

Y8 History Knowledge Organiser: Unit 1- The English Civil War

Key words

Civil War	A war between different groups within the same country
Divine Right of Kings	A 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
Puritans	Strict Puritans who thought the Church of England had not gone far enough in removing popish elements; they wanted a purified Church
Laudian reforms	Changes made by William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, introducing more ceremony, decorations and music; to Puritans it looked popish (Roman Catholic)
Ship money	A tax traditionally only be imposed on coastal towns in times of war, to pay for the navy; Charles imposed the tax during peace and across the country
Court of Star Chamber	A special, medieval, law court which sat in secret and needed no evidence or witnesses; Charles used it to prosecute opponents
Impeach	To put a member of the government on trial for crimes; the trial is heard by Parliament
Cavaliers	The insulting nickname given to the Royalists, who fought for the King; it literally meant "horsemen" but also suggested arrogance and conceit
Roundheads	The insulting nickname given to those who fought for Parliament had the nickname; many Puritans wore their hair very short / closely cropped
New Model Army	full-time, highly disciplined, professional army set up by Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell; Puritan in make-up; vital in defeating Charles
Regicides	Literally "king-killers"; name given to those who signed Charles' death warrant; Oliver Cromwell was third person to sign

The Gunpowder Plot 1605

Who	A group of Catholics led including Guy Fawkes, Robert Catesby, Thomas Winter, Thomas Percy, and John Wright.
What	Plotted to kill the King of England (James I) by blowing Parliament up
Where	A cellar under the House of Lords, Parliament, Westminster, London
When	5 th November 1605. This was State Opening day, when the King, Lords and Commons would all be present in the Lords Chamber to open parliament.
Why	Guy Fawkes was one of a small group of Catholics who felt that the government was treating Roman Catholics unfairly. They hoped that King James would change the laws, but he didn't. Catholics had to practise their religion in secret. There were even fines for people who didn't attend the Protestant church on Sunday or on holy days. James passed more laws against the Catholics when he became king. These Catholics wanted to get rid of this anti-Catholic king.

Charles' Problems

Money	Religion	Power
Charles had a lavish lifestyle and was running out of money, he was bankrupt. Raising taxes without consulting Parliament Ship Tax collect	Charles married a Catholic in 1625, Henrietta Maria of France. Charles forced the Scottish Church to look more Catholic. He introduced a new prayer book in 1637. Charles allied Protestant England with Catholic Spain.	Charles believed in Divine Right, he did not want Parliament telling him what to do. In 1640 Charles lost a war against the Scottish which made him look weak. In 1642 Charles took control of the army without Parliament's permission to

Key events

1625	Charles I became King and married Henrietta Maria; Parliament only granted him custom duties for one year
1629	Charles I dissolve Parliament and ruled without them; he raised money through imposing Ship Money, selling monopolies and extracting 'forced loans'
1640	A Scottish army invaded to stop Laud's reform to the Church in Scotland
1640	Charles was forced to recall Parliament as needed money to fight Scots
1641	Parliament demanded that that Laud be impeached and his reforms overturned; that the Court of Star Chamber be shut down; that Ship Money be banned and Parliament had to be called at least every three years. Charles agreed to their demands
1641	Grand Remonstrance: Parliament published a list of over 150 'misdeeds' of Charles, and made various demands including the right to choose the King's ministers
1641	Charles marched into the House of Commons with 400 soldiers to arrest his five leading critics, but they had fled; "I see the bird have flown"
1641	Parliament took control of the army, afraid Charles might use it against them
1642	Nineteen Propositions: Parliament issued list of new demands including control over the Church, who the royal family married and how they were educated. Charles rejects these on 18 th June.
1642	22 nd August: Charles raise the royal standard at Nottingham Castle, starting the civil war 23 rd October: Battle of Edgehill – a draw between Charles and Parliament
1643	20 th September: Battle of Newbury- a draw between Charles and Parliament
1644	2 nd July: Battle of Marston Moor – Charles defeated by Parliament
1645	February: New Model Army crated by Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell 14 th June: Battle of Naseby. Charles devastatingly defeated by Parliament
1646	End of the First Civil War, when Charles surrendered to the Scots who handed him over to Parliament, in return for money
1648	Second Civil War, when Charles persuaded the Scots to invade England on his behalf; rebellions in support of Charles in Wales and Kent 19 th August: Battle of Preston- Decisive victory for Parliament
1648	Pride's Purge: Colonel Pride removed from Parliament anyone who wanted to settle with Charles. This left the Rump Parliament of 83 MPs
1649	Trial of Charles on charges of being a "tyrant, traitor, murderer and public enemy"; execution of Charles I "I go from a corruptible to an incorruptible Crown"
1649	Charles I executed in London
	Commonwealth of England (England becomes a Republic) under Oliver Cromwell and Parliament.
1650	Cromwell appointment as Lord General, effectively commander in chief, of the parliamentary armed forces
1653	Cromwell became Lord Protector – ruling over England like a King.
1658	3 rd September – Oliver Cromwell dies. He is succeeded by his son Richard Cromwell as Lord Protector
1659	Richard Cromwell is forced to abdicate by Parliament
1660	Parliament decided to proclaim Charles II (Charles I son) King of England and invite him to return from exile in the Netherlands. England becomes a monarchy again.

Key questions:

Why did Charles dissolve Parliament and rule for eleven years without them?
Charles believed in Divine Right of Kings; Parliament had refused to grant him custom duties for his life time and Parliament had criticised him over his marriage and over his religious policy (i.e. Laudian reforms)
Why did civil war break out in 1642?
Religious divide; different beliefs about power; arguments over the King's finances. Charles had ruled for 11 years without Parliament, raised money without their consent and made religious changes they hated (Laudian reforms); Parliament criticised the King and his ministers, issued the Grand Remonstrance and then the Nineteen Propositions; Charles had tried to use soldiers to arrest his leading critics in Parliament. Charles felt he had no choice left if he was to protect his authority from Parliament. Parliament felt they had to fight to protect their traditional rights and freedoms from the King
Why was Charles I executed in 1649?
He lost the civil war; he started a Second Civil war by getting the Scots to invade England; the Army removed any MPs who were willing to come to a settlement with the King (Pride's Purge)

Key people:

James I	King of England and Scotland from 1603-1625
Charles I	Ruled from 1625-1649
Henrietta Maria	Daughter of Henri IV of France; Catholic
William Laud	Archbishop of Canterbury; Protestant; initiated reforms in the Church which were hated by Puritans
Thomas Fairfax	Parliamentarian General and creator of the New Model Army.
Oliver Cromwell	Ruled England as Lord Protector from 1653-1658
Richard Cromwell	Ruled England as Lord Protector from 1658-1659
Charles II	Charles I's son. Ruled from 1660-1685

Additional notes: