

Year 8: The Civil War – What were the causes of the First Civil War?

Term	Definition
1. King	The King is the male head of a Royal Family. In the United Kingdom at this time the King's power had largely been absolute and few people questioned his rule.
2. Monarchy	The Monarchy refers to the Royal Family. In England the Monarchy had ruled unchallenged for hundreds of years.
3. Civil War	A civil war is a conflict between two or more parties from the same country. In the UK a civil war broke out in 1642 between those who supported the King and those who supported the Parliament.
4. The Stuarts	After the death of the childless Queen Elizabeth I the throne passed to King James VI of Scotland. He united the two Kingdoms of England and Scotland to become King James I of the United Kingdom.
5. Parliament	The UK Parliament consists of two houses. There is the House of Commons where 650 people have been elected as MPs to represent their area or region and the House of Lords. Together they uphold democracy in the UK.
6. The Divine Right of Kings	During the Tudor and Stuart age many people believed in the absolute power of the Monarchy. They believed they got their power from God as the family were God's chosen representatives on earth, the Church reinforced this view.
7. King James VI/I	King James VI/I was Elizabeth I's cousin. He was a Protestant although his mother (Mary, Queen of Scots) had been Catholic. James' accession to the throne excited Catholics that the country may becoming more tolerant.
8. The Gunpowder Plot	In 1605 a group of Catholics decided to plant gunpowder in cellars underneath Parliament. The plan was to explode it when Parliament reopened, with the King in attendance. Lord Monteagle was alerted and managed to avert the plot.
9. Guy Fawkes	Guy Fawkes was caught in a cellar underneath the Houses of Parliament. As a result, he was tortured and gave up the name of the other plotters. Fawkes was then hanged, drawn and quartered.
10. King Charles I	King Charles I became King on the death of his father James. He married the Catholic Henrietta Maria. This excited Catholics and scared Protestants. Charles was eventually beheaded following the first Civil War.
11. Oliver Cromwell	Oliver Cromwell rose to prominence during the First Civil War, eventually becoming the leader of the Roundhead army. He introduced the New Model Army and was an early advocate for the killing of King Charles I.
12. Roundhead	Roundheads were Parliamentarians who fought against King Charles and the Royalist forces. Their leader was Oliver Cromwell. They were called Roundheads because many had shorter haircuts than the fashion at the time.
13. Cavalier	Cavalier is the name used to refer to those who fought for King Charles I and the Royal Family. The name originated as a joke term mocking the fancy dress adopted by many who fought for the Monarchy.
14. Puritan	Puritans are extreme Protestants. They had a deep dislike of Catholics in Stuart England. They believe in a close connection between themselves and God. Oliver Cromwell was a Puritan.