

## Year 8 History: Cromwell - Hero or Villain

### SECTION 1 – Key words

Republic	A country that is not ruled by a King or queen
Lord protector	Cromwell's title for running the England and Ireland. He turned down the offer to become King
Major general	England was divided into 11 districts. Major Generals were appointed to take control of each district
siege	Enemy surrounds a town cutting off essential supplies

### Section 2-Cromwell fact file



He was born in 1599 Huntingdon to a well off farming Puritan family

He had a deep love of music, enjoyed horse racing hawking and hunting

He was Parliament's chief spokesperson during the Civil War. He became an excellent cavalry commander and created the New Model Army, which led to Parliament's victory.



He became Lord Protector in 1649 and ruled England until 1658

Cromwell had a state funeral but when Charles II became King Cromwell's head was dug up and stuck on a spike outside Westminster Hall. For the next 300 years Cromwell's head had a tumultuous history before being laid to rest at Cambridge University in 1960

### Section 3 – Hero or Villain?

**Cromwell is one of the most famous men in history but he is also a very controversial figure. To some he was a great man who changed the way Britain was run and made it a safer and fairer place to live. But to others he was a power –hungry monster who made Britain a worse place to live. SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Cromwell believed in Parliamentary democracy. When it tried to restrict people's freedom to worship Cromwell said that was wrong and dismissed Parliament.

In 1290 all Jews were expelled from the country. Cromwell allowed them to return and to worship freely.

**HERO OR VILLAIN?**

He was an excellent politician and only appointed people for their ability not on their wealth.

In Ireland Cromwell slaughtered people who refused to surrender to him. This included thousands of innocent men, women and children.

He banned music, gambling, dancing and Christmas! Anyone caught playing football was whipped.

He made England stronger and safer by improving the army. Spain and France feared and respected England.

Without Parliament Cromwell ruled on his own – a bit like a King. The country was divided into 11 areas all with its own Major- General, who set laws and taxes. They were very unpopular.

**Section 4 Case Study – Drogheda** – By 1640 over 25,000 English had settled in Ireland. Many of them were Protestant, which caused tensions between them and the Irish who remained Catholic and had supported Charles I. In 1641 this burst out into violence and the Irish killed 1000s of the settlers. In 1649 Cromwell decided to deal with the problem and took an army of 12,000 men and laid siege to the town of Drogheda. He demanded that the people surrendered and threatened to attack if they didn't. There are conflicting arguments as to what happened. Cromwell's side argued that the Irish refused to surrender- whereas the Irish said that they had 'thrown down their weapons on an offer of **quarter**' (to surrender). Whilst the actions of both Cromwell and the Irish is debated – the outcome was that 3000 of Irish men, women and children were killed and others sold into slavery abroad. As a result of Drogheda there are no statues of Cromwell in Ireland. The Irish call Cromwell the 'CURSE of IRELAND' **Do you think he deserves this reputation?**

