



Knowledge Organiser – Year 8: The Stuarts and English Civil War

Stuart Dynasty Key Dates

1603	James I becomes King of England, having been named by Elizabeth I, on her deathbed, as her closest living Protestant relative.
1625	Charles I becomes King, he proves to be unpopular and makes a number of key mistakes which causes the English Civil War.
1642	English Civil War begins.
1649	The Interregnum – Oliver Cromwell’s Puritans control England after the execution of Charles I.
1660	The Restoration – Charles II returns to England as King.

Key People



James I – 1603-1625. Succeeded Elizabeth I and was king during the Gunpowder Plot 1605.



Charles I – 1625-1649. Succeeded his father; James I. Married a French Catholic and closed Parliament for 11 years which led to the English Civil Wars.



Oliver Cromwell – 1653-1658. Became Lord Protector of England after the execution of Charles I. He was a Puritan.

Key Concepts

Civil War	A war between citizens of the same country.
Cavaliers (Royalists)	Those who supported the king during the Civil War. Typically Nobles, Catholics and those in the poorer regions in the North, Wales and Ireland.
Roundheads (Parliamentarians)	Those who supported the Parliamentarians. Typically Puritans, those in London, Scotland and on the coast.
Divine Right of Kings	James I believed strongly in the ‘divine right of kings’. This idea stated that monarchs were appointed by God and were therefore beyond question by their people, who should simply accept what the king or queen said. This attitude was inherited by his son, Charles, which put him on a collision course with Parliament which would cause the English Civil War.
Puritanism	Puritans adopted a strict interpretation of the Bible. They reflected their beliefs in their dress, which was plain and simple. Whilst in power during the Interregnum, they passed a number of laws with harsh punishments to impose their beliefs on others.
Restoration	The Restoration refers to when the English monarchy was restored during the Stuart period. When King Charles II returned to England in 1660 he brought an end to Puritan rule.
Constitutional Monarchy	A form of national government in which the power of the monarch (the king or queen) is restrained by a parliament. During the Stuart Period England became a ‘constitutional monarchy’ rather than an ‘absolute monarchy’, as under the Tudors.



Knowledge Organiser – Year 8: The English Civil War in Leicester

Siege	A military operation in which enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of compelling those inside to surrender.
Plunder	Steal goods from (a place or person), typically using force and in a time of war or civil disorder.
Garrison	A group of troops stationed in a fortress or town to defend it.

Key People



Prince Rupert – Was a Royalist who led the attack on Leicester as an experienced soldier.

Colonel Theophilus Grey – Was a Parliamentarian and only had 1170 men to defend three miles of Leicester's boundaries.

When?

May 1649

Why?

The Royalists army demanded £2000 from Leicester to help pay for war

Who?

A Royalist army of 10,000 led by Prince Rupert arrived at Leicester to fight against Leicester's 1170 men led by Colonel Grey

What?

Men, women and children fought tirelessly to defend Leicester. However, they were brutally put down. 120 houses were pulled down, bodies lay in the street and shops and homes were plundered. Leicester was in economic ruins for decades to come.