

Year 8 Topic 1 Knowledge Organiser: Stuarts & The English Civil War

1 Key Events

1	1603	Elizabeth I dies, James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England
2	1605	Gunpowder Plot – Catholic plan to blow up Parliament and King James.
3	1625	James I dies - his oldest son Charles becomes King Charles I.
4	1629	The Personal Rule of Charles I starts - he closes down Parliament for 11 years.
5	1640	The Personal Rule comes to an end – Parliament is reopened
6	1642	The English Civil War starts
7	1649	Execution of Charles I
8	1653	Oliver Cromwell is made Lord Protector of England.
9	1660	Restoration of the Monarchy – Charles II becomes King
10	1665	The Great Plague of London

2 Key People



James I

James was both King of England and Scotland, and joined the two nations together. He was the target of the Gunpowder Plotters. He believed in the Divine Right of Kings, the belief that God gave King's their power, and therefore could not be argued with by anyone.



Charles I

The eldest son on James I, Charles also believed in the Divine Right of Kings. This led to arguments with Parliament, which in the end led to the English Civil War. Charles eventually loses, and is the only King to be put on trial and executed by the country.



Oliver Cromwell

Oliver Cromwell was an MP, who rose to fame due to New Model Army in the English Civil War. After the war, he was one of the MP's who signed Charles I death warrant. He later became Lord Protector of England, leader of England until his death in 1658.



Charles II

Charles II, son of Charles I, was in hiding in France after his father was beheaded. When Oliver Cromwell died he started to plan his return. In 1660, he successfully landed and paraded through London to cheering crowds. Often called "The Merry Monarch"

3 Key Words

11	Divine Right of Kings	Belief that Kings power came from God and therefore nobody could defy them
12	Treason	The crime of acting to overthrow the government or harm/kill the monarch
13	Monarch	Sovereign head of state – usually a King or Queen
14	Parliament	Body of chosen representatives that run Great Britain
15	Regicide	The act of killing a monarch
16	Dragoon	Cavalry soldier who fought on foot
17	Cavalry	Soldier who rides a horse into battle
18	Pike-men	Soldiers who carried long 10ft spears called pikes
19	Government	The people that rules the country or place
20	Puritan	Very strict Protestants
21	Musketeers	Soldiers who fought with muskets (early form of rifles)
22	New Model Army	New type of army created by Parliament
23	Lord Protector	Title given to Oliver Cromwell
24	Restoration	The return of monarchs to the throne of England
25	Cavaliers	Nickname given to supporters of Charles
26	Roundheads	Nickname given to supporters of Parliament
27	Ship Money	An emergency tax on England, taken advantage of by Charles I

Year 8 Topic 1 Knowledge Organiser: Stuarts & The English Civil War

4 Causes		
1) In 1642, Charles I tried to arrest some MP's but failed.	2) In 1626, parliament refused to raise taxes for the king.	3) In 1625, Charles married a French Catholic princess, called Henrietta Maria.
4) In 1634, Charles made a new tax called Ship Money to help pay for his expensive lifestyle.	5) Charles believed in the Divine Right of Kings – this meant that God had chosen him as king.	6) In 1640, Charles fought a war against Scotland and lost. He had to pay the Scots to leave England.
7) Charles made changes in religion - when some people complained he cut off their ears.	8) In 1625 England were badly beaten by Spain in a battle that cost a lot of money.	9) In 1629, Charles dissolved Parliament (sent them home) and ruled without them for 11 years.
10) In 1640, the Irish rebelled against Charles because they didn't like Charles' religious changes.	11) In 1641, Charles had to go to parliament to ask for more money to fight the Irish and Scots.	12) Later in 1642, after the attempts to arrest the MP's, there were riots in London (see 1). Charles had to leave London for his own safety.

5 Key Battles	
Battle of Edgehill 23rd October 1642	The Battle of Edgehill, on Sunday 23rd October 1642, saw the army of the Earl of Essex, the Parliamentarian Lord General, and the King's army clash in the first major action of the Civil War. It was fought in fields in Warwickshire. The Battle of Edgehill was intended to be the one great battle to decide the war. Although often viewed as an indecisive battle where no side won outright, in effect a bloody draw; the king actually gained an important advantage. Essex failed to break through and had to retreat northward, to the safety of the parliamentarian garrison (fort) at Warwick. This left the Royalists in command of the road to London, and control of the capital was the key to the war.
Battle of Marston Moor 2nd July 1644	The Battle of Marston Moor, which took place in the evening of the 2nd July, is believed to have been the largest battle ever fought on English soil. The Royalists had 10,000 fewer troops than the Parliamentarians. After initial success on the left and in the centre, Prince Rupert was defeated in dramatic fashion. In just a couple of hours the Royalist northern army was effectively destroyed, and Rupert and the Royalist cavalry lost their reputation as an unbeatable force. Oliver Cromwell made his name as great commander and showing how a well equipped, trained and committed Parliamentarian army could win the war.
Battle of Naseby 14th June 1645	The Battle of Naseby was fought on the morning of the 14th June 1645. Parliament's New Model Army destroyed King Charles I's main field army. After nearly three years of conflict, this was the decisive battle of the Civil War. Only about 4000 Royalists escaped the field, most of whom were either cavalry or senior officers, some seriously wounded. The main Royalist field army had been destroyed. The next month, Parliament's New Model went on to defeat the last significant Royalist cavalier army, at Langport. Afterwards it was largely a matter of clearing the remaining Royalist garrisons