1) Monarchs
   a. James I (House of Stuart) takes the throne of England (1603-1625)—A royal absolutist bent on total unification of his realm (he wanted to be the head of the government and the church). and suppressed political and religious nonconformity, particularly the Puritans.
   b. James I ordered a new translation of the Bible, which became known as the Authorised King James's Version of the Bible
   c. James himself was fairly tolerant in terms of religious faith, but the Gunpowder Plot (an attempt by Guy Fawkes and other Roman Catholic conspirators to blow up the Houses of Parliament) in 1605 resulted in the reenactment of strict penalties on Roman Catholics.
   d. In 1620, during James’ reign, members of a radical Puritan faction known as the English Separatist Church left on the Mayflower and founded Plymouth Colony. Feeling that the Church of England had not sufficiently completed the necessary work of the Protestant Reformation, the group had chosen to break with the church altogether.

2) Charles I (House of Stuart, son of James I—1625-49)
   a. Attempted to impose upon the Church of England a more elaborate and ceremonial form of religion.
   b. Charles's attempt to impose a High Church liturgy and prayer book in Scotland, which was primarily Presbyterian, prompted a riot in 1637 in Edinburgh, which escalated into general unrest.
   c. Stirred up opposition by his tactless handling of parliament, by ruling throughout the 1630s without calling a parliament. In 1642, as both King and parliament gathered bodies of armed supporters, the unresolved political crisis deteriorated into an armed confrontation and civil war. The civil war in England and Scotland lasted over seven years between the parliamentary army, “New Model Army,” and the Royalist “Cavaliers.”
   d. In 1649, the king was sentenced to death for treason, and Charles was beheaded on a scaffold outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall, London.

3) To avoid the automatic succession of Charles I's son Charles, an Act was passed forbidding the proclaiming of another monarch. In 1649, the office of King was formally abolished.

4) Oliver Cromwell—The Commonwealth Period (1653-1660)
   a. The leader of the revolutionary army, he was declared Lord Protector of the Commonwealth from 1653-1658.
   b. Cromwell held that office under a written constitution, which ensured that he would share political power with parliaments and a council. Remained Lord Protector for almost five years, until his death in 1658.

5) Charles II (1660-1685, son of Charles I), Upon the death of Cromwell, the monarchy returned when the royal heir, Charles II, accepted the crown.
   a. Charles secretly declared convert to Catholicism and declared his allegiance to France in return for French troops and money.
   c. In 1665, Charles was faced with a great health crisis: the Great Plague of London. The death toll reached a peak of 7,000.
   d. Charles ruled alone, without Parliament, until his death on 6 February 1685. He was received into the Roman Catholic Church on his deathbed.
6) James II (Son of Charles I--1685-88)
   a. James converted to Roman Catholicism in 1669. Despite his conversion, James II succeeded to the throne peacefully at the age of 51.
   b. James is best known for struggles with the English Parliament and his attempts to create religious liberty for English Roman Catholics and Protestant nonconformists against the wishes of the Anglican establishment. However, he also continued the persecution of the Presbyterian Covenanters in Scotland.
   c. Members of Britain's political and religious elite increasingly suspected him of being pro-French and pro-Catholic and of having designs on becoming an absolute monarch. When he produced a Catholic heir, the tension exploded, and leading nobles called on his Protestant son-in-law and nephew, William of Orange, to land an invasion army from the Netherlands, which he did. James fled England (and thus was held to have abdicated) in the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

7) With the departure of James II and the arrival of William of Orange and Mary, the “Glorious Revolution” began. The revolution was a permanent shift in power; although the monarchy remained of central importance, Parliament had become a permanent feature of political life.

8) William of Orange (1689-1702) and Mary (James II’s daughter--1689-1694) crowned joint rulers in 1689.
   a. Agreed to a Bill of Rights designed to prevent future abuses of royal power, laying the constitutional foundation for limited monarchy.
   b. The exclusion of James II and his heirs was extended to exclude all Catholics from the throne, since “it hath been found by experience that it is inconsistent with the safety and welfare of this protestant kingdom to be governed by a papist prince.” The King and Queen were required in their coronation oath to swear to maintain the Protestant religion.

9) Religion
   a. To Puritans, the Anglican (Church of England) church retained many Catholic traits: rules by bishops and a mystical view of communion.
   b. Conversions to Catholicism continued while Puritans feared there could be persecution.
   c. Many religious dissenters decided to leave England. They founded both the Plymouth Colony and the Mass Bay Colony.
   d. The Puritans and Anglicans could not agree on how religion should be conducted. Soon the Stuart kings came back to the throne with their Catholic religion until 1688 when William of Orange and Mary (the daughter of James II and a Protestant) were crowned.

10) Literature
    a. Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626)—often called the father of modern science for his writings on the scientific method-inductive investigation that uses experiments to verify a hypothesis. Published Essays (1597) in which he recommends paths to be undertaken in all realms of knowledge, both of nature and human beings and their institutions.

11) The poetry of John Donne, George Herbert, and John Milton were rich in biblical themes that mirrored the Protestant religion.

12) John Milton (1608-1674) was the most learned English poet. He was fluent in English, Italian, Latin, and Greek. In 1652, Milton became blind.

13) Paradise Lost
    a. Published in 1667, Paradise Lost was an epic Christian poem that contained 12 books about the fall and
redemption of man. Milton takes much of his story: the Book of Genesis. Paradise Lost represents man’s good as coming from submission to divine authority rather from rebellion. Milton tells the story of the most epic battle possible: the battle between God and Satan, good and evil.

b. In Book One, the narrative begins in medias res (in the middle of things), after the revolt of the rebel angels and war in heaven and the Creation of the earth and man—but before the temptation of Adam and Eve.

a. In Book One, Milton’s speaker invokes the muse, a mystical source of poetic inspiration, to sing about subjects through him, but he makes it clear that he refers to a different muse from the muses who traditionally inspired classical poets. Milton’s muse is the Holy Spirit.

b. In book IX, Milton describes the temptation and fall of Eve and Adam. He now believes that the Earth is more beautiful than Heaven ever was and becomes jealous of Adam and Eve and their chosen status to occupy and maintain Paradise. He gripes that the excess beauty of Earth causes him to feel more torment and anguish. Gathering his thoughts into action, he finds a sleeping serpent and enters its body.

c. In book IX, the fall of Adam and Eve paves the way for humankind’s ultimate redemption and salvation, and thus Milton can claim that his epic pertains to the entire human race, not one hero or even one nation.

14) Stuart literature had a more personal tone. The prose often had a didactic purpose in it. Didactic meant literature that delighted the reader in order to teach.

15) John Bunyan wrote his Christian allegory, The Pilgrim's Progress, using a colloquial style (characteristic of ordinary or familiar conversation rather than formal speech or writing). In the book, the pilgrims, Christian (Part I) and Christiana (Part 2) face a series of obstacles and thwarters on their way to the Celestial City.

16) Worst Jobs

17) During the Stuart Period, saltpetre men collected urine and dug up latrines to gather the gunpowder ingredient potassium nitrate.

18) During the Stuart Period, a nitpicker was someone who picked lice and fleas from wigs.

19) The petardier's assistant was responsible for placing a bomb on the gates of a besieged castle.