

# What was the significance of the Battle of Naseby? | History | Years 5 & 6 | Summer Term 24-25

1625 AD	1637 to 1640 AD	1640 AD	1642 to 1646 AD	1647 AD	1648 to 1649 AD	30 Jan 1649 AD	1653 AD
Charles I ascends to the throne.	Charles attempts to impose religious change in Scotland leading to the Bishops' Wars.	Feb – The 'Short Parliament'. Nov – The 'Long Parliament'.	In January 1642, Charles I is foiled in attempt to arrest five Members of Parliament. Flees London.  The First Civil War including the Battle of Naseby on 14 June 1645.	The Scots surrender Charles I to Parliament in London.	The Second Civil War	Charles I tried and executed for treason. British Commonwealth declared.	Oliver Cromwell becomes 'Lord Protector'.

## National Curriculum History

Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources. In planning to ensure the progression described above through teaching the British, local and world history outlined below, teachers should combine overview and depth studies to help pupils understand both the long arc of development and the complexity of specific aspects of the content.

## Artefacts



Artworks painted at the time provide evidence for Cavalier and Roundhead attire and preferences.



Sashes were worn by cavalry: Red for Royalists, orange for Roundheads



Points of interest in our local area commemorate the Battle of Naseby.



'The Execution of Charles I' in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

## Cause and Effect

What caused the English Civil War to break out?

Royalists believed in the 'Divine right of Kings' whereas Parliamentarians wanted a greater say in how the country was run. Further disputes over money and religious changes led to civil war across the country.

What was the impact of the Battle of Naseby?

Due to losses in resources and men suffered by the Royalists at Naseby, they could not recover. Ultimately, this led to the victory of the Parliamentarians and Charles I was tried for treason.

What happened next? Why?

Upon the execution of Charles I on 30 Jan 1649, Britain became a commonwealth. Oliver Cromwell ruled from 1653 for 4 years as 'Lord Protector;' but life in England was dismal. After his death, parliament invited Charles's son (Charles II) back to England from exile in France, and restored the monarchy.

## Vocabulary

**Monarch:** A sovereign head of state, especially a king, queen or emperor.

**Rebellion:** An act of armed resistance to an established government or leader.

**Commonwealth / Republic:** State without a monarchy.

**Tyrant:** A cruel and oppressive ruler.

**Parliament:** A country's legislative body that represents its people, makes laws and oversees government.

**Puritan:** A strict form of Protestantism (religion). A person who wanted to 'purify' or simplify the Church of England.

**Treason:** The crime of betraying one's country.

**Royalists:** Supporters of the King. AKA: Cavaliers.

**Parliamentarians:** Supporters of Parliament. AKA: Roundheads.

**Civil War:** A war between citizens of the same country.

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## Key Learning: When did this event happen? Beyond Living Memory (Early Modern Era) 1625 AD to 1649 AD

- 1 Why was the English Civil War the bloodiest conflict ever fought on British soil?**  
Learn about the reigns of the British monarchs from the time of Henry VIII, including the key events leading up to, during and after the English Civil War. Understand and explain the key causes for civil war in terms disagreements over Power, Money, and Religion and that the English Civil War was actually a series of civil wars between the Parliamentarians and Royalists.
- 2 Who were the Cavaliers and the Roundheads?**  
Explain the key ideologies of the two sides in the English Civil War: Royalists, led by King Charles I and his nephew, Prince Rupert; and the Parliamentarians, led by Oliver Cromwell and Sir Thomas Fairfax. The Royalists fought for the King and believed in the principle of the 'divine right of kings' and rule by absolute monarchy. They were nicknamed the 'Cavaliers' due to their flamboyant appearance and behaviour. The Parliamentarians were the soldiers who fought for Parliament; they were strict and disciplined. They were nicknamed the 'Roundheads' due to their short hair. Many of them were Puritans. Understand how these differing ideologies caused conflict, ultimately leading to war.
- 3 Is Naseby the most important battlefield in Britain? (Double-Page Project)**  
Learn about the key events and people involved in the Battle of Naseby in our local area. Explain why the victory of the Parliamentarians in the Battle of Naseby was a decisive moment in the English Civil War as, due to large losses of both men and resources, the Royalists couldn't recover. Within a year, the King was on the run and eventually gave himself up. Know how the Battle of Naseby is commemorated in our local area, understanding its local significance. Use this knowledge to select and organise relevant historical information, presenting your knowledge in a format of your choosing – Local Area Study.
- 4 Is Naseby the most important battlefield in Britain? (Double-Page Project)**  
Continue learning from previous lesson and present completed projects in a class gallery.
- 5 Were Parliament justified in killing the King? What happened next?**  
King Charles I is the only British monarch to have been tried and executed for treason. Understand and explain the reasons why Parliament decided to execute King Charles I. State whether you believe they were justified in doing so, giving historically sound reasons for your decision. Know what happened following the death of the King, including Britain becoming a Commonwealth for a period of time until the restoration of the monarchy.