
Epistolary novels, in which the story is told in a series of letters, were also popular.

What Have You Learned?

1. After Oliver Cromwell died, _____ was restored to the throne in 1660.

a. Elizabeth b. Henry VIII c. Charles II

2. Members of non-Anglican Protestant churches were persecuted during the Restoration.

a. True b. False

3. The _____ was a new literary form developed during the eighteenth century. It explored the emotional lives of characters in detail.

a. letter b. novel c. sonnet

The End

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