

Brexit timeline

Key Characters:

David Cameron - Remainer

Nigel Farage - Leaver - hard

Theresa May - Remained turn leaver - soft

Boris Johnson - Remain/leave/remain/leave - hard/softer

Jeremy Corbyn - Leave/reluctantly remain/second referendumer

Ken Clark - Remain

Jo Swinson - Remain/second referendum/remain/revoke

Gina Miller - Remain

Jacob Rees-Mogg - Leaver - soft (maybe)/hard

Queen - Politically neutral

- Divide the characters among the students, ensuring they all know who they are and what their politics view point is.
- At key events ask the students if their characters support what is going on, are against it, or are neutral. Use smiley faces to keep track of their mood
- As we go through, stick events pictures to timeline

Intro:

Britain's membership in the EU in a nutshell: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JkE1jYdTQA>

- Start by adding the key event of everyone's birthday.

1945-2019

1945 - end of second world war. (1946) Churchill started talking about the need for a "united states of Europe".

1951 - The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was born under the **Treaty of Paris**, opening up the coal and steel markets in France, Italy, Luxembourg, West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands for the first time.

The aim was to encourage nations to be dependent on each other, and make war between historic rivals France and Germany "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible".

The UK was invited to take part in the talks and treaties, but chose to stay removed from it, for fear of damaging relations with the rest of the commonwealth.

1955 - European flag came into existence, used by the Council of Europe and later by the EU in 1986.

Against the background of blue sky, the stars form a circle, symbolising union. The number of stars is fixed, twelve being the symbol of perfection and completeness and bringing to mind the apostles, the sons of Jacob, the labours of Hercules, the months in the year, etc.

(<https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/the-european-flag>)

1957 - Treaty of Rome establishes European Economic Community (EEC)

The aim was to extend the principles of the ECSC and create a common market for all goods and services between members.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo6ltcTPaXc> (5 mins)

It was signed on 25th March 1957 by the "original six", Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and W. Germany.

Creating a common market, gave members the freedom to move goods, services, capital and people, and also a customs union (a group of states that have agreed to charge the same import duty as each other and usually allow free trade between themselves).

The treaty, which came into force on January 1 1958, is still the legal basis for the workings of EU institutions.

The treaty set up an organisation which ensured the establishment and government of the European Economic Community.

Four institutions were created to do this;

a Commission,

a Council of Ministers,

a Parliamentary Assembly (that later morphed into the European Parliament)

and a European Court of Justice.

The aim was to transform trade, industry and manufacturing in the EEC and secondly, to work towards a unified Europe.

These days, the Treaty of Rome, which has undergone multiple amendments, is called the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

(<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/treaty-rome/>)

1961 - UK made first application to join the EEC, spurred on by the fear of political isolation from the rest of Western Europe and evidence of the financial benefits, which is vetoed by General Charles De Gaulle in 1963.

De Gaulle is frightened of the UK reducing France's power and influence within Europe, the close relationship between the UK and the US will increase US influence over Europe and the UK does not have the right economic structure to fit with the rest of Europe.

1965 - UK makes second application to join the EEC, which is again vetoed by General Charles De Gaulle in 1969.

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-42165383>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/november/27/newsid_4187000/4187714.stm

<https://ukandeu.ac.uk/how-president-de-gaulles-second-veto-of-britains-ec-application-fifty-years-ago-led-directly-to-the-leave-vote-in-2016/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/parliament-and-europe/overview/britain-and-eeec-to-single-european-act/>)

1973 - UK finally joins the EEC under the Conservative PM Edward Heath. (De Gaulle was replaced by Georges Pompidou in 1969, and died in 1970, and so France no longer vetoed the UK joining.) Ireland and Denmark also joined that year taking the number of member nations to nine.

1975 - UK referendum on whether to stay in EEC, aka, the common market referendum;

A Labour government, lead by Harold Wilson, came to power with one of its 1974 manifesto pledges being to have a referendum on Britain's continued membership of the economic community.

This wasn't presented just as a trade agreement. Other issues discussed at the time related to security, sovereignty, European funding for UK industries and regions, and aid to developing countries. (<https://fullfact.org/europe/ask-full-fact-eu-then-and-now/>)

An enthusiastic campaigning Thatcher and others: 9:37 - 11:07 <https://youtu.be/qMGkB5xu3wE?t=577>

67% vote to stay, with a 64% turnout.

1981 - Benefits of going the EEC were becoming quite enticing to other European countries.

Greece joined EEC.

1986 - **Spain and Portugal join EEC**

1992 - **Maastricht Treaty** signed, creating modern **EU**, with three pillars:

European Community (previously EEC);

Common Foreign and Security Policy; (newly added)

and Cooperation in Justice and Home affairs. (newly added)

The people of the 12 member states were given European citizenship, which meant they now had the right to move and live in any EU state and may vote in European and local elections in any country.

Maastricht laid out the plan for the economic and monetary union, which eventually led to the single currency, and set out the criteria or economic tests that member states have to pass in order to join the single currency.

The most contentious part of the treaty was 'subsidiarity' - the EU only takes action on matters when it is more effective than things dealt with at national, regional or local levels. On a practical level, this means EU law top trumps national law. As a result, this treaty was only just passed in several countries.

It is this that provokes UK eurosceptics to start campaigning for a referendum on membership.

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/europe/euro-glossary/1216944.stm)

1993 - **UKIP formed** (from the Anti Federalist League, est. 1991)

1995 - **Austria, Sweden and Finland join EEC**

1999 - **Euro** introduced as a formal currency, only used by banks, trading etc.

2002 - **Euro adopted for everyday use.** (UK opted out)

Euro introduced to Ireland: (3mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LsM42TRSpQ&t=6s>

- Ask what they think was the exchange rate (pound/euro) in 1999, then ask them if they think it is higher or lower now.

All Jan (as near to) 1st as possible

1999: £1 = €1.40

2000: €1.59

2001: €1.58

2002: €1.60

2003: €1.54

2004: €1.42

2005: €1.42

2006: €1.45

2007: €1.49

(Financial crash) 2008: €1.34

2009: €1.04

2010: €1.12

2011: € 1.17

2012: €1.20

2013: €1.23

2014: €1.20

2015: €1.28

(Brexit vote) 2016: €1.36

2017: €1.18

2018: €1.13

2019: €1.11

Friday 20th Sept 2019: €1.14

(<https://www.poundsterlinglive.com/bank-of-england-spot/historical-spot-exchange-rates/gbp/GBP-to-EUR>)

2004 - Eastern Europeans join EEC - Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

2006 - Nigel Farage leader of UKIP

2007 - Lisbon Treaty:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLYbO20UoZE> 2.23

Brought three pillars into a single legal entity, changed voting structures, created two permanent roles (President of the European Council and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy)

- **Romania and Bulgaria join EEC** - taking us up to 27 nations.

2008-09 - Stoked by Lisbon treaty and eurozone crisis - **Greece debt crisis:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEVqeaFHsHE>, **MPs' expenses scandal**, and a downturn in the economy due to the **global financial crash**

growing dissatisfaction with politicians, and a general feeling of they are all out for themselves.

...campaign for referendum steps up <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwJYISXGMfc>

2009 UK European Parliamentary elections results

Con - 26 MEPs (+1)

Ukip - 13 (+1)

Lab - 13 (-5)

Lib dem - 11 (+1)

Green - 2 (0)

Brit Nat Party - 2 (+2)

Scot Nat Party - 2 (0)

Plaid Cymru - 1 (0)

Sinn Féin - 1 (0)

Democratic Unionist Party - 1 (0)

All over the world disillusion with capitalism, bankers, the elite, politicians etc. The idea of share and share a like gets pushed out, in favour of renewed nationalism

European results of European Election: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0Y6o4nM5m4> (2.15 - end)

2010 - Conservatives only just win a general election and after 5 days negotiations, formed a **coalition government** with the Liberal Democrats who had been also negotiating with the labour party.

The beginning of austerity

2011 - **A backbench Conservative MP introduced a motion to have a referendum.** It is rejected. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmwVbAc0-ic>

2013 - Croatia became 28th country to join the EEC

2014 - UKIP 'win' European Parliament elections with 24 MEPs of the vote, putting increasing pressure on conservatives to hold referendum <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJ0RYtg5pKg> (0-0.45)

UK European Parliamentary elections results 2014

Ukip - 24

Lab 20

Con - 19

green - 3

Scot Nat Party - 2

Lib dem - 1

Plaid Cymru - 1 (0)

Sinn Féin - 1 (0)

Democratic Unionist Party - 1 (0)

Ulster Unionist Party - 1

2015 - Conservatives make election manifesto pledge to hold referendum, and win an overall majority in general election (end of coalition)

Austerity continues. The Lib Dems name is mud.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLsRA5X8nUI> (0-0.45)

2016

- June: **referendum**

Cuts in social security getting tougher, the divide between the north and south and rich and poor was getting more exaggerated.

Everyone accused of lying, what with false claims on buses and project fear, it was not Britain's finest hour.

- **52:48 win for leave.**

- **David Cameron resigns.**

- July: **Theresa May** replaces David Cameron as PM

"Brexit means Brexit!"

- 4th July **Nigel Farage quits as UKIP leader** - he has achieved all he wants to.

2017

- January: **Gina Miller**, investment manager, **wins legal challenge** that government cannot trigger article 50 without consent from parliament.

- February: **Parliament voting on article 50...** 498 in favour to 114 against

- March: May cannot negotiate a deal with Europe until article 50 is triggered. May wants to show she is serious about Brexit. **Article 50 is triggered.**

Article 50: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRaGyndz7CQ>

- May: May ahead in the polls, so calls for a **general election** with the hope of it giving her more authority.

- Conservatives lose their overall commons majority so in June **May sign a 'confidence and supply' deal with Democratic Unionist Party** - this means the DUP will prop the conservatives up on votes, and in return the DUP get funding. Many Conservatives were unhappy with the deal, as they did not want to be associated with the staunchly religious views of the DUP.

- June: **negotiations start with EU**

2018

- July: EU won't give UK the cake with the cherry on top. **May took the government to Chequers**, to force conservative government to make a compromise on their position. This annoyed some people in the government as they didn't like that level of compromise. - David Davis and Boris Johnson resign - because it is seen as staying too close to EU rules and regulations. But it was also rejected by the EU, as it is seen as not going far enough and cherry-picking (ending free movement of people, but keeping free movement of goods and services)
- November: As final shape of the withdrawal agreement emerges, Dominic Raab and others resign in protest (**Irish backstop proves to be most contentious issue**).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cfl5on5n84> 5 mins 20
Irish Back stop: requested by Ireland who want to protect the Good Friday Agreement - Northern Irish peace treaty signed in 1998 - at all costs. It means free trade and movement of people continue between Northern Ireland and the rest of Ireland, with a border effectively being drawn along the Irish sea. This means N. Ireland will have closer links with Ireland than the rest of the UK.
- At end of the month, **withdrawal agreement and political declaration are agreed in principle by the UK gov't and the EU**.
- December: **Theresa May faces vote of no confidence from Tory MPs**, wanting a harder Brexit. May wins. May is going to put the withdrawal deal to Parliament (a meaningful vote (MV) on how we leave the EU), but pulls it because it looks like government would lose.
- 4th Dec **Nigel Farage quits UKIP**, as he thinks they have all gone a little bit racist.

2019

- **Jan**: The May's deal is put to parliament - **Meaningful Vote 1**. It loses by 230 votes.
- As a result, **Labour call for a no confidence vote**. The gov't win so remain in power. May promises to renegotiate the 'Irish backstop' (but ultimately fails to do this)
- **March**: Brexit due to happen on March 29. **MV2 lost** by 149 votes,
- so UK asks for an **Article 50 extension**, which is granted by the EU until April 12.
- **MV3** is also lost by 158 votes. (deal is hated by the hard Brexit leavers as much as the remainers).
- 22nd March **Nigel Farage leads the Brexit Party** - he fears for his Brexit dream.
- April: UK still not ready to leave, so requests **another A50 extension**, and is given one until Oct 31
- May: **European elections**: big wins for the Brexit Party and the Liberal Democrats (everyone used to be fairly indifferent to the EU, but now it is a major issue):

UK European Parliamentary elections results

Brexit Party - 29 (new party)

Lib dem - 16

Lab - 10

Green - 7

Con - 4

Scot Nat Party - 3

Plaid Cymru - 1 (0)

Sinn Féin - 1 (0)

Democratic Unionist Party - 1 (0)

Alliance party of Northern Ireland - 1

- Stuck in a situation that isn't going anywhere fast, **Theresa May resigns**. Hard Brexiters and remainers won't support her deal. Brexiters are demanding a harder and harder version of leave. She has been undermined by the ERG, and in particular Jacob Rees-Mogg, David Davis, Dominic Raab, and outside of the ERG, Michael Gove and Boris Johnson.

ERG - European research group. A party within the conservative party that was always Eurosceptic, but is now heavily in favour of the hard Brexit.

- July: **Boris Johnson chosen to be leader of the Conservative party and becomes PM**
- August:
 - **Govt announces plans to prorogue parliament** earlier than expected, reducing the amount of time Brexit can be debated in parliament, causing a massive backlash from everyone who doesn't want a hard Brexit.

Proroguing - (means to suspend parliament) normally done every year, before the queen's speech, to give the government time to prepare for that - the Queen's speech is written by the government to lay out what they plan to do in the forthcoming year.

- No evidence of Johnson in negotiations with EU

- September
 - 3rd: **Conservatives lose their majority of 1.** (<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/03/phillip-lee-quits-tories-leaving-government-without-a-majority> - +video clip 33 secs)

Philip Lee moves over to the Liberal Democrats in a very public move. Lee said he was moving because "This Conservative government is aggressively pursuing a damaging Brexit in unprincipled ways. It is putting lives and livelihoods at risk unnecessarily and it is wantonly endangering the integrity of the United Kingdom. "More widely, it is undermining our country's economy, democracy and role in the world. It is using political manipulation, bullying and lies. And it is doing these things in a deliberate and considered way."

- Parliament votes to allow Benn act to be voted on with 21 Conservatives voting against the Government whip.

- All **21 lose the whip and so are kicked out of the parliamentary party** (they still attend parliament as MPs, but have to move to the opposition benches as 'independent' MPs - some stubborn ones still sit with the conservatives.
- This is followed by **further resignations and defections, including Jo Johnson** on the 5th.
- 9th: **Benn act** is passed by the Lords and becomes law
- **Johnson tries twice to call a snap election.** Labour refuse. Labour accuse of being 'chicken', conservatives accused of being untrustworthy and suspect the government will try to get through a hard Brexit while parliament is suspended for an election.
- **Speaker announces resignation.** Either on the 31st Oct or before a snap election, whichever is sooner - this caused controversy as it means this parliament - which has been proved to want to stand up to the government - will elect the next speaker, meaning the role will probably continue to be held by someone willing to stand up for parliament against the government.

The speaker: selected by all members of the house of commons. If you have the majority, you are more likely to vote in the speaker that you think would be most sympathetic to your party's cause.

- 10th: **Parliament prorogued.** Many MPs not happy.

Parliament was suspended just before 2am on Tuesday 10th September.
Blackrod comes in to take the speaker,

Conservative MP Andrew Stevenson shouts at Bercow,
John Bercow adds his own little take on things, 'I'm perfectly happy to play my part, but I do want to make the point that this is not a standard or normal prorogation.' (which is akin to a spanky bottom)

Some MPs held up signs saying 'silenced', others shout 'shame on you' as Bercow leaves and parliament is closed.

Late into the night, MPs also burst into song on the Commons benches, singing traditional Welsh and Scottish songs, Labour anthem Red Flag and hymns like Jerusalem.

BBC assistant political editor Norman Smith said "the uproar in Parliament wasn't just Pantomime politics - there is genuine fury and incredulity that at such a crucial moment for the nation, the place is being shut down."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNuN-FRKcCI> (5.34)

<https://twitter.com/HannahB4LiviMP/status/1171227464649117697?s=20> (30 sec) Welsh MPs singing.

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-49645338>)

- **Legal challenges that prorogation was unlawful** (incl. Miller 2) - been through multiple courts and finally comes to the Supreme Court
- 24th September, **UK supreme court unanimously rules that Boris Johnson's suspension of parliament was illegal**, as the courts have decided that it was a deliberate attempt to "stymie" the work of MPs. The suspension has been deemed void, so MPs return to parliament on the 25th.
- **Calls for Johnson to resign and apologise for misleading the Queen** (you don't lie to the Queen).
- 25th September: back to work as usual. **Parliament has reopened.**
- **What is in store for October?** Anyone's guess but we do know...
 - European Council meeting = Oct 17
 - If no deal agreed at the council meeting, extension application = Oct 19 (according to Benn act)
 - Current deadline to leave = Oct 31

Elements that have made things much worse than they need to be:

Jeremy Corbyn not giving a clear direction
Brown calling bigoted lady a bigot
Picture of Jacob Rees-Mogg lounging
lib dem betrayal (tuition fees)
bacon sandwiches
May poor campaigner, avoided leadership debates on TV
Dominic Cummings

What next?

- General election?
- Second referendum?
- Government of national unity?
- MV4?
- No deal?
- Boris Johnson resigns?

Impact for Europe? others wondering if they should follow, watching to wait and see how it turns out.

single market: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHjPJKX07o>

does the eu really need the uk?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vIBu0Ln5so>

inside brexit: how britain lost europe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqT1IneQ28Q>