

Year 8: The English Civil War: why did England kill its king in 1649?

1. Key People and Key Words:

Key People:

Charles I: Charles I was king of England from 1625 and was the son of James I, Scotland and Ireland, whose conflicts with Parliament led to civil war and his eventual execution.

Oliver Cromwell: a Puritan MP and a military commander of the New Model Army. A controversial figure, Cromwell is seen by some as a military dictator.

Henrietta Maria: French wife of Charles I who was deeply unpopular in England because of her religion – she was a Catholic.

Charles II: Charles II was king of England, Scotland and Ireland, whose restoration to the throne in 1660 marked the end of rule by Parliament in England.

Key Words:

Civil War: where a country divides in two and goes to war.

Divine Right of Kings: the belief that the monarch was chosen by God, that their power and authority was derived from God and they had to answer to no one except God.

Parliament: a law-making governing body, it was chosen by the monarch to advise them at this time.

The Grand Remonstrance: a list of complaints about the rule of King Charles passed by Parliament in 1641.

Ship Money: a tax that the monarch could impose on coastal areas to fund the navy in time of war. Charles tried to impose it in peace time and on inland areas, making him very unpopular.

Puritan: a strict Protestant of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Absolutism: the idea that the monarch had complete power and authority.

Cavaliers: the insulting nickname given to the Royalists, who fought for the King; It literally meant horsemen but inferred that they were arrogant.

Roundheads: the insulting nickname for those who supported Parliament, named after the shape of the helmets they wore in battle.

New Model Army: Parliament's army.

2. A focus on cause and consequence – what vocabulary can we use?

Causes: reasons or factors that directly relate to a particular event.

Consequences: events that occur as a result of a particular event taking place.

Long-term causes: directly relating reasons or factors that existed for years, decades or centuries before an event takes place.

Long-term consequences: consequences that occurred years, decades or centuries after the event

Short-term causes: directly relating reasons or factors that existed for months, weeks or days before an event takes place.

Short-term consequences: consequences that occurred only a few hours, days or weeks after the event.

Underlying cause (s): the basic or root cause(s) of an event.

Contributed to: to help cause an event to happen.

Exacerbated: made things worse.

Provoked: to incite an event to happen, to stir emotions that cause an event to happen.

Initiated: to start something off.

Sparked: caused something to happen quickly.



3. Timeline of the English Civil War.

1634

Charles I levies Ship Money.

1641

The Grand Remonstrance by Parliament.

1642:

Charles declares war on Parliament.

1642

Battle of Edgehill.

1645

Battle of Naseby.

1649

Trial and execution of Charles I.

1653

Cromwell becomes "Lord Protector" of England.

1658

Death of Oliver Cromwell.

1660

Charles II is crowned king. The monarchy is restored.