

SECTION 1 - KEYWORDS

Artillery	Large guns used on land such as cannons
Cavalier	Soldiers who fought for the King
Cavalry	Soldiers on horseback
Civil War	A war between citizens of the same country
Clubman	Local defence groups protecting their areas from soldiers on both sides
Oliver Cromwell	Parliamentarian and Puritan MP in charge on New Model Army
Gentry	Wealthy landowners
Infantry	Foot soldiers
MPs	Members of Parliament
Musket	Light gun with a long barrel
New Model Army	Parliament's professional army formed in 1645
Pike	A pole weapon used by pikemen
Prince Rupert	Royalist cavalry commander during Civil War
Roundheads	Soldiers who fought on the side of Parliament

YEAR 8 History: LIFE DURING THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR / THE EXECUTION OF CHARLES I

SECTION 2 – THE TWO SIDES OF THE WAR

In 1642, people had to decide whether they supported the King or Parliament. Often they supported the side that got its army into their region first or the side the local landowner supported. Many even changed sides during the war. In over 20 counties the local people organised armies to keep both sides out. Between a third and two thirds of the gentry refused to fight on either side

KING = ROYALISTS (also known as Cavaliers)	PARLIAMENT = PARLIAMENTARIANS (also known as Roundheads)
Controlled the poorer regions of Britain, Ireland and Wales and the North of England	Controlled nearly all the major towns, cities, ports and the navy. This was a great advantage, because the wealth helped them during the war
Nearly half of the MPs in House of Commons fought for the King. Many nobles and some of the gentry also fought on this side	Puritans fought for Parliament and had a strong belief that God was on their side
Catholics fought for the King. Charles also hoped foreign rulers would help by sending troops, but none came	Many commanders like the Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell were highly experienced
Commanded by Prince Rupert who had experienced but often made poor decisions and let the cavalry get out of control	Gave jobs based on ability rather than nobility
Gave jobs based on nobility rather than ability	Regularly paid following creation of New Model Army
Rich supporters with their own horses and guns	

SECTION 3 – Weapons and Tactics

Both sides used similar weapons and tactics. At the core of both armies were infantry men who made up the majority of the soldiers.

Pikemen carried 16 foot long pikes which were designed to stop horses and soldiers charging into them.

Weapons & tactics: musketeers



Musketeer

Both armies had men called **musketeers** who were equipped with muskets (guns).

To load the musket they would pour the gunpowder down the barrel.

The musketeer would then insert a musket ball and ram it down with a special rod.

They would then aim the gun and fire it using the trigger. The trigger moved the burning end of a piece of rope onto the gunpowder in the barrel, causing the gun to fire.



Weapons & tactics: cavalry



The **cavalry** (soldiers on horseback) were equipped with pistols and swords.

The swords were used for slashing at the enemy soldier's heads.

The cavalry's speed around the battlefield made it very important in the Civil War era – battles were often won or lost by the cavalry.

Cavalry soldiers wore a metal helmet and a breast plate. The rest of their uniform was made of leather.

Civil War soldiers did not wear full armour like medieval knights. Which invention had made heavy armour of very little use in a battle?



SECTION 4 – Who fought for whom?

What you would expect	What actually happened
All the rich gentry supported Charles	In fact, many gentry opposed Charles. In Lancashire, for example, 272 members of the gentry supported the King, 138 supported Parliament and nine changed sides during the war.
Most MPs supported Parliament	In fact, nearly half the MPs were on the King's side. And Charles' supporters were not just MPS from the south-east but from all over the country.
Everyone took sides	Between a third and two thirds of the gentry took no active part in the war. In 21 counties armies were organised to keep both sides out!
People chose sides on a matter of principle	Many people did not choose which side they fought on. They tended to support the side whose army controlled their area or the side the local lord supported. Many gentry chose the side they thought would win.

SECTION 5 – Key Battle of the War

1642	The Battle of Edgehill – was a confused draw. Charles advanced as far as Turnham Drive, 5 miles from London, but when 24,000 Londoners turned out to fight him, he turned back.
1643	Charles tried another attack on London, but he was defeated at the Battle of Newbury.
1644	Parliament made an alliance with the Scottish 'Covenanters' (Protestants) and Oliver Cromwell and his 'Ironsides' joined the parliamentary cavalry. Cromwell defeated a Royalist army at Marston Moor by attacking them at teatime.
1645	Parliament reorganised its armies into the New Model Army led by Cromwell. Charles was decisively defeated at the Battle of Naseby
CLIP Watch	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_tfkA3dQic
1646	Last battles. Royalists surrender at Oxford and Charles is imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. Whilst there he secretly persuaded the Scots to invade England. Although the Royalists were defeated this was the last straw. Charles could not be trusted.
Jan 1649	Trial of Charles I. tried by 135 judges
Jan 1649	Charles found guilty of murder and tyranny and executed on 29 th January.

SECTION 6 – Trial and Execution

- The trial was fixed for 20 January 1649 in Westminster Hall. Many people felt very reluctant to be involved and disappeared to their country estates.
- On the first day only 68 of the 135 commissioners turned up. The charged were read by John Bradshaw and Charles refused to accept them. Charles was removed and the trial continued in his absence.
- On 27 January 1649 Charles was brought before the court for sentencing. He was found guilty and was 'to be put to death by the severing of his head from his body'.
- The commissioners were nervous about signing his death warrant and many had to be forced to sign it
- On the morning of 30 January Charles was taken to Whitehall wearing two shirts. He ate a piece of bread and drank some wine and then prayed. At 2pm he stepped onto the scaffold.



