

Match of the day: Roundheads versus Cavaliers

Mission Objectives

- Examine which sections of society supported each side in the Civil War.
- Summarize how soldiers fought in the Civil War and outline what they looked like.

On 22 August 1642, King Charles gathered his army together and stuck his Royal Standard (a big flag) into the ground in a field near Nottingham. It was the signal that the English Civil War had started. So what kind of people made up Charles' army? Who dared to fight against their king? And how did the two armies fight and work out who was on each side?

Who was on each side?

Not too many people actually chose which side they were going to be on. They supported the side that got to their town or village first, or the side their local landowner supported. Friends would end up fighting friends, fathers might fight against their sons and so on. A woman might be married to a Parliamentarian but be sister to a Royalist! Civil wars were very nasty affairs. However, some groups of people knew exactly who they would fight for!



The Royalists were known as **Cavaliers**. 'Cavalier' comes from the Italian word *cavaliere*, which means soldier on horseback. The Cavaliers were known for their long hair and stylish clothes.

The Parliamentarians were nicknamed **Roundheads** because of their simple, short bowl-cut hairstyles.

The armies

The richer gentlemen on each side went into battle on horseback. The **cavalry**, as soldiers on horseback are known, wore steel breastplates over their leather coats. They tried to break through the enemy lines by firing their pistols and cutting men down with their swords.

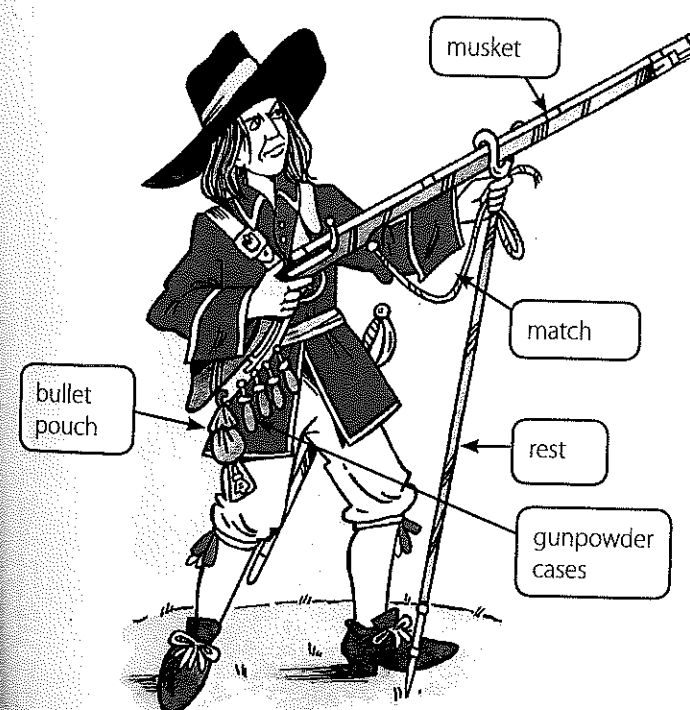
Ordinary people on each side joined either the **pikemen** or the **musketeers**. Soldiers without horses were known as **infantry** or foot soldiers. As you couldn't easily tell who your enemy was by their appearance or language, both sides wore brightly coloured strips of cloth. The Royalists wore red **sashes** and the Parliamentarians wore yellow ones. That way, you could clearly see who was on each side.

The pikemen

These men were tough! The pikeman's job was to stand at the front of the whole army with a five-metre-long pole, a **pike**, tipped with steel. As the enemy approached, they dug one end into the ground and pointed the other at the charging enemy's horse. They wore heavy armour (who could blame them!) and also carried a sword.

The musketeers

A musket was a big clumsy gun. It was so heavy that musketeers (the men who fired them) needed a stick to rest it on! The gun was fired by using a 'match' (a piece of burning rope) to light the gunpowder that had been poured into the barrel. Hopefully, a ball or shot would fly out and travel up to 400 metres. It was a slow, complicated and very dangerous job – there was always a chance of accidentally blowing a finger off. One Royalist musketeer said, 'We seem to bury more fingers and thumbs than we do men.'



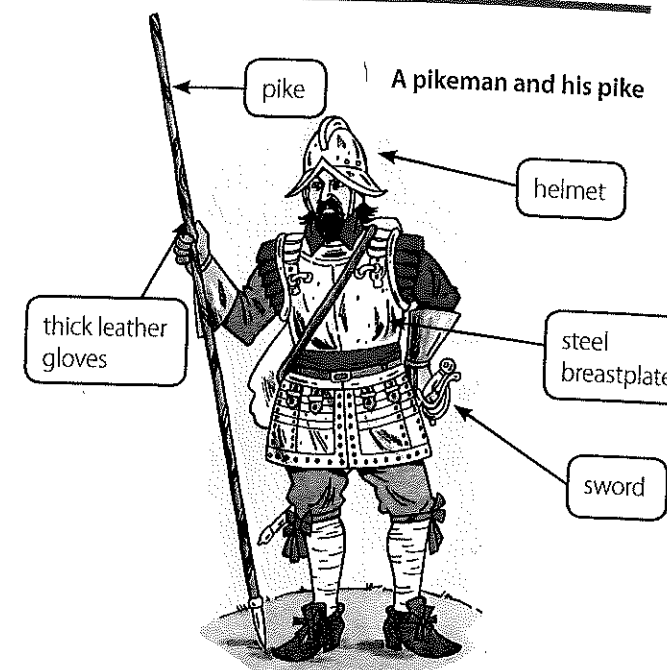
A musketeer and his musket – he would use his weapon as a club when the enemy got close

Lots of fighting

There were 635 different clashes between Cavaliers and Roundheads during the English Civil War. Sometimes the Cavaliers won, sometimes there was no clear winner and, on other occasions, the Roundheads claimed victory. One Royalist general and his troops even changed sides – but forgot to change their old red sashes to the new Roundhead yellow ones. They were all shot by their new **allies**.

Wise Up Words

ally Cavalier cavalry infantry musketeer
pike pikeman Roundhead sash



Hungry for More?

Write a job description for either a musketeer or a pikeman, in order to try to recruit more men for your army. Try to include the following:

- Details of the job and responsibilities
- Equipment supplied
- Hazards of the job
- Benefits of the job.

Work

- Who would usually:
 - support the king?
 - support Parliament?
- Explain each of the following words:
 - Roundhead • Cavalier • cavalry
 - infantry • musketeer • pikeman • ally
- Look at the pictures of the pikeman and the musketeer. On which side did each fight? Explain how you made your choice.
- Draw and label a picture of one of the types of soldier.
 - Explain how your soldier would fight.

Prince Rupert: mad Cavalier or sad Cavalier?

Prince Rupert – nephew of King Charles I – was 22 years old when the Civil War began. He was a tall and handsome man who had been a soldier from the age of 13! He was put in charge of the Royalist cavalry and, apart from Charles himself, was the most famous Cavalier of the whole war. So what did he do to become so well known? And what did the Roundheads think of him?

The Royalists love Rupert

Rupert won fans because he was brave and fearless. He led brilliant cavalry charges and managed to capture several towns that supported Parliament. For example:

October 1642: He led the king's cavalry during battle of Edgehill. The battle was a draw.

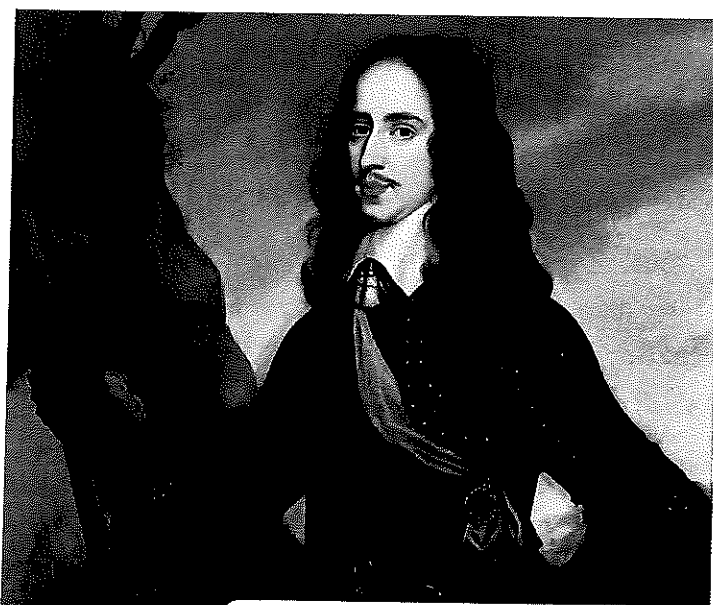
June 1643: He stopped the Roundheads taking over Oxford.

July 1643: He captured Bristol.

May 1644: He captured other major ports.

June 1644: He saved York from Roundhead attack.

His best friend was his little white poodle called Boy. The dog went everywhere with Rupert, even into battle.



SOURCE A: A portrait of Prince Rupert.

Mission Objectives

- Recall who Prince Rupert was and why he was so popular with the king's supporters.
- Discover what the Roundheads thought of him and how they tried to damage his reputation.
- Define the word 'propaganda'.

Rupert was greatly admired by the Royalists and they lovingly nicknamed him the 'Mad Cavalier'. However, as you might expect, the Roundheads hated him.

The Roundheads hate Rupert

During battles, Roundheads looked carefully across the battlefield to spot him. It would have lifted their spirits to have killed Rupert... but no one seemed to be able to get near him. The Roundheads were also very **superstitious** about his dog, saying it was an evil spirit whose mother was a witch. Roundhead soldiers claimed that they had heard the dog talking (in several different languages) and that he had the power to make himself invisible. They thought that Boy's powers made his master unbeatable!

By the end of the year 1644, Rupert had avoided all attempts to kill him. Boy wasn't so lucky. He wandered onto the battlefield at Marston Moor in 1644 and was shot. Although the Roundheads never wounded Rupert in battle, they tried to wound him with words and pictures. This is known as **propaganda** and throughout history people have used it to say what they feel about other people. Things are written or drawn to give a one-sided message about someone. The writer or artist often makes things up too!

Look at **Sources B** to **E** very carefully. Each is about Prince Rupert or his dog. Think about the propaganda message that the writer or artist was trying to put across.

'They ran into every house cursing and damning, threatening and terrifying the poor women most terribly, setting naked swords and pistols to their breasts. They fell to **plundering** all the town, picking purses and pockets, searching in holes and corners and every other place they could suspect for money or goods... They beastly assaulted many women... and bragged about it afterwards, how many they had ravished... The next day in every street they kindled fire with gunpowder, matches, wisps of straw and burning coals.'

▲ **SOURCE B:** This description of what Prince Rupert and his troops did in Birmingham in April 1643 was written by the wife of a Parliamentary commander.



▲ **SOURCE C:** 'The cruelties of the Cavaliers' was drawn by a man who supported Parliament.



▲ **SOURCE D:** This drawing by a Parliamentary shows Rupert hiding in a field after defeat at Marston Moor in 1644. Look for: a) Roundheads capturing his baggage and wagons and discovering objects used by Catholics; b) his dead pet poodle, Boy. He is painted black to show he is dead.

Wise Up Words

plundering propaganda superstitious

'Sad Cavaliers,
Rupert invites all you survivors
To his dog's funeral
Close mourners are the witch, Pope and devil,
Who regret the death of the late fallen evil.'

▲ **SOURCE E:** This poem was taken from a leaflet printed to celebrate Boy's death.

Be a Top Historian

Top historians should always be careful when looking at different sources. What a person writes, paints, or says is influenced by their own **attitudes and beliefs**. For example, a supporter of Parliament is highly likely to have a completely **different opinion** of King Charles from a Royalist!

Work

- 1 Why do you think Roundhead soldiers hated Prince Rupert so much?
- 2 a Explain what is meant by the word 'propaganda'.
b Read **Source B**. How might this source be an example of propaganda?
c What is the propaganda message in **Source C**?
d Can historians be sure that the events in **Sources B** and **C** actually took place? Give reasons for your answer.
- 3 Read **Source E**. Do you think this poem was written by a Royalist or by a Parliamentary? Give reasons for your answer.
- 4 Throughout the Civil War, the Roundheads tried hard to capture Prince Rupert. At one point they offered a reward for his capture... and his dog! Design a 'Wanted' poster for Prince Rupert and Boy. Try to include some examples of Roundhead propaganda in your design.

What was new about the New Model Army?

The first great battle of the Civil War – Edgehill in 1642 – ended in a draw... just! The commanders of Parliament's armies were shocked by the lack of discipline and skill shown by their troops. This was the first fighting that many of the soldiers had seen and they had been given very little training. In the chaos of battle, orders were ignored, soldiers fled in panic and it was impossible to control what the army was doing. The king's cavalry were experienced and well trained and very nearly wiped out Parliament's forces. So how did the Roundhead commanders react? What changes did they make to their forces? And what was it like to live and fight in the New Model Army?

In order to improve their army, Parliament turned to a Member of Parliament from Cambridgeshire called Oliver Cromwell. They gave him the job of training a new set of troops to take on the king's men. This new fighting force was England's first truly professional army and, as it was a different kind of army, it was called the New Model Army. Cromwell made his troops live according to a strict code of conduct and harshly punished anyone who broke his rules. Read through the following sources carefully to discover what Cromwell's New Model Army was like.

'These men were strictly trained and strictly disciplined. But above all, they fought for God. Singing hymns, they charged into battle and their discipline proved too much for Rupert's cavalry, for although the cavaliers were good horsemen, they were not always good soldiers.'

▲ **SOURCE A:** This view of the New Model Army is taken from a History textbook, History Alive Book 1, by Peter Moss (1980).

'Give me a russet-coated captain who knows what he fights for and loves what he knows, than that which you call a gentlemen and is nothing else.'

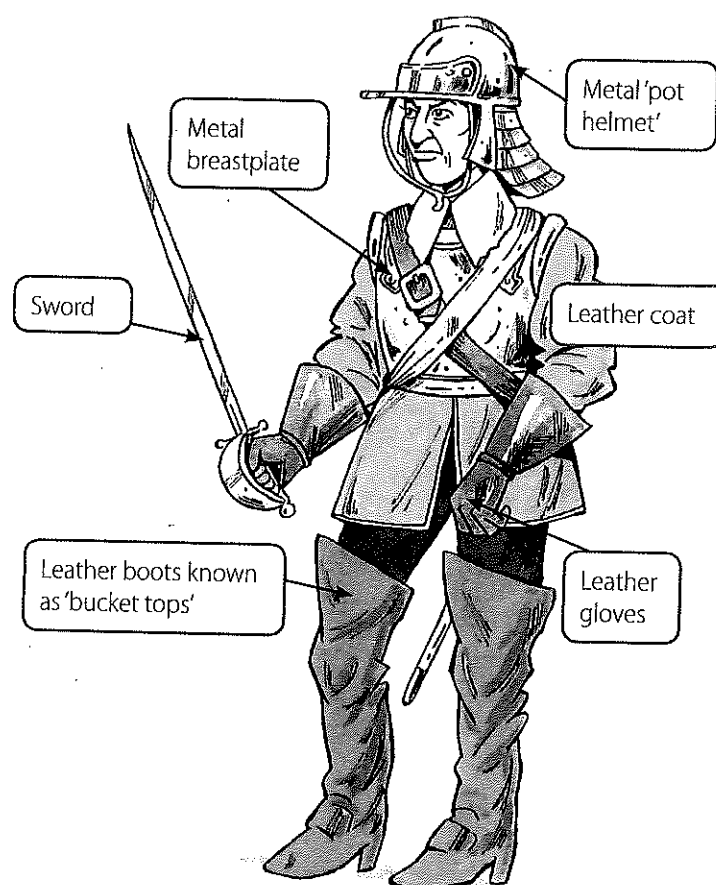
▲ **SOURCE B:** Cromwell said this in 1643. It shows that he chose his men based on their beliefs and values rather than their wealth. 'Russet' was the reddish-brown colour of the New Model Army's coats.

Mission Objectives

- Summarize why Parliament needed to improve its army.
- Recall who was responsible for the training of Parliament's New Model Army.
- Examine how their strict discipline made them a more effective fighting force.

'Cromwell taught his cavalymen to care for their horses and clean their weapons... regular drill [training] and strict discipline made his cavalry more manoeuvrable [easier to control] than the Royalist cavalry.'

▲ **SOURCE C:** This quotation is taken from Oliver Cromwell and His World, by Maurice Ashley (1972).



Lawes of the Army

Duties to God –

First let no man Blaspheme [speak disrespectfully about] our Christian Faith, upon paine to have his tongue bored with a red-hot iron.

Duties towards Superiors and Commanders –

Resisting against correction – No man shall resist, draw, lift or offer to draw, or lift his weapon against any officer.

Seditious [criticising Cromwell or Parliament] words –

None shall utter any words of sedition and uproar, or mutiny, upon pain of death.

Moral duties –

Unnatural abuses – Any abusive or extremely violent behaviour, shall be punished with death.

Theft – Theft and robbery, exceeding the value of twelve pence, shall be punished with death.

Duties towards civilians [ordinary people not involved in the fighting] –

Waste and extortion – None in their March thorow [through] the countries shall waste, spoile or extorte [take by force] any Victuals [food] or Money, from any subject, upon pain of death.

Taking of Horses out of the Plow – No soldier shall take a horse out of a plough, or wrong the Husbandmen [farmers], or cattel, or Goods, upon pain of death.

Duties in camp and garrison –

Swerving from the camp – No man shall depart a mile out of the Army or Camp without licence [permission], upon pain of death.

Offering violence to Victuallers – No man shall do violence to any that brings Victuals to the camp, upon pain of death. Whosoever shall in his quarter [the place where the soldiers lived], abuse, beat, fright his landlord, or any person else in the family, shall be proceeded against [treated] as a Mutineer, and an enemy to Discipline.

Duties in action –

Flying – No man shall abandon his colours, or flye away in Battail, upon pain of death.

Flinging away arms – If a Pikeman throw away his pike, or a Musketeer his musket, he or they shall be punished with death.

The secret of success

All that training and discipline paid off at the Battles of Marston Moor (1644) and Naseby (1645). Both were crushing victories for Parliament and, at Naseby, the king's army was all but destroyed by a series of complicated moves and brave attacks by Cromwell's men. On 5 May 1646, King Charles I realized he had no answer to Parliament's troops. He surrendered to Scotland, hoping he would be safe north of the border. But the Scots sold him to Parliament for a massive £400,000! Charles was brought to London for peace talks but soon escaped and fled to the Isle of Wight off the south coast. Soon, more fighting broke out (this is sometimes called the 'Second Civil War'), but it didn't last long. The king's troops were beaten and the king himself was arrested and brought to London (again). So what were Parliament going to do with him this time?

▲ **SOURCE D:** There was a tough code of discipline in the New Model Army. These are some examples of their 'lawes'.

Work

- 1 a Why did Parliament need a New Model Army?
b Who was given the job of training the men?
c According to the sources, what sort of men did Cromwell want fighting for him?

2 Look at Source D.

- a This list was made public and pinned up around England. Why do you think Cromwell did this?
- b Why do you think the New Model Army rules were so strict?

- 3 Was the New Model Army a success? Give a detailed answer.

- 4 Pretend you are a captain in the army and you have been given the job of talking to a group of men who have just joined up to fight. Prepare a one-minute speech about the rules in Cromwell's New Model Army. Your opening line could be: 'Are you tough enough? You'd better be disciplined if you want to join us...'

Why was King Charles I sentenced to death?

King Charles and his Royalists lost the Civil War. England faced an uncertain future but nobody expected what happened next. At 2:00pm on 30 January 1649, King Charles had his head chopped off! But how did this happen? Why was he killed? And who sentenced him to death?

By 1648 King Charles's troops had been beaten and he was being kept as a prisoner. In August the Scots invaded England on his orders. They were helped by those people who still supported Charles. The English Civil War was back on again.

However, the second Civil War didn't last long because the Royalist forces were easily beaten by Parliament's army. Many men in Parliament felt they couldn't trust the king any more and met to discuss what to do with him. Out of the 286 Members of Parliament, 240 thought Charles should be given another chance and reinstated as king. However, when they next met for discussion, those same 240 members were stopped from entering Parliament by Cromwell's troops. This left 46 Members of Parliament to vote about what to do with the king.

SOURCE A: A picture of the trial.



Mission Objectives

- Explore how and why King Charles was put on trial.
- Analyse the key events of the trial.
- Investigate how the judges arrived at their verdict.

By 26 votes to 20, it was decided that Charles should be put on trial for treason. A jury of 135 top lawyers and judges were chosen to try him. The trial was fixed to start on Saturday 20 January 1649 in Westminster Hall, London. Now work your way through one of the most famous trials in history...

The trial

Day 1: Saturday 20 January 1649

Charles was brought to court by armed soldiers. A red velvet seat was brought for him to sit on. He refused to remove his hat but nobody forced him to. There were meant to be 135 judges but only 67 turned up.

'He is come, he is come and now we are doing the great work that the whole nation will be full of.'

SOURCE B: Oliver Cromwell said this after seeing King Charles walk to court on the first day of the trial.

STOP AND THINK

How do Cromwell's actions compare to Charles'? Think about the actions of King Charles before the war started.

STOP AND THINK

Only 67 judges turned up on the first day. The wife of one man who didn't show up shouted out, 'He has too much wit to be here' when his name was read out. What do you think she meant?

First the charges were read out.

'Charles Stuart, King of England... traitorously waged a war against Parliament and the people. He renewed the war against Parliament in 1648. He is thus responsible for all the treasons, murders... burnings, damage and desolation caused during these wars. He is therefore a tyrant, traitor and murderer and an enemy to the commonwealth of England.'

SOURCE C: The crimes that Charles was charged with.

STOP AND THINK

Read **Source C** very carefully. Make sure you have understood what the charges mean. You might need to look up words such as 'desolation', 'tyrant' and 'commonwealth'. In your own words, write a short paragraph describing the charges made against Charles.

The man leading the trial, John Bradshaw, asked Charles to say whether he pleaded innocent or guilty to these charges. Charles laughed and refused to plead at all. He said:

'I would know by what power I am called here. I want to know by what authority; I mean lawful. There are many unlawful authorities in the world, thieves and robbers on the highway... Remember, I am your king, your lawful king... I have a trust committed to me by God, by old and lawful descent; I will not betray it to answer a new unlawful authority.'

SOURCE D: The king's response to the charges.

STOP AND THINK

Why do you think Charles uses the word 'lawful' so often? What do you think 'I have a trust committed to me by God' means? Throughout the trial, Charles refused to take his hat off, interrupted and even laughed at what was being said. Why do you think he behaved like this?

The day ended with Charles refusing to plead innocent or guilty – he even refused to accept that the court had any legal right to put him on trial.

Wise Up Words

commonwealth death warrant desolation
execution revolution tyrant

Day 2: Monday 22 January 1649

Seventy judges turned up on the second day. The court continued to ask Charles to plead innocent or guilty to the charges. Charles argued that the courts were the king's courts and under his authority – so how could the king be put on trial in his own court? At one point, Charles and Bradshaw appeared to argue with each other (see **Source E**).

Bradshaw: Confess or deny the charge.

King: By what authority do you sit?

Bradshaw: We sit here by the authority of the Parliament of England and you are responsible to them.

King: I deny that! Show me one precedent.

Bradshaw: This is not to be debated by you.

King: The Parliament of England is not a Court of Law.

Bradshaw: It is not for prisoners to discuss.

King: Sir, I am not an ordinary prisoner.

Bradshaw: Take him away.

SOURCE E: The king and Bradshaw argued.

'Precedent' means where something has happened before. Why did Bradshaw become so frustrated with Charles?

Work



The Big Write!

It is 1649 and you have managed to get a seat in the gallery to watch the trial of Charles I. Write a short letter to a friend about the events of days 1 and 2. Remember to follow the conventions of a letter, including your address, your friend's address and the date.

IMPORTANT: Choose whether you are either a supporter of Charles OR a supporter of Parliament. Your letter should reflect your feelings. For example, a supporter of Charles might think his refusal to take his hat off was brave and courageous. Someone against him might think this was disrespectful to the judges.

Why was King Charles I sentenced to death?

The trial continues...

Days 1 and 2 of King Charles's trial did not go well. Some of the judges didn't turn up and the king still refused to plead guilty or not guilty. So what happened next?

Day 3: Tuesday 23 January 1649

Seventy-one judges turned up on the third day. Once again, Charles refused to plead. He said that the court, which was chosen by the army, relied on force, not the law. He added, 'How I came here I know not, there is no law to make your king your prisoner.' Charles was taken away again after just a few minutes in court.

Look at the first three days of the trial. In your opinion, is the trial going better for the king or his enemies?

Days 4-6: 24-26 January 1649

Things weren't going as Parliament and Cromwell had hoped. Algernon Sidney, a leading judge, who refused to take part in the trial, said publicly, 'Firstly, the king cannot be tried by any court and secondly, no man should be tried in this court.'

The judges met without Charles for the next few days. They decided to write down a plea of 'guilty' despite the fact that Charles had chosen not to answer any of their questions properly. Finally, witnesses were heard.

Witness No. 1:

'I saw Charles stick his banner in the ground in Nottingham in 1642. This officially started the war. The war was Charles' fault.'

Witness No. 2:

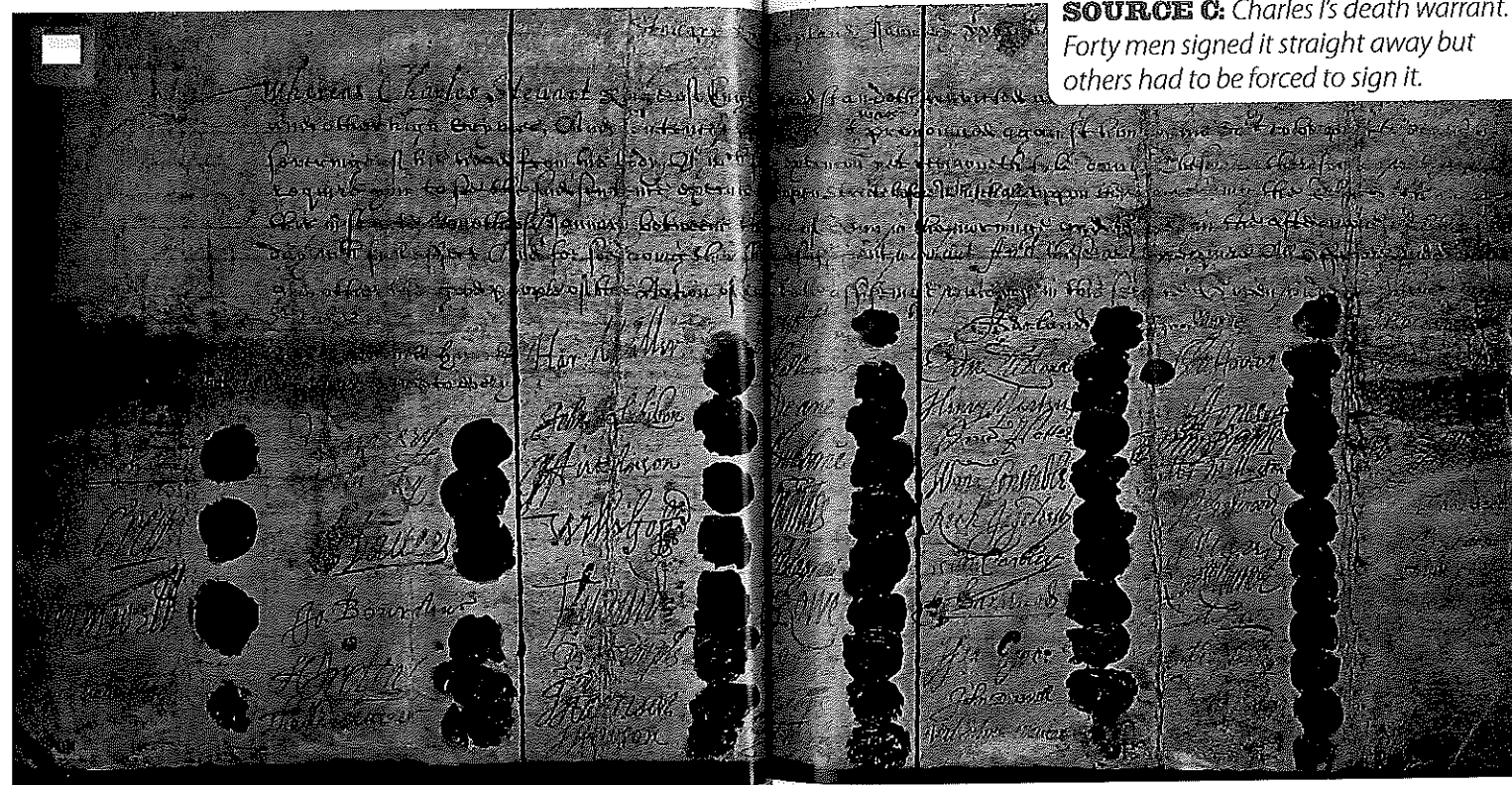
'King Charles once saw some of Parliament's troops being badly treated by Royalists. He said, "I do not care if they cut them three times more, for they are my enemies."'

Later that day, the judges made their decision. They decided that Charles was guilty of all charges and called him to see them the next day.

Verdict and Sentence

Day 7: Saturday 27 January 1649

Sixty-eight judges were there on the final day. Charles entered the hall (with his hat on) and sat on his chair. Bradshaw said that it was the duty of any king to talk with Parliament frequently. Charles hadn't done this and so had failed in his duties as a king. This started the war. At this point, Charles tried to make a statement but wasn't allowed to do so. Then Bradshaw pronounced the king 'guilty' and read out the sentence (see Source A).



Witness No. 3:

'Here is a letter from King Charles to his son. He is asking his son to get a foreign army together to invade England. Charles wants foreigners to kill Englishmen. He can't be trusted... he's a traitor.'

'This court does judge that Charles Stuart, as a tyrant, traitor, murderer and a public enemy, shall be put to death by the severing of his head from his body.'

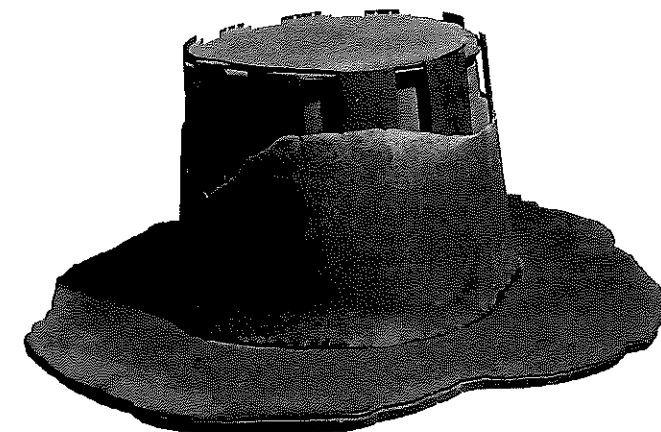
SOURCE A: The death sentence passed on King Charles.

The **execution** date was set for Tuesday 30 January 1649. The **death warrant** (a signed piece of paper that confirms that a person will be executed) was signed by 59 judges... who then went off to pray!

'I tell you, we will cut off his head with the crown upon it.'

SOURCE B: Oliver Cromwell speaking in January 1649.

SOURCE C: Charles I's death warrant. Forty men signed it straight away but others had to be forced to sign it.



SOURCE D: Bradshaw wore this metal-lined hat during the trial. Why do you think he did this?

Be a Top Historian

Top historians should understand that an event, such as the execution of King Charles, could have many **consequences**, and that these consequences can be both **short-term** and **long-term**. Make sure you know what short-term and long-term consequences are.

Work

- 1 Look carefully at the death warrant in **Source C**. Can you make out any of the names? Look for Oliver Cromwell's signature.
- 2 Look at **Source B**. Write a sentence or two describing Cromwell's attitude to the trial.
- 3 Only 59 judges signed the death warrant. Look again at page 104 and find out how many people were first chosen to make up the jury. What does this tell you?
- 4 Look up the word '**revolution**' in a dictionary. Is this a suitable word to describe the events of 20-27 January 1649?
- 5 **The Big Write!**

Write another letter to your friend (or continue with your letter from the previous page), about the events of days 3-7. This time you will have to include your opinion of the verdict. Remember, you are writing as a supporter either of Parliament or of Charles. Make sure you follow the conventions of a letter, including your address, your friend's address, and the date.

Why not write a short script for, and perform, a role-play about the trial of King Charles? In groups, take on the roles of Charles, Bradshaw, the spectators and the judges. You will also need a narrator to tell the story of the trial.

Hungry for More?

7.6 Charlie for the chop!

Mission Objectives

- Explore how Charles spent the last few hours of his life.
- Examine the details of his execution.
- Evaluate sources relating to the execution.



TV presenter: We are very sorry to interrupt your Tuesday afternoon film but the news we have been expecting has just been confirmed. Charles Stuart, King of England, is dead. Shortly after 2:00pm, he was beheaded outside Whitehall Banqueting House, London. Over to Annette Ball, our live reporter at the scene.

Live reporter: Thank you, Linda. We are witnessing amazing scenes here in London today. The execution was planned for around 12 noon, so early this morning the king went for a walk through St James' Park with his pet spaniel, Rogue. He ate some bread, drank some red wine and then insisted on putting on two shirts before he started his final journey.

Live reporter: Firstly, the usual executioner refused to do it. Then 38 other men were each offered £100 to do it. One by one they refused. Eventually, two men agreed to do it in disguise. They wore masks, wigs and false beards.

TV presenter: So what happened next?

Live reporter: The king arrived shortly before 2:00pm. He stepped out onto the black cloth-covered scaffold, took off his jewels and his cloak, and then tucked his hair into a cap. He spoke calmly to those men near to him, knelt down to pray and then put his head on the block.

TV presenter: Why two shirts, Annette?

Live reporter: It's very chilly here today in London, Linda, and apparently Charles didn't want to start shivering from the cold. He didn't want the public to think that he was trembling with fear.

TV presenter: You say that they planned to execute him at 12 noon but he was killed shortly after 2:00pm. Why the delay?

TV presenter: Was it a clean cut, Annette?

Live reporter: Yes it was, Linda. One clean chop. Then one of the axemen held up Charles' head for all to see. An eyewitness told me, 'There was such a groan by the thousands then present, as I never heard before and desire I may never hear again.'

TV presenter: Describe the scene now, Annette.

Live reporter: The king has just been taken away in a wooden coffin. Now people are paying to dip their handkerchiefs in the king's blood. Others are trying to break off pieces of the scaffold covered in his blood. Some of the soldiers guarding the scaffold will make a fortune today! Incredible scenes, Linda. What can the country expect next? Back to you in the studio...

TV presenter: That's the big question tonight. King Charles is dead... so what happens now? What will Parliament do?

And that must have been the question on everyone's lips. With no king, what sort of job would Parliament do?

Wise Up Words

bias



SOURCE A: This woodcut of the execution, was created straight after the event.



Work

- Why do you think so many people refused to execute Charles? Give as many reasons as you can.
 - Why did the two men finally agree to do it?
 - Think carefully. Why did the executioners insist that Charles tuck his long hair into a cap?
- Look at **Source A**. What is wrong with this print? Your answer to 1b might give you a clue.
- Look at **Source B**. You will notice four smaller pictures surrounding the main one. Describe what you think each of the smaller pictures shows.
 - Why do you think that a woman in the main picture has fainted?

FACT!

- The identity of the executioners is still a mystery.
- There was special equipment to harness the king if he refused to put his head on the block.
- The king's head was sewn back on and he was buried in Windsor Castle. In 1813, a doctor took one of the king's neck bones and is said to have used it to hold salt at dinner parties. Queen Victoria wasn't amused and the doctor's heirs put it back.

SOURCE B: This painting of the execution was painted soon after the event.

- Why do you think some people wanted to dip their handkerchiefs in the dead king's blood?

4 The Big Write!

Design the front page for a broadsheet newspaper in 1649 reporting the amazing events of Charles' execution. Try to do the following:

- Write a version that favours either the supporters of the king or those who decided to execute him.
- Show your report to a classmate and see if they can spot the parts of your writing that show **bias**.

The man who banned Christmas

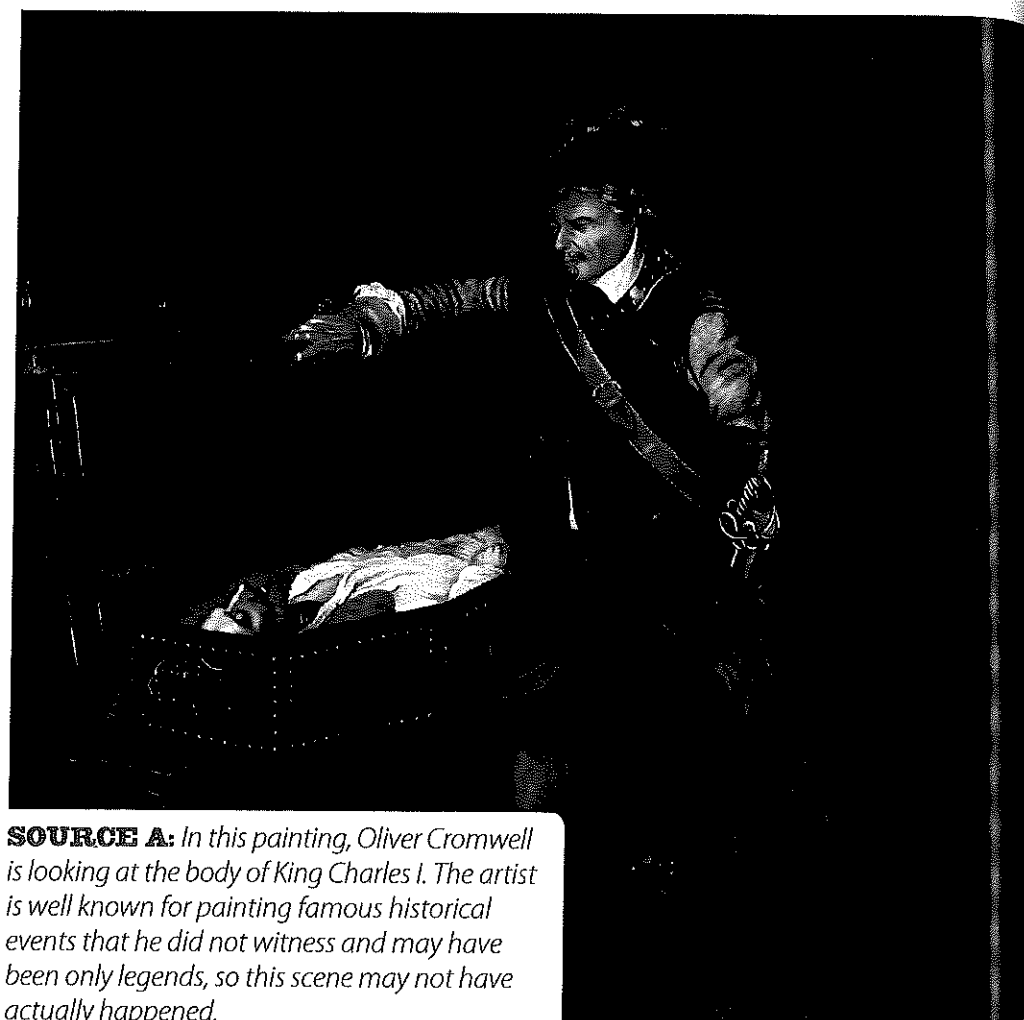
When King Charles I was executed in January 1649, the country became what's known as a **republic**. This is the name given to a country without a king or queen. Things would stay like this for the next 11 years. So what was life like in the republic? If there wasn't a king or queen, then who made all the laws and decisions? And why was the decision made to ban Christmas?

Who rules?

Without a king or queen, people looked towards the most powerful man in the country to guide them. That person was Oliver Cromwell, the leader of the army that had beaten King Charles' men (see **Source A**).

Who was Cromwell?

Cromwell was a Member of Parliament and a brilliant army leader. He was also a Puritan. Puritans were strict Christians who read the Bible closely as they believed it taught them how to live their lives. They tried to lead simple lives like Jesus, wear plain clothes and eat ordinary food. They didn't like sports and entertainment because they thought these distracted people from worshipping God. By the 1650s, there were lots and lots of Puritans in the country, including Oliver Cromwell.



SOURCE A: In this painting, Oliver Cromwell is looking at the body of King Charles I. The artist is well known for painting famous historical events that he did not witness and may have been only legends, so this scene may not have actually happened.

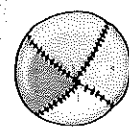
Parliament rules... or does it?

To start with, Parliament ruled the country but soon the politicians began to argue amongst themselves. So Cromwell, who was greatly respected by many, closed Parliament and decided to run the country himself. He was called **Lord Protector** and paid a huge salary of £100,000 a year. Cromwell divided the country up into 11 districts and appointed a **Major-General** to run each one. These men were strict Puritans and introduced many new laws. **Source B** shows some of the things that were banned.

Mission Objectives

- Define the words 'republic' and 'interregnum'.
- Discover how the country changed under Cromwell.
- Explain why Christmas was banned.

BANNED! By order of the Major General (because pleasure and enjoyment are wicked)



Football banned



Inns shut

Bear-baiting stopped



Theatres closed



Maypole dancing stopped

Gambling banned



▲ **SOURCE B:** Puritan rule was very strict and laws like the ones above made the Puritan rulers increasingly unpopular.

What about Christmas?

A proposed law in 1650 tried to stop women wearing make-up and swearing was outlawed. In 1656, a woman was fined 12 shillings (60 pence) for saying seven rude words. And there were no more feast days, such as May Day or All Saints' Day, either. Instead, a fast day was introduced once a month, and eating and drinking was completely banned on Christmas Day – no ale, no mince pies, no pudding! In 1652, soldiers even went around houses at Christmas dinnertime to take away any meat.

Fed up!

By 1658, Cromwell and the Major-Generals were becoming very unpopular. Many ordinary people didn't want to live by these strict laws any more. Lucy Hutchinson, who was once one of Cromwell's strongest supporters, wrote: 'the whole land grew weary of him, while he set up a company of silly, mean fellows, called Major-Generals'. In September that year, Oliver Cromwell died. So what would happen to the country next?

Be a Top Historian

Top historians are able to use the correct names for periods of history. The time when England was a republic is known as the **Interregnum**. It comes from the Latin words *inter*, meaning 'between', and *regis* or 'king'. So Interregnum means the period between kings.

Wise Up Words

Interregnum Lord Protector Major-General republic



SOURCE C: Puritans led simple lives, wearing plain clothes (usually in black and white) rather than bright, fashionable ones. They wanted simple churches too – plain glass replaced stained glass, church bells were removed, candlesticks were melted down and organs smashed up.

FACT!

Cromwell himself wasn't a particularly strict Puritan. He drank alcohol, played bowls and liked music and hunting.

Work

- Write a sentence to explain the following words:
 - republic
 - Interregnum
 - What was the difference between the Lord Protector and a Major-General?
 - Why do you think Cromwell gave himself the title of Lord Protector?
 - Why do you think the Major-Generals were so unpopular with some people?
- Write a paragraph explaining how a) churches and b) entertainment changed during the Interregnum.
- Produce a 'warning' poster for Cromwell's England. Imagine that it would be displayed at the time. It should warn people what they are not allowed to do... and why. Use no more than 25 words on your poster.