

British Dynasties and Ruling Houses Cheat Sheet

Version 3.0

*Dynasties are listed chronologically. **Bolded terms** appear frequently in tossups.*

"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.

"Founded" indicates the establishment of the dynasty or house as a ruling power, and not as a family.

Dynasty	Place and Period	Details
House of Lancaster Lancastrians	England, 1300s-1400s	cadet branch of the Plantagenets, claiming descent from John of Gaunt; opposed the Yorks in the Wars of the Roses , using a red rose emblem; Henry IV deposed Richard II of York
House of York	England, 1400s	cadet branch of the Plantagenets; opposed the Lancasters in the Wars of the Roses , using a white rose emblem; their final king, Richard III, was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field
House of Tudor	England, 1400s-1600s	descended from the Lancasters ; 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; Henry VIII participated with Francis I of France in the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and signed the Act of Supremacy 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 Mary I , the daughter of Henry with Catherine of Aragon, who was nicknamed "Bloody Mary" for trying to return England to Catholicism; she was succeeded by Elizabeth I , 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 Stuart	Scotland, 1300s-1600s England, 1600s-1700s	took power after the death of Elizabeth I, who had executed her Stuart cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots , after the discovery of the Babington Plot, an attempt to put Mary on the throne of England; founded in England by James I and VI (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 Charles I , and his own government was overthrown by Charles II during the Restoration; James II was deposed by the Glorious Revolution and the reign of William and Mary , who were succeeded by Anne
House of Hanover Hanoverians	England, 1700s-1900s	final monarch was Victoria ; 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); George III , known as the "mad king," reigned during the American Revolution, and was succeeded by the Regency of his son, George IV; George I took power from the Catholic Stuart line due to the Act of Settlement
House of Windsor	England, 1900s-Present	originated under Edward VII as the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha , and was renamed in 1917 by George V due to anti-German sentiments from World War I; current royal house of England, including Elizabeth II ; Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry the American divorcée Wallis Simpson