

Year 7 knowledge organiser: Stuarts and witches



Elizabeth I	James I	Charles I	Oliver Cromwell
1558-1603	1603-1625	1625-1649	1653-1658
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Tudor monarch (daughter of Henry VIII) - Protestant - Never married, no children - No heir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Stuart monarch - Protestant - Catholics tried to kill him in the Gunpowder Plot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fell out with Parliament causing English Civil War - Executed - Believed in the Divine Right of Kings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lord Protector - Puritan - One of the people who signed Charles I death warrant

The Gunpowder Plot

- In 1605 King James I (a Protestant) was the King of England. However, some people did not like him because Catholics were treated unfairly.
- A man called Guy Fawkes and his friends (who were all Catholic) wanted King James to be removed from the throne and plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament with the King and his government inside. They decided to use gunpowder to blow up underneath the King's chair. Their plan was to cause an enormous explosion! Thirty six barrels of gunpowder were put in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament on the 5th of November 1605.
- But, the plan did not work! A letter was sent to Lord Monteagle, who was due to go to the Houses of Parliament, warning him about the plot. He told the king, who sent guards to search the cellars. They found Guy Fawkes and gunpowder.
- Guy Fawkes and his friends were put in prison until he confessed to trying to blow up the Houses of Parliament, the King and his government. Guy Fawkes was executed!
- The King decided that on the 5th of November every year from that day we would remember the Gunpowder Plot and how Guy Fawkes' plan failed! Every year we burn bonfires and put a model of Guy Fawkes on top. We light fireworks and sparklers and celebrate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot.



English Civil War

Why was Charles executed?

Charles belief in the Divine Right of Kings – the belief that he did not have to listen to anyone but God, as he was the only person more powerful than him.

Charles marriage to a Catholic Princess – Charles was a Protestant, England was a Protestant nation. There was concerns that there would be a lot of Catholic support from the King. Also the question over ‘how will their children be raised?’ was a big concern for Parliament.

Charles trying to gain more money through illegal taxation – used his position as King, and the belief in the Divine Right of Kings to do what he wanted! Needed money for war.

Charles shutting Parliament – Charles did not think that he should have to listen to anyone and could run England himself.

Charles surrendering and then turning to the Scots for support and fighting again – An opportunity to make peace but he refused and believed he should not have to compromise.

Oliver Cromwell

- Cromwell takes over as Lord Protector after Charles was executed and essentially ruled the country like a king would.
- He was a Puritan – a strict Protestant who believed that the Protestant religion should be plain and simple focusing on the connection with God.
- A key historical debate is whether Cromwell should be seen as a hero or a villain.



Hero	Villain
Kept England together – especially important after the English Civil War.	He brutally attacked Catholics in Ireland – mainly because he disliked Catholics. In one instance he killed 1500 in a town.
Genuine military leader motivated by religious convictions.	Acted as God’s executioner.
Cromwell was willing to accept the truth even though it might be ugly.	Believed not just in beating the enemy but destroying them.

Witches



- *Women were more likely to be accused of being witches during the witch-hunts but men could be accused too (and they weren’t called wizards!).*
- *Witches did not tend to wear black as it was too expensive!*
- *It was believed that witches were given animals (familiars) to look after when they gained their witchy powers from the devil. It was believed these animals were like ghosts and could disappear and do harm on people the witch disliked*
- *It was believed that witches had control over the element of air and as such could fly. There are seventeenth-century drawings of witches flying on brooms and other crazy things like sailing across the sea in sieves.*
- *People accused of witchcraft were executed but before this they could have been throw into a bucket of water if you drowned then you were not a witch but if you floated then you were so would be punished anyway!*