

# Charles I and the Civil War



## Causes of the Civil War

### Money

- Charles I had a lavish lifestyle and spent his money on clothes and art.
- He raised taxes without asking Parliament.
- Ship tax which was used not on ships, but on himself!

### Religion

- Charles married a catholic, Henrietta Maria of France. This upset Protestant England.
- Introduced a new prayer book in Scotland to make it more Catholic.
- People were worried Charles would make England Catholic again.

### Power

- Charles believed in the Divine Right of Kings.
- Charles did not want to listen to Parliament and wanted to rule on his own.
- Charles was very arrogant.

## Charles I was put on trial for 4 charges:

1. He ruled without Parliament and ruled according to his own will
2. He wickedly made war on his own subjects
3. He was responsible for all of the murders, raping's, burnings and damage caused by the wars
4. He restarted war after being defeated.

## The trial and execution

Charles was not defended at his trial and did not accept the authority of the court. No one had ever put a king on trial before! The King appeared before his judges four times, charged with tyranny and treason. The exchanges always took a similar form with the King challenging the court's authority and its right to try him. He refused to answer the charges against him. After each day, soldiers had to take him away. If Charles had defended himself, he may not have been executed...

On 30 January 1649, King Charles I was beheaded outside Banqueting House in Whitehall.

The assembled crowd is reported to have groaned as the axe came down. Although the monarchy was later restored in 1660, the execution of Charles I destroyed the idea of an all-powerful and unquestionable monarch.

## The Battle of Marston Moor

The battle of Marston Moor, which took place on the **2nd July 1644**, is believed to have been the **largest battle ever fought** on English soil.

The Royalists had 10,000 fewer troops than the Parliamentarians.

**The Royalists were defeated in dramatic fashion.**

In just a couple of hours on Marston Moor...

- the the fate of York and control of the North was decided
- the Royalist Northern army was effectively destroyed
- Prince Rupert and the royalist cavalry lost their reputation as an invincible force.

