

Key Individuals

Charles I – King from 1625-49. The only English monarch who has been executed

Henrietta Maria – Charles I's wife, she was a French Catholic

Oliver Cromwell – leader of the Parliamentarian Army. Became Lord Protector after Charles' execution (some argue that he began to behave like a King)

Archbishop Laud – leader of the Church, appointed by Charles. He favoured a more Catholic form of Christianity

Prince Rupert – leader of the King's army



The Civil War

1642-1649

King = Cavaliers: cavalry (soldiers on horse) and musketeers (early rifles)

Parliament = Roundheads: infantry (foot soldiers) and pikemen (used long stick with blade on the end)

Key Battles:

Edgehill (1642)

Newbury (1643)

Naseby (1644)

Naseby (1645)



Year 8 History: Topic 2 The English Civil War

Why was Charles unpopular?

He spent lots of money on his lifestyle and wars

This meant he had to frequently ask Parliament to raise taxes

When MPs refused, he sent them away for 11 years

He was accused of being arrogant, and not listening to anyone's advice

People feared he and Henrietta Maria may make England Catholic

Charles marched into Parliament and tried to arrest 5 MPs who opposed him

After the War

Charles arrested. Put on trial for treason. Found guilty.

He was beheaded in London.

His execution was not popular (even though many people hated him).

Cromwell took over the Commonwealth (England was no longer a Kingdom).

He made the country Puritan, and behaved like a king.

Key Vocabulary

Divine Right of Kings – belief that the King is chosen by God and can do no wrong

Ship Money – unpopular tax that Charles forced people who lived near the coast to pay

Royalist – supporter of the King

MP – Member of Parliament – elected to sit in the House of Commons and be involved in ruling the country.

Roundhead – Parliamentarian soldier

Cavalier – royalist soldier

New Model Army – the army that Cromwell formed. It was much more organised and disciplined than the King's army

Puritan – very strict Protestant

