

## History Year 8 'Knowledge Organiser: Charles I and the English Civil War.



### Summary:

#### **Why did the King dissolve parliament and rule for 11 years without them?**

King Charles 1<sup>st</sup> believed in the Divine Right of Kings. Parliament had refused to grant him more personal money, and had also criticised his marriage (to a Catholic) and his religious reforms.

**Why did Civil War break out in 1642?** Religious divides, different beliefs about power and arguments over the King's finances. Charles had ruled for 11 years without Parliament, raised taxes without their consent and made religious changes they hated. Parliament criticised the King, issued the Grand Remonstrance, with Charles even trying to use soldiers to arrest his leading critics in Parliament. Charles felt he had no choice left if he was to defend his authority from Parliament. Parliament felt they had a right to fight and protect their rights and freedoms from the King.

**Why was Charles executed in 1649?** He lost the civil war, started a second civil war by getting the Scottish to invade and was accused of treason.

### Key words

Civil War	A war between different groups in the same country
Puritans	Thought the Church of England needed to go further the remove Catholic practices; wanted a 'purified' church
Ship Money	A tax traditionally only imposed on coastal towns in times of war. Charles imposed this tax on the whole country at a time of peace
Court of Star Chamber	A special, medieval law court which sat in secret and needed no evidence or witnesses. Charles used it to remove opponents
Grand Remonstrance	List of demands presented to Charles 1 <sup>st</sup> by Parliament. One of the key trigger events leading to the Civil War.
Cavaliers	The insulting nickname given to the Royalists who fought for the king. Literally means 'horsemen'
Roundheads	The insulting nickname given to those who fought for Parliament
New Model Army	Full time, highly disciplined, professional army that fought for Parliament
Regicides	Literally 'king killers' – the name given to those who signed Charles' death warrant
Republic	A country ruled by an appointed or elected leader, <b>not</b> a monarchy.

### Timeline:

1625	Charles I becomes King. Marries Henrietta Maria.
1629	Charles I dissolves Parliament and rules without them.
1635	Charles I imposed the tax 'Ship Money' across the country.
1640	Charles was forced to recall Parliament as he needed more money to fight the Scottish.
1641	The Grand Remonstrance. Charles retaliates by marching 400 soldiers into the House of Commons to arrest the MP's responsible.
1642	Civil War between King and Parliament begins on August 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
1642 - 1646	Siege of Plymouth. Roundhead forces held Plymouth against Royalist attack.
1644	Battle of Marston Moor and the Battle of Lostwithiel
1645	New Model Army created. Battle of Naseby.
1646	End of First Civil War.
1648	Second Civil War begins. Battle of Preston. Parliament victory.
1649	Trial of Charles I, followed by his execution. England a republic.
1653	Oliver Cromwell appointed Lord Protector

### Key terms

Charles and Money	Charles had a lavish lifestyle and was running out of money – he was bankrupt. He tried raising taxes without consulting Parliament.
Charles and Religion	Charles married a Catholic in 1625, Henrietta Maria of France. Charles forced the Scottish church to look more Catholic, and introduced a new prayer book in 1637. Charles allied Protestant England with Catholic Spain.
Charles and Power	Charles believed in Divine Right, he did not want Parliament telling him what to do. In 1640 Charles lost a war with the Scottish which made him look weak. In 1642 Charles took control of the army without Parliament's permission.
Divine Right of Kings	A belief that the monarch was chosen by God, and that their power and authority came from God. Only answerable to God.

### Key people

James I	King of England and Scotland between 1603 - 1625
Charles I	Ruled between 1625 - 1649
Henrietta Maria	Wife of Charles 1 <sup>st</sup> , daughter to Henri IV of France. Catholic.
Thomas Fairfax	Parliamentarian General and creator of the New Model Army
Oliver Cromwell	Ruled England as Lord Protector from 1653 to 1659

**Concept: Cause and Effect**