

Key Dates

1312 or 1313 John Chaucer, Chaucer's father, born.

mid-1330's John Chaucer marries Agnes Copton.

mid-1340's Chaucer born.

1357 Chaucer becomes a page for the Countess of Ulster.

1359 Chaucer serves in a military expedition in France.

1360 Chaucer captured in France; released for 16 pounds.

1360 Chaucer makes diplomatic trips to Calais.

1372 Chaucer travels to Genoa and Florence as diplomat.

1372 Chaucer's wife, Philippa, enters service in the household of John of Gaunt.

1372 – 1377 Chaucer writes The Monk's Tale and The Second Nun's Tale.

1377 – 1381 Chaucer travels to the continent to negotiate a marriage between Richard II and a French Princess.

1377 – 1381 Chaucer writes The House of Fame and Anelida and Arcite.

1385 Chaucer made deputy in the Customs.

1385 – 1389 Chaucer made Justice of the Peace for Kent.

1400 Chaucer dies.

Key Events

1313 Giovanni Boccaccio born.

1321 Dante Alighieri dies.

1327 Accession of Edward III

1330 John Gower born.

1337 The Hundred Years' War begins.

1338 Boccaccio completes Il filostrato (source for Troilus and Criseyde).

1340 English defeat French in Battle of Sluys.

1341 Boccaccio completes Teseida delle Nozze d'Emilia (source for 'Knight's Tale').

1346 English defeat French at the Battle of Crécy.

1348-1350 Black Death wipes out much of the population

1351 Boccaccio completes the Decameron.

1356 English win the Battle of Poitiers.

1360 The Hundred Years' War ends.

1364 John of France dies. Charles V ascends.

1366 Langland writes Piers Plowman (A-text).

1367 Richard II is born to Black Prince (eldest son of Edward III).

1377 Death of Black Prince

1377 Edward III dies. Accession of Richard II.

1381 Rebels march on London.

1387 Many of Richard II's supporters executed.

1389 Richard II regains power.

1396 Richard II marries Isabel, daughter of Philip IV of France. Wars between England and France end.

1399 John of Gaunt dies. Richard II is deposed; Henry IV ascends to the throne.