

# THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Have you ever wanted to learn all about the English Civil War? Well, read on to find out all you could ever wish to know about the legendary battles that go down in history.

## When and what?

The English Civil War was a series of 3 main wars fought between the crown and Parliament from 1642 until 1651. There were several reasons for the outbreak of the war: money, religion and power.

### **Money**

Charles I wanted to demand taxes (lots of money) from the public for things that Parliament did not agree on.

### **Religion**

Charles I married a Catholic woman so some people believed that he was a secret Catholic; this was not ok as England was Church of England at this time.

### **Power**

Both Parliament and the King wanted more power in their own right and greediness took over them both! There were many arguments about these issues and in the end, Charles I closed Parliament for 11 years!

## KEY QUESTION

What IS a civil war?

A civil war is when the two sides involved are both from **the same country**.



## Who?

The English Civil War was fought between the **'Roundheads'** and the **'Cavaliers'**. The Roundheads were the supporters of Parliament and the Cavaliers were Royalists who supported the crown.



## Battles

There were many battles fought during the course of the Civil War but the three main battles that are widely remembered were the Battle of Edgehill, Battle of Marston Moor and the Battle of Naseby.

Parliament and the Roundheads won the first two major battles, resulting in Charles I being imprisoned for treason and eventually being executed in 1649. He was beheaded (ew!) Good bye Charles I!

## Who were the key figures?

The main people involved in the English Civil War were King Charles I, his son Charles II and Oliver Cromwell.



## Not ANOTHER Charles?!

After the death of his father, Charles II came to England to take over the crown, resulting in MORE battles between him and what was then the 'Rump Parliament'.

## The Lord Protectorate

The Roundheads found themselves a new political figure in Oliver Cromwell. He had a lot of support from the public and became 'Lord Protectorate' which was NOT the same as being a King. Something called 'The Divine Right of Kings' meant that people believed that the crown was chosen by God.

## The end?

Oliver Cromwell continued as Lord Protector until his death in 1658. His son, Richard, took over but was not as successful as his father.

In 1660, Charles II returned from exile and became King of England. This is known as the 'Restoration'.

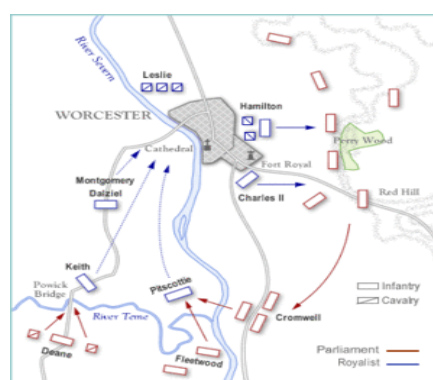
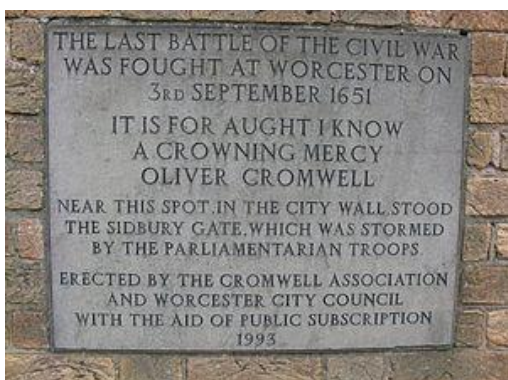
Despite all of the negativity, it improved relationships between the crown and parliament for years to come, mostly avoiding more battles or revolutions.



## The Battle of Worcester

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1651, the Battle of Worcester was fought. It was the final battle in the English Civil War Oliver Cromwell's Parliamentarian New Model Army, 28,000 strong, defeated King Charles II's 16,000 Royalists, of whom the vast majority were Scottish.

It is said that Charles II ran away and hid in a tree so that he wouldn't be killed.



## Worcester

Due to its involvement in the Civil War, Worcester has many places that you can visit in relation to it, such as The Commandery (King Charles II headquarters). Worcester's history can be explored via city walks and visits to its museums.