

Y8 History

The English Civil War



Summary

The English Civil War was a conflict in England between the Royalists (Cavaliers) and the Parliamentarians (Roundheads) between 1642 and 1649. The war was caused by quarrels between King Charles I and parliament over religion (Archbishop Laud's decoration of the churches), power (the Grand Remonstrance) and money (the unfair Ship Tax). Key battles include the Battle of Edgehill (1642), the Battle of Marston Moor (1644) and the Battle of Naseby in 1645. The king was eventually put on trial, found guilty of treason and executed. Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector of the short-lived republic.

Key Figures

Charles I	King of England and Scotland from 1625. A remote personality with few friends.
Henrietta Maria	Charles' French wife. She was a Catholic which displeased parliament.
Archbishop Laud	He made the Church of England more decorative and forced the Scots to use a new prayer book causing a rebellion. He seemed to be turning the country Catholic again.
Earl of Strafford	One of the king's leading advisors, he was accused by parliament of treason and executed.
Prince Rupert	The leader of the Royalist cavalry. His army committed atrocities in Birmingham.
Oliver Cromwell	Leader of the parliamentarian army. He created the trained and disciplined New Model Army who were nicknamed 'The Ironsides' because they stood firm in the face of a cavalry charge.



Key Vocabulary

Civil War	A war in which the sides are from the same country.
Divine Right	A belief that a monarch is chosen by God to rule.
Ship Tax	An unfair tax levied by Charles I where everyone in the country paid rather than just people living by the coast.
Grand Remonstrance	A list of 204 complaints presented to Charles I by parliament.
Royalist	Someone who supported the King. Nicknamed <i>Cavaliers</i> deriving from the Spanish for 'horseman'.
Parliamentarian	Someone who supported parliament. Nicknames <i>roundheads</i> which was an insult for rough men from the towns.
Pikemen	A type of soldier who carried a 3m pike. Often the end was cut off to make it easier to handle. They grouped into a 'hedgehog'.
Musketeer	A type of soldier who carried a musket. He also carried pouches of gunpowder on a belt.
Cavalry	Soldiers on horseback. They carried firearms (pistols) which meant that armour was no longer worn (it could be pierced).
Puritan	Strict Protestants, they particularly objected to the changes Charles I made to religion. Cromwell was a puritan.

Challenge— Who do you think was most to blame for the outbreak of the English Civil War? Charles or Parliament—why?

Look at the timeline. When do you think the defeat of King Charles I became inevitable? Explain why.

Other Resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zk4cwmn/resources/1>



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