

Did the changes during the years 1500 to 1900 really cause people to 'redefine themselves'?

What were the biggest changes to take place?

People's beliefs:	In 1500, most people in England were Catholic, and religion was a central part of their lives. By 1900, Britain had officially become a Protestant country - and many people were beginning to question the existence of God.
Monarchs and the government:	In 1500, kings and queens had held absolute power: they had advisers, but didn't have to listen to them. By 1900, their power was limited, and big decisions were made by the government and Prime Ministers (who were voted in).
Power and the people:	As time went on, increasing numbers of 'ordinary' people were able to vote, deciding who they wanted to lead the country. However, women still did not have the vote by 1900.
Knowledge of the world:	Voyages of exploration meant that distant parts of the world had been explored by 1900, opening up new opportunities for the trade and exchange of both goods and ideas.

Key dates:

Late 1400s/early 1500s: The Renaissance begins to have an impact in England.

1649: Charles I is executed by his own people, after the English Civil War.

1859: Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* is published.

1533: Henry VIII's 'Break with Rome' is a big step in the decline of Catholic influence in England.

1833: Slavery is abolished in the British Empire.

Key terms:

Renaissance:	Name given to a period of time when artists and architects were inspired by ancient Greece and Rome - changing people's ideas about what made 'good' art.
Enlightenment:	A period in the 1600s and 1700s in Europe where new ideas and knowledge began to spread, challenging old thinking.
Industrial Revolution:	The fast development of factories and machine production. This took place in England from the 1700s onwards.
Monarch:	King or queen; the person who rules over a country.
Parliament:	Group of people who are in charge of making laws. Usually Members of Parliament (MPs) are voted in by the people.
Empire:	A group of countries or states that are ruled over by one country or state (like the British Empire).
Colony:	A country that is controlled/ruled over, as part of an empire.
Abolition:	Officially bringing an end to something (like slavery).
Voyage:	A long journey, usually taken by ship.
Privateer:	A sailor who is given permission (usually by the monarch or government) to attack and steal from other ships at sea.
Circumnavigation:	A journey which involves sailing the whole way around the globe.
Suffrage:	The right to vote in elections.
Suffragette:	A woman who campaigned for the right of women to vote.