

Timeline

1625	Charles I becomes King of England.
1642	Charles I attempts to arrest 5 members of parliament. The English Civil War begins.
1645	The Battle of Naseby.
1646	The First Civil War Ends.
1648	The Scottish invade England. The Second Civil War begins.
1649	The Second Civil War ends. Charles I is executed.

Key people

King Charles I	Charles I was King of England between 1625 and 1649. He believed in the Divine Right of Kings which meant that the King was more important than Parliament. This started the English Civil War and he was executed in 1649.
Oliver Cromwell	Oliver Cromwell was an English leader and Parliamentarian. He served as Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England between 1653 to 1658.
Richard Cromwell	Richard Cromwell was the son of Oliver Cromwell. He served as the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England between 1658 to 1659. He gave up power after 9 months and made way for King Charles II to come to the throne.

Key Terms

Civil War	A war between people of the same country.
Divine Right of Kings	This is a belief that the King or Queen is the most powerful person on earth as God put them into power.
Parliament	A group in the UK elected by the people. They have the power to pass laws.
Roundhead	A supporter of Parliament in the English Civil War.
Cavalier	A supporter of King Charles I in the English Civil War.
New Model Army	An army created in 1645 and led by General Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell. The soldiers were well trained and paid for their service.
Commonwealth	This is the name of England and Wales, later including Ireland and Scotland, from 1649 to 1660 when they were controlled by the Lord Protector.
Tolerance	Showing acceptance of other people's views even if they are different.
Restoration	The term used to describe the return of the monarchy as leaders of England. This happened in 1660.

Key Questions

What caused the English Civil War?

- The Divine Right of Kings — Charles I felt that God had given him the power to rule and so Parliament should follow his leadership.
- The arrest of Charles I's opponents in Parliament. In 1642, Charles I went to Parliament with 300 soldiers and aimed to arrest 5 members of parliament.

Why did Parliament win the war?

- The New Model Army was introduced in 1645. These soldiers were paid for their services and trained well.
- Parliament had more money. They controlled the south of England which was much richer in resources. This helped them raise money for the war.
- At the Battle of Naseby in 1645, the New Model Army crushed Charles I's royalist army. This led to 7,000 casualties for the royalists.

Why was Charles I executed in 1649?

- In 1648, Charles I was kept prisoner by the Parliament forces in the south. In August 1648, he secretly persuaded the Scottish to invade England. The Civil War was back on!
- In the first vote, 240 out of 286 members of Parliament thought Charles deserved a second chance.
- In the second vote, those 240 members were stopped from entering Parliament by Oliver Cromwell. It was decided that the King should be put on trial.

What caused the Restoration in 1660?

- On the death of Oliver Cromwell, there was a lot of debate on who would lead England again.
- The next leader, Richard Cromwell, was unable to control the army of England.
- The son of Charles I, Charles II, announced that he would forgive all crimes committed during the English Civil War and afterwards if they accepted him as King.