

## Topic 2b knowledge organiser: Key question: Was the world turned ‘upside down’ during the 17<sup>th</sup> century?

### Lesson 5: What was new about the New Model Army?

Key words for this lesson:

New Model Army: Cromwell’s new parliamentarian army led by Fairfax.

Disciplined: Followed instructions

Laws and ordinances: A set of rules the New Model Army had to follow

The New Model Army . Was created **by Oliver Cromwell** and led by **Thomas Fairfax**. It was more disciplined, believed what they were fighting for (God) and had better training and equipment.

They were successful at Marston Moor (1644) and Naseby (1645.)

### Lesson 6: Was the trial of Charles I fair?

Key words for this lesson:

MPs: Members of parliament

Treason: Betraying your country.

Verdict: The decision that is reached

After being defeated at Preston, Charles was taken prisoner by Parliament. Out of 286 judges, 240 thought Charles should be given another chance so they were banned from entering Parliament. 26 votes to 20 decided Charles should be tried for treason (betraying his country). There were supposed to be 135 judges but only 67 showed up on the first day, 70 on the second and 71 on the third.

Charles interrupted the court and refused to remove his hat. He argued the court had no right to try him. **John Bradshaw** was the judge for Charles’ trial. Charles refused to offer a **plea** of guilty or not guilty. Charles was banned from the court and they listened to evidence without him. He was found guilty of being a **traitor**. John Bradshaw wore a metal lined hat during the trial as the verdict was read. Charles was beheaded.



### Lesson 7: Why was Charles I executed?

Key words for this lesson:

Martyr: Someone willing to die for their cause

Scaffold: The structure the execution took place on.

Execution: Charles was killed by having his head cut off

He wore two shirts so he didn’t shiver, which would have made him seem nervous. To persuade the executioners to go through with the execution they had to offer £100 and a guarantee they would be in disguise. 38 men were offered the job. He was executed with one chop and there was a groan, some people even fainted. People wanted to dip their handkerchiefs in the blood of Charles.

**Why was he executed?** Some people believed it was a sign from God that Charles had lost the war. Others were just unhappy he had ignored Parliament and because of his taxes. The fact he started a second war with a Scottish army was also seen as another important reason. The main reasons were he was a traitor and had committed treason.



1642- Start of English Civil War

1648- Second English Civil War

1649- Trial and execution of Charles

1651- End of English Civil War when Charles II fled to France.

### Lesson 8: Was Oliver Cromwell a hero or a villain?

Key words for this lesson:

Republic: A country with no king or queen

Interregnum: A period of time between the rules of Charles I and Charles II.

Major General: Ran one of the 11 areas Britain was divided into

Lord Protector: Was in overall charge of England when there was no king.

Many **Puritans** were happy with the extremely religious changes he made as they wanted to live simple lives focused on God. He had created the **New Model Army**, which was a modern army that helped to win the Civil War. People were promoted based on ability not their wealth and class. This overall helped develop Britain’s army to help protect Britain from France and Spain. He made peace with the Netherlands and Portugal and gained the port of Dunkirk. Jews were also happy as they were allowed to return to England having been expelled by Edward I.

Theatres, music, gambling and dancing were all banned. He even banned Christmas. He however enjoyed music, hunting and sports so many saw him as a **hypocrite**. Further evidence of this was that between 1653-1658 he ruled without Parliament, which was one of the reasons he opposed Charles. He was also unpopular in Ireland as he was believed to have ordered the **slaughter** of 5000 people in Ireland who refused to cooperate with him in **Drogheda** and **Wexford**. When Oliver Cromwell died in 1658, his son Richard became Lord Protector. This was also like a monarchy with the son of the ruler taking over when the father died.

