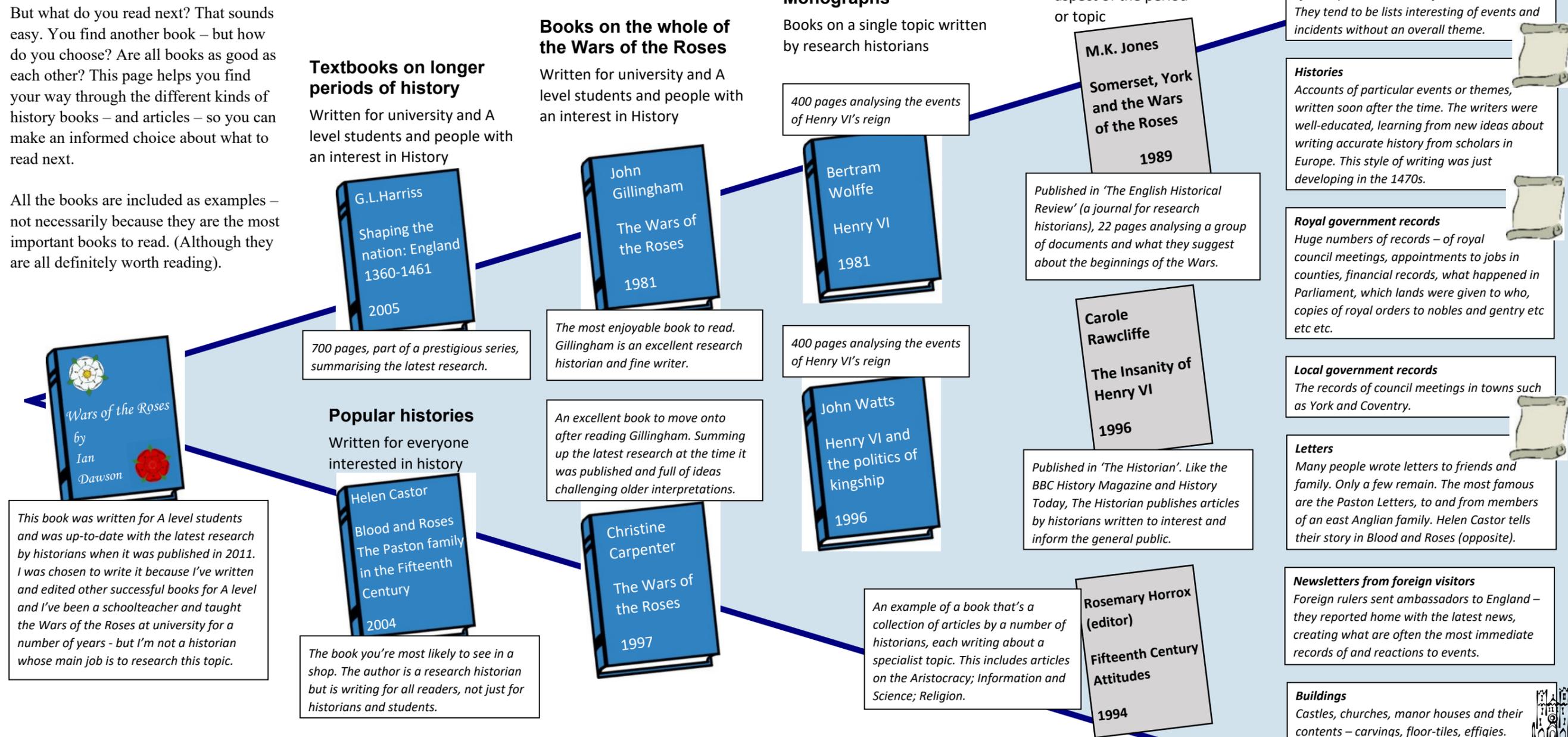


Are All History Books The Same?

The simple answer to the question at the top of the page is NO. This book was written to act as a stepping stone – an introduction to the Wars of the Roses that gives you a strong base to step up from, stepping up to read more detailed, more complex books. ‘Complex’, ‘detailed’ – that may sound hard-going and not much fun but that’s only the case if you haven’t got a good foundation to build from. If this book’s done its job properly you will be able to go on and enjoy reading other books.

But what do you read next? That sounds easy. You find another book – but how do you choose? Are all books as good as each other? This page helps you find your way through the different kinds of history books – and articles – so you can make an informed choice about what to read next.

All the books are included as examples – not necessarily because they are the most important books to read. (Although they are all definitely worth reading).



Some questions for discussion:

1. Can you explain how this page is organized? There's a logic to the layout – but what is it?
2. Which book might you read next after this one – and why?
3. If you had a choice between reading the books by Watts and Wolffe, which would you choose and why?
4. The date of publication has been included with all the book titles. Why is the date when a book was published so important when deciding what to read next?
5. This page does not refer to the Internet as a way of finding out more about the Wars of the Roses. What questions do you think you should ask before accepting that information on a website about the Wars of the Roses is correct?

Why is the date so important?

The dates under each book title tell you when it was published. You should always check when a book was published. Why? Think of the development of history-writing about e.g. Henry VI as the chapters of a crime novel. If you read the novel's chapters in a random order you won't be able to follow the plot and you won't see how the mystery unfolds. History writing is similar. Historians don't write in a vacuum – if you put the books on Henry VI together you see an unfolding discussion taking place amongst the historians. Wolffe in 1981 was building on and replying to earlier books on Henry. Watts in 1996 was, in part, replying to Wolffe, challenging his argument and also reporting on his own research and so developing a different interpretation of Henry. Without the date of publication you can't know where a book fits into the development of writing about your topic.