

Happening At This Time

1666	1605	1643	1665
Great Fire of London	Gunpowder Plot	Isaac Newton born	Great Plague

Timeline

1625	Charles I inherits the English throne, and the belief of his father in the Divine Right of Kings to rule as he wished.
1628-40	Charles dissolves parliament after they refuse to support his plan to continue to raise money for the crown without their permission.
1640	Charles is forced to recall parliament after failed military campaigns against Scotland. Once recalled, parliament initially demand and gain greater power to avoid being dissolved again so easily.
1640- 42	The relationship between the King and parliament continues to worsen as one of his closest advisors is beheaded due to treason, and war becomes inevitable between the two.
1642	Charles raises his Standard at Nottingham, and quickly gathers men to his cause. The Royalists gain the name of the Cavaliers whilst the Parliamentarians are called the Roundheads, both being taken from the way they looked. Early battles were closely fought but by 1645, the Roundheads had won several important victories.
1646	After further defeats, Charles is captured by a Scottish army. Others briefly continued to fight in his name but by 1648, Charles was defeated.
1649	Charles is put on trial as the army are angry that parliament start to consider putting him back on the throne. He is found guilty of high treason, and is beheaded on 30th January, 1649. His son, Charles II, tries to retain power as the new king but narrowly escapes with his life and flees to France.

Key Concepts

Democracy	The belief in freedom and equality between people, or a system of government based on this belief, and the freedom to express their views.
Government	A group of people of a country who are in charge of running it on a day to day basis and are responsible for making decisions.
Parliament	The group of elected politicians , wealthy landowners , or other people who make or change a country's laws.
War	Armed fighting between two or more groups, where the victor is able to implement their views, laws or systems over the defeated side .

Key People

King Charles	The son of James I who became King of England in 1625. Married to a French princess, he believed he could rule without any interference, and that he had the divine right of Kings; a belief that the King was directly chosen by God. Charles did not have many successes as King, losing battles against Spain, trying to tax without parliament's blessing, and lacking the understanding of working with parliament to get things done.
Lady Bankes	Lady Mary Bankes led the defence of Corfe Castle while her husband was away serving the King. Mary's defiance didn't end with the fall of the castle. After years of petitioning Parliament, she lived to see her family estates returned and the restoration of King Charles II. Even her enemies were impressed. The victorious Parliamentarians eventually presented her with the keys to Corfe Castle as a tribute to her courage, and you can still see the castle today at the Bankes family's later home, Longstonacy, a few miles from Corfe Castle near Wimborne Minster.
Oliver Cromwell	He was an English military and political leader. He served as member of parliament from 1628 and was part of the parliament that argued with Charles over his rule of the country. When war broke out, he proved himself on the battlefield and was responsible for key victories against the Cavaliers. He was promoted for these successes and at the end of the war, and Charles' beheading, he was named Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland from 1653 until his death, acting simultaneously as head of state and head of government of the new republic.

Key Vocabulary

Cavaliers	The supporters of the King of England (Royalists), they were given this name as they were thought to be not serious, which was reflected in the way they dressed and how they wore their hair long, and in ringlets.
Dissolve	To end an official session of parliament, usually before a new election or change in the ruling authority.
Roundhead	The supporters of the Parliament of England (Parliamentarians), so named as they wore their hair closely cropped round the head. They were seen as dull and too strictly religious.
Standard	A flag used as the symbol of a person, group, or organisation.
Treason	Showing no loyalty to your country, especially by helping enemies or trying to defeat its government.



Roundheads

Cavaliers

Wore tight fitting metal helmets	Wore floppy hats and long flowing hair
Very strict Protestant beliefs	Believed in the divine right of the king
Well organised and structured foot soldiers	Greater use of cavalry

Corfe Castle

In the 17th century, as the Civil War raged around it, **Corfe Castle** stood firm. The Bankes family supported King Charles I (Cavaliers) against Oliver Cromwell (Roundheads). Lady Bankes defended it bravely, seeing off one siege, until finally late in 1645 Colonel Bingham Governor of Poole started a second siege, and treachery by one of her own garrison allowed a Parliamentary force into the castle in February 1646. Eventually under the orders of parliament the castle was destroyed using gunpowder

Corfe Castle

