

# YEAR 6: SPRING 2 – TIME COP: SOLVING MYSTERIES OF THE PAST

## HISTORY: THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

### CHRONOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING:

:	<i>Civil war</i>	<i>Parliament</i>	<i>Charles I</i>	<i>Oliver Cromwell</i>	<i>The Stuarts</i>
<b>Learning links:</b>	<i>James I</i>	<i>Protestant</i>	<i>Catholic</i>	<i>Gunpowder plot</i>	<i>execution</i>

### Stuart England Timeline:

#### What is a 'civil war'?

A **civil war** is a war between **organized groups** within the **same state or country**. The aim of one side may be to **take control** of the country, to **achieve independence** for a region or to **change government policies**.

**1603** 24 March **James VI of Scotland** crowned **James I of England** uniting the two kingdoms.

**1605**



5 November - **Gunpowder Plot** to assassinate James I is discovered. **Guy Fawkes** is thwarted when he tried to blow up Parliament.

**1611**

King James Bible is published

**1616**

23 April - William Shakespeare dies

**1625**

27 March - **James I** dies and his son **Charles I** ascends to the throne

**Charles I**

**1626-1629**

War with France

**1629**

**Charles I** dissolves parliament and begins 11 years of personal rule

**1640**

13 April - 'Short Parliament' opens at Westminster  
Desperate for money to fight the Scots, Charles I was forced to summon a new parliament.

**1640**

28 August - Scots defeat the English at Newburn on the River Tyne

**1640**

3 November - 'Long Parliament' opens at Westminster  
With the Scottish army firmly established in Northern England and refusing to leave until its expenses had been paid, Charles I was again forced to summon a parliament.

**1642**

4 January - Charles I tries to arrest five leading members of parliament

**1642**

22 August- **Civil War** begins.

**1642**

23 October – Battle of Edgehill, Warwickshire

**1646**

5 May - Charles I surrenders to the Scots

**1649**

30 January - **Charles I is executed** at Whitehall, London

**Oliver Cromwell**

**1653**

16 December - **Oliver Cromwell makes himself Lord Protector**  
Cromwell's self-appointment as 'Lord Protector' gave him powers akin to a monarch. His continuing popularity with the army propped up his regime.

**1660**

Restoration of the Monarchy under **King Charles II**

**1664 - 1665**

29 May - The **Great Plague** of London killed more than 100,000 people died.

**1666**

**Great Fire of London** raged from 2 - 5 September.

**1685**

6 February 1685 Charles II dies and his brother **James II** accedes to the throne



#### The English Civil War: An introduction

The English Civil War was a series of battles fought between **1642 - 1651**. On one side were supporters of the king (**Charles I**) called **Royalists** and on the other were supporters of Parliament called **Parliamentarians** (led by **Oliver Cromwell**). The Civil War resulted in the execution of Charles followed by 11 years of a **commonwealth**, when England had no **monarch**. The monarchy was **restored** in **1660**.

#### What was England like before the civil war?

After **Queen Elizabeth I** died in 1603, there was no obvious **heir** to the throne as she had no children. It was decided that her cousin James Stuart (King James VI of Scotland) would become **King James I of England**, uniting the two kingdoms. He was a **Protestant**, which was a branch of Christianity that believed the King or Queen was the head of the Christian Church, not the Pope. James declared that everyone must attend church on Sundays. **Catholics** were not allowed to celebrate their own form of mass. He authorized the translation of the Bible into English in 1611. The King James Bible is still used today. This made him very popular with Protestants, but unpopular with Catholics. In **1605** a group of Catholics failed in an attempt to kill the king in the **Gunpowder Plot**.

#### THINKING POINT:

What are the two sides of the English Civil War?  
When did the war begin and end?



**TO UNDERSTAND AND DESCRIBE:**

**Causes of the English Civil War:**

**Learning links:**

**Enquiry:**

Y3-6 Science

Y3-6 History

**British History:**

**Year 3: Stone Age to Iron Age Britain (3.4mBC – 43AD)**

- Invasion
- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/beliefs

**Year 3: The Ancient Egyptians (3.4mBC – 43AD)**

- Invasion
- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/beliefs

**Year 4: Roman Britain (43AD – 410AD)**

- Invasion
- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/beliefs

**Year 5: Anglo-Saxon Britain and the invasion of the Vikings (410AD – 1066AD)**

- Invasion
- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/beliefs

**Year 4: William Shakespeare and the end of the Tudors (1564AD – 1616AD)**

- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/beliefs

**Year 5: The Ancient Mayans**

- Invasion
- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/beliefs

**Year 6: World War 2 and modern Britain (1939AD – 1945AD)**

- Settlements
- Technology
- Leaders
- Religion/beliefs

**The Divine Right of Kings:**

**Charles I** came to the British throne in 1625. Like his father, **James I**, he believed in the "**divine right of kings**." This meant that kings were **chosen by God**, so their authority could not be challenged by anyone on Earth. However, many of those working in **Parliament** at the time had been pushing for more power to be shared with them so that they could better represent the will of the people. James I had accepted that he could not get what he wanted all the time and had to listen to Parliament, whereas Charles I always wanted to get his own way.

**THINKING POINT:**

What is the 'Divine Right of Kings'?



**Money:**

In the 17th century, the king had a lot of power over England with one **exception**: he could only raise **taxes** if the English Parliament agreed to it. This was because Parliament represented the **gentry** (landowners), and no king could raise taxes without the help of them. After becoming king in 1625, Charles I quickly got into arguments with members of Parliament. From **1629 to 1640**, he **shut Parliament down** and ruled without it. This was legal, as long as he did not raise taxes. He used some **legal** tricks to raise money without bringing back Parliament. For example, he used "**ship money**", a tax that had been paid by **coastal** towns in times of war. Charles I started charging it to all towns when there was no war. This was unpopular, but **judges** decided that it was legal. The period from **1629 to 1640** was known as the "**Eleven Years' Tyranny**" by the king's enemies.

**THINKING POINT:**

What did Charles do when Parliament wouldn't do as he asked?



**Religion:**

In the previous century, the **Henry VIII's Protestant Reformation** and England's break with the **Catholic Church** had encouraged new ideas and struggles. In England, there was movement called the **Puritans** within the **Protestant Church**, so called because they wanted a "pure" religion. They believed that the **Church of England** was too much like the **Roman Catholic Church** it had broken away from. In particular, they did not want the church to have **bishops**. Most people living in England at the time were Protestants, and many supported the Puritan way of thinking.

However, Charles I and **Archbishop William Laud** tried to change the Church of England. They brought back **incense, bells and decorations** to churches. These were things that were found in Catholic churches. This worried the people who hated Catholicism, especially the Puritans. Charles I also married a French princess, **Henrietta Maria**, who was a Catholic and people were concerned this meant Charles and his children were going to become Catholic too.

**THINKING POINT:**

What changes to the Protestant Church did Charles make?



**Power:**

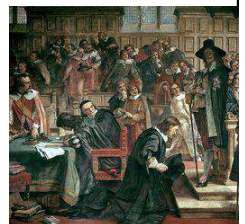
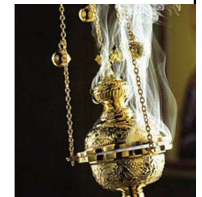
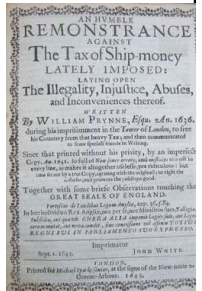
In 1637, Charles I tried to introduce a **new prayer book** in Scotland that was very similar to the English Book of Common Prayer, without asking Scotland's Parliament or church. Many Scots hated the prayer book, seeing it as an attempt to change the religion of their country. **Riots** broke out in Edinburgh, and unrest spread throughout Scotland. A **rebellion** movement began in Scotland, which became known as the Covenanters. This war cost so much money that the King called a new Parliament in England to raise taxes. But the members of Parliament did not want to work with Charles, and instead they complained about the king's actions (such as ship money) during the "Eleven Years' Tyranny". He shut Parliament down again, but the King struggled to stop the Covenanters without new taxes. The Covenanter army **invaded** England and marched into Northumberland and County Durham. They refused to leave unless they were paid money. To raise that money, the King had no choice but to call another Parliament. This became known as the "**Long Parliament**". Over two-thirds of the elected members of the Long Parliament were opposed to the king.

The Long Parliament passed laws to stop the king from shutting it down and removed many of the king's **allies**. They even had his friend Earl of Strafford **executed**.

In **January 1642**, Charles I marched into Parliament with guards, to **arrest five members of Parliament** who disagreed with him. The five men found out he was coming and escaped. No king had ever entered the main chamber of Parliament before, and many members were shocked he would do this. It was disaster for Charles. He failed to catch his enemies, and many members of Parliament who had not been enemies of the king became afraid of him. They decided that the only way to protect themselves was a raise an army against the King.

**THINKING POINT:**

What was the 'tipping point' that caused the war to start?



## During the English Civil War:



### Royalists:

**Royalists** were anyone who supported the King against **Parliamentarians**. They believed in the '**divine right of kings**' and did not think Parliament should have any more power than it already held. They were nicknamed "**Cavaliers**" as the Royalist forces had a very strong **cavalry**, led by Charles' nephew, **Prince Rupert**. The King found more support in the countryside, poorer parts of the country and northern and western England. People who were secretly Catholic mostly supported the King.

### THINKING POINT:



What did the Royalists believe in?

### King Charles I:

Charles I, the son of James I, became king of Great Britain in **1625**. He was a **devout** Christian. However, he also believed that kings should be able to rule as they pleased, without being told what to do by anyone else – the '**divine right of kings**'. He married a French princess, **Henrietta Maria** and they had 5 children: Princess Mary, (later Princess of Orange and mother of William III); James, Duke of York, (later James II); Prince **Charles**, (later **Charles II**); Princess Elizabeth and Princess Anne.



### Parliamentarians:

**Parliamentarians** were anyone who supported the cause against the King. At first, they only wanted to reduce the King's power, but later they believed that the country did not need a king. They were nicknamed "**Roundheads**" due to the shape of their helmets. Parliament found more support in most cities, ports, richer parts of the country and southern and eastern England. The Royal Navy and most **Puritans** supported Parliament. They were **Protestants** and many were **Puritan Protestants**.

### THINKING POINT:



What did the Parliamentarians believe in?

### Oliver Cromwell:

Cromwell was one of the members of **Parliament** who disapproved of the way Charles ruled the country. Oliver Cromwell was born in Cambridgeshire and studied at Cambridge University before managing a small estate (**gentry**). However, he soon became interested in local politics. When he was 27 he had a religious experience and became a **Puritan**. The people of Huntingdon chose him as their **MP** in Parliament in 1628. Although he was a quiet man, Cromwell commanded great authority when he spoke. He gained a reputation as a strong supporter of Parliament against the king. In 1640 Cromwell was elected to represent Cambridge. With no **military** experience, Cromwell created and led a powerful force of **cavalry** soldiers, nicknamed "**The Ironsides**". He persuaded Parliament to **establish** a professional army—the **New Model Army**—which won an important victory over the king's men at Naseby in 1645.



### Major Battles:

In mid-1642, both sides started travelling around the country to gather supporters and weapons. On 22 August, King Charles raised the royal flag in Nottingham. By doing this, he was announcing that he was at war with Parliament.

The 3 major battles were:

- **Edgehill, Warwickshire, October 1642**

The Royalist armies were led by **Prince Rupert**. The **Parliamentarian** armies were at first led by the Earl of Essex. The **Royalists** decided they would try to fight the Parliamentarians quickly, and so went to meet them in Warwickshire. The Royalist forces were successful at first, but became complacent and were pushed back by the Parliamentarians. The battle ended in a **draw**. The King tried to return to London but was blocked by the Parliamentarian army. He moved with his armies to Oxford, where he had more loyal followers.

- **Marston Moor, Yorkshire, July 1644**

Helped by the Scots and the Roundhead **cavalry**, Parliament won a major **victory** at the Battle of Marston Moor. They took control of northern England. The Royalists were weakened but not yet defeated. They won the Battle of Lostwithiel in Cornwall, defeating Essex's soldiers. They also managed to fight to a draw at a second Battle of Newbury in October.

- **Naseby, Northamptonshire, June 1645**

In 1645, Parliament organised its soldiers into the **New Model Army**. The Earl of Essex was replaced by Sir Thomas Fairfax. Oliver Cromwell became Fairfax's deputy. The New Model Army was better organised than any army that had come before it. They defeated the King's largest army at the Battle of Naseby. Most of the Royalist soldiers at Naseby were taken prisoner. King Charles escaped Naseby. The Parliamentarians took control of South West England, where they were weak. King Charles tried gathering his remaining supporters in the Midlands. In May 1646, Charles met a Scottish army in Nottinghamshire. The Scots took him prisoner.

### THINKING POINT:



Why were the Parliamentarians more successful in battle?



### The Second and Third Civil Wars:

Although the Parliamentarians had won, they were divided on how to run the country. One big argument was over **religion**. Most members of Parliament wanted a **national** church whereas the New Model Army wanted to allow local churches to run themselves without there being a national church. Parliament and the Army both tried to win support of the King and the Scottish. King Charles was in prison and was passed between the groups. He refused to make a deal any of them, because he believed that only he had the right to rule over England. He pretended he was interested in making a deal while he planned to take back control of the country. A second war broke out when some of these groups joined with Royalists and **rebellions** broke out in various parts of England. The Royalists and **rebels** were defeated in August 1648.

After Charles I execution, his son, **Prince Charles**, allied with some remaining Scottish rebels. Cromwell travelled to Scotland and the New Model Army took control of the main parts of Scotland. When Charles fled to England, Cromwell followed him, leaving the army to make Scotland part of the **Commonwealth** of England. Charles' army marched across England to the western regions where the Royalists had the most support. However, they could not find as many **supporters** as they wanted. Cromwell found them and **defeated** them at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651. Charles fled to **The Netherlands**. He would not return until **1660**.

## During the English Civil War:

### Weaponry

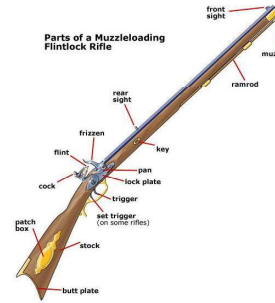
In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, **gunpowder** was a relatively new invention and battles were still very much fought in a 'hand to hand' **combat** style. Most battles featured a range of older, reliable weapons and new, but risky, inventions.

Armies were divided into three main groups:

- **Musketeers:** They were part of the **infantry** (foot soldiers). They fired a type of gun called a **musket**. Muskets were not as powerful or easy to use as modern guns. They were long barrelled guns, which only fired a single shot at a time. There were two types (**flintlock** and **matchlock**), with the flintlock being more reliable and quicker to fire, but also more expensive. Flintlock **pistols** also existed for the very wealthy.
- **Pikemen:** They were part of the **infantry** (foot soldiers). They were the first line of defence and used a long spear called a **pike**. By standing in **formations**, they could protect their soldiers from the attacking **cavalry** who would soon find themselves **impaled** on the pikes, which could be as long as 20 foot (6 metres)!
- **Cavalry:** They were horse riders who would charge at the enemy's **musketeers** with swords and, if they were wealthy, **pistols**. At first, the **Royalists** had a better cavalry. Their riders were faster and more skilled. **Prince Rupert** had fought in the Eighty Years War in The Netherlands and used the lessons learned there to improve his cavalry. However, sometimes the Royalist cavalry failed to work as a team. At the Battle of **Edgehill**, many of them decided to chase fleeing soldiers or steal from the **Parliamentarian baggage wagons**. The Royalists might have won this battle if their cavalry had stayed together. Cromwell's "**Ironsides**" cavalry were slower, but worked better as a team. They helped the Parliamentarians win some key battles.

**Gunpowder** was also used in two of the most dangerous inventions, the **cannon** and the **mortar** – dangerous for both sides of the battle!

- **Cannon:** The cannons used in the Civil War were very **heavy and difficult to manoeuvre**. The largest needed a team of 16 horses to move them. For this reason, they had to be put into position before a battle began. The missiles fired from the cannon were usually **balls of iron**, but sometimes stones were used. After the cannon had been fired, the soldiers operating it had to go through a **strict procedure of cleaning, loading the weapon and loading the gunpowder** before it could be fired again. **Aiming was difficult** and the cannon were more effective as a means of **instilling fear** into the enemy than actually causing damage.
- **Mortar:** This device was **easy to manoeuvre** and can be **used by one man** alone. An **explosive shell** is fired high into the air and explodes on impact. Although it was **difficult to aim**, this weapon was the **most destructive** of those used in the Civil War.



### THINKING POINT:



Which weapons do you think would have been most successful? Why?

## The End of the Civil War:

### Charles I execution

Parliament tried to bargain with King Charles after his arrest, but he would not engage with them. They put him on trial. On 27 January 1649, the trial found him guilty of **treason** and called him a "**tyrant, traitor, murderer and public enemy**". He was **beheaded** three days later.

Many historians say that the execution of King Charles was an important moment in English history, and even in the history of the Western World. No European **monarch** had ever been put on trial by their own people before. Other countries in Europe said the execution was wrong, but they did not do much else.

### Oliver Cromwell and the Commonwealth

The next king would have been Charles' son **Prince Charles**, the future King Charles II. Parliament announced instead that England would become a **republic**, called the **Commonwealth of England**. Cromwell took over as leader of the country. He chose to be "**Lord Protector**" rather than King, because he did not think the country needed another king. His rule was like that of a **dictator**, where Parliament followed all of his orders. His government was called "the **Protectorate**" or "the **Commonwealth**". The time period from 1649 to 1660 is also called the **English Interregnum** (meaning gap between kings).

Oliver Cromwell ruled the country until he died in 1658. Then, Cromwell's son, **Richard**, took over as Lord Protector. However, the Army did not think he was a good ruler.

### The Restoration of the Monarchy

**George Monck**, a key leader in the Army, arranged for a new Parliament to be elected. On 8 May 1660, the new Parliament decided to restore the **monarchy** with **Charles II** as the king. He returned to England later that month. This event is known as the **English Restoration**. Scotland and Ireland went back to being separate countries and the pre-war churches returned.



### THINKING POINT:



Did removing the monarchy make a big difference to how England was ruled?

Why do you think the monarchy was restored?

### EXS:

Do you think Cromwell was protecting democracy, or stealing the throne? Justify your answer with specific examples of evidence.

### GDS:

At what point, and how, do you think Civil War could have been avoided? Justify your answer with specific examples of evidence.