

TURTON SCHOOL HISTORY DEPARTMENT – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – LIFE IN STUART ENGLAND

Key events	Key people	Key words
<p>The Gunpowder Plot: On the face of it, the Gunpowder Plot was an attempt by a group of Catholics to blow up the king and the Houses of Parliament, this being the place where all of the country's laws are made. In October 1605, one of the plotters gave the game away whilst trying to warn a relative, who was an MP. On 4 November Guy Fawkes was caught red-handed with the gunpowder just before the king was due to open Parliament.</p> <p>The English Civil War (1642 - 51) The war began in 1642 when, after seeing his rights as king slashed by Parliament, Charles miscalculated by swarming into the Palace of Westminster with several hundred soldiers to arrest five Members of Parliament and a peer he accused of treason. They all escaped, but London was scandalized and the king was forced to flee the city. The war between the Roundheads (supporters of parliament) and the Cavaliers (supporters of the King) began.</p> <p>The Civil War led to the trial and execution of Charles I, the exile of his son Charles II, and the replacement of the English monarchy with first the Commonwealth of England (1649–1653) and then with a Protectorate (1653–1659), under the personal rule of Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector.</p> <p>England became a Republic for eleven years from 1649 - 1660.</p> <p>At first England was ruled by Parliament, but in 1653, Oliver Cromwell, commander of the army, became Lord Protector of England. He held his post until his death in 1658 (when his son briefly took over). Cromwell did not want to be king and refused the crown when it was offered to him.</p> <p>The Commonwealth - declared 19 May 1649 Oliver Cromwell (1653-58) Richard Cromwell (1658-59)</p>	<p>James I was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots. During his reign the Gunpowder Plot failed and the Pilgrim fathers set sail for America in the Mayflower. He was the King of England from 1603 and Scotland (as James VI) from 1567. When James became King of England, he was already a king - King James VI of Scotland. He was the first monarch to rule both countries and the first to call himself 'King of Great Britain'. However it was not until 1707 that an act of Parliament formally brought the two countries together. James had been King of Scotland for twenty-nine years when he acceded to the English throne.</p> <p>Charles I tried to rule without Parliament. In the Civil War between his party and Parliament, he was captured and was executed in 1649. Charles was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, and became heir to the throne on the death of his elder brother Henry in 1612. He fought against the Parliament leading to civil war, as a result of this he was executed on 30 January 1649.</p> <p>Oliver Cromwell: was a Puritan, who opposed Charles I. During the Civil War he fought for Parliament. He thought that Parliamentary leaders did not do enough to try to defeat Charles I. Cromwell became the leader of England in 1649 by leading the New Model Army. This included opponents that held different opinions about the type and degree of changes they wanted but they all agreed that Charles needed to change policies or go.</p> <p>At the end of the first Civil War in 1646, Cromwell and the Army tried to negotiate peace with Charles I. In 1648 Charles I betrayed them starting the Second Civil War and they resolved to 'bring him to account'. Cromwell was one of those who tried Charles in 1649 and sentenced him to death.</p> <p>As Protector, Cromwell could not agree with his Parliaments and he dismissed them both. Instead, he ruled the country through his major-generals, which meant that England virtually became a military dictatorship.</p> <p>Charles II was called the Merry Monarch. In his reign occurred the Plague, The Fire of London, and the Dutch Wars. Having suffered a stroke, Charles converted to Catholicism on his death-bed and passed away a few hours later. He was crowned King of Scotland in 1651. When Richard Cromwell lost the confidence of Parliament and abdicated, Charles returned to London in time for his thirtieth birthday and to rule Great Britain (Scotland, England and Wales). Charles saw London recover from the Plague (1665) and Great Fire (1666). Many new buildings were built at this time. St. Paul's Cathedral was built by Sir Christopher Wren and also many churches still to be seen today.</p>	<p>Allies: two groups on the same side, friends in battle.</p> <p>Cavaliers: nickname for the King's soldiers during the English Civil War.</p> <p>Civil War: a war between two groups of people in the same country.</p> <p>Commonwealth: (In context of Civil War.) The period between the execution of Charles I and the restoration of Charles II when England (and then Ireland and Scotland) was a republic.</p> <p>Constitution: A set of laws by which a country is governed.</p> <p>Divine Right: the belief that Kings and Queens could do as they wish because they were appointed by God.</p> <p>Parliament: The law-making body of a country.</p> <p>Puritan: Strict Protestants who wanted to get rid of ritual in church services and lead a plain and simple life.</p> <p>Regicide: the action of killing a king.</p> <p>Republic: A country where the leader is elected or nominated by the people.</p>