

Why did King Charles I fall out with Parliament?

In 1642 a **civil war** (a war between two groups in the same country) started in England between the **Royalists** (supporters of Charles I) and the **Parliamentarians** (supporters of Parliament). This **English Civil War** lasted until 1651. One of the causes of the English Civil War was Charles I falling out with Parliament - by completing this work-sheet you will find out why they fell out and decide whose fault it was.

What kind of person was Charles I?

Charles was born in 1600, and was the second son of **King James I**. For most of his childhood he suffered from poor health and was overshadowed by his older brother **Prince Henry**, who was more popular, stronger and intelligent, and was supposed to inherit the throne. However, when Henry died of illness in 1612 Charles became the **heir** (person who would inherit) to the throne.



Charles was religious and interested in art and collected many paintings - and was good at horse-riding and hunting. However, he was shy and quiet. He also judged people quickly and was not good at explaining his decisions. His belief in the **divine right of monarchs** (that kings only answered to God and so shouldn't be challenged) meant he was not very good at being flexible or making deals with people he disagreed with (for example MPs in Parliament).

Charles became King of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland in 1625. That year he married **Henrietta Maria**, daughter of the King of France (pictured with Charles on the left). Many people in England did not like her because she was a Catholic and they thought she spent too much money. Together, Charles and Henrietta Maria had 9 children.

Instructions: Read the information on Charles I and answer these questions in your books:

1. Who was originally supposed to inherit the throne after James I?
2. Write down **ONE** aspect of Charles I's personality/interests that would have made him a **good** king and **TWO** that would have made him a **bad** king.
3. Who was Charles I's wife and what was one reason why some people in England didn't like her?

Challenge: Compare Charles I to his father James I. Who do you think would have been a more effective king and why? (3 sentences)

Charles I's Other Kingdoms

Charles also ruled Scotland and Ireland. Problems there helped cause the English Civil War and also led to disagreements between Charles and Parliament. Read the boxes and answer the questions about them (using complete sentences) in your books.

SCOTLAND

- Charles was born in Scotland but only visited it twice as an adult (in 1633 and 1641)
- Scotland was Protestant but followed different practices to the Church of England
- Charles tried to force Scotland into using the same prayer book as England - this was very unpopular and led to riots and people just ignored his order
- Charles invaded Scotland in 1639 and 1640 to force them to listen to him - both times he was defeated

IRELAND

- Ireland was divided between Protestant settlers from England/Scotland and Catholic Irish people
- Charles sent his friend **Thomas Wentworth** to rule Ireland for him - Wentworth was a strong ruler but his harshness meant he became unpopular
- In 1641 Irish Catholics, who felt they were treated unfairly, launched a rebellion
- There was violence and fighting across Ireland and 12,000 Protestant settlers were killed

1. How many times did Charles visit Scotland? How would this lack of attention from their king make Scottish people feel?
2. What did Charles do that led to trouble for him in Scotland?
3. Who did Charles send to rule Ireland for him? Was he successful?
4. What happened in Ireland in 1641? How would this news have made people in England feel?

Main Task

On 22 August 1642 the English Civil War started. This task will help you understand one of the main causes of the war - the disagreements between Charles I and MPs in Parliament.

Instructions:

1. Read through the boxes below, which are about events that took place from 1625 to 1642, leading to the start of the English Civil War.
2. While you are reading it is important to remember that under English law, Charles I was not allowed to collect taxes unless Parliament had given him permission to.
3. If you think the information in the box shows it was Charles I's who was more at fault for falling out with Parliament write a **C** above the box. If you think it shows MPs in Parliament were more at fault write a **P**.
4. In your books make a **timeline** of the events in the boxes - make sure it is chronological order.
5. Complete this sentence in your book using evidence from the boxes: 'I think that it was Charles I's fault he fell out with Parliament because...'
6. Complete this sentence in your book using evidence from the boxes: 'I think that it was Parliament's fault that they fell out with Charles I because...'
7. Complete this sentence in your book using evidence from the boxes: 'Overall, I think that it was [Parliament/Charles] who was more responsible for starting the English Civil War because...'

Challenge: Write a newspaper article about why the English Civil War started. Your article should use evidence from the work-sheet. Your article should be **biased** towards Charles or Parliament. If you think Charles was at fault your headline should be ROTTEN KING WRECKS COUNTRY! but if you think Parliament was to blame your headline should be PARLIAMENT TOO BIG FOR ITS BOOTS!

In 1629 Charles became so annoyed with Parliament's refusal to listen to him and do what he wanted that he ordered all MPs to go home. Parliament would not meet again for 11 years.

When he first became king one of Charles I's most trusted advisors was the **Duke of Buckingham**, who he put in charge of the army and navy. In 1626 Parliament demanded that Charles fire Buckingham because MPs thought he was bad at his job.

In 1640, after being defeated by Scottish rebels, Charles I ran out of money. He needed more taxes so he was forced to call Parliament again. MPs refused to allow any new taxes until Charles I listened to their problems and changed his ways.

In 1625 Charles I demanded Parliament give him the right to collect tax on many goods imported and exported to England for life. Parliament said they would only give him the right to do this for ONE YEAR. Charles told all the MPs to go home and collected the taxes even though he had never been given permission to by Parliament. This was against the law.

On 1 December 1641 MPs gave Charles I the **Grand Remonstrance** - this was a list of 204 problems they had with how he was ruling the country. After reading the list Charles refused to make any major changes to how he was behaving.

On 4 January 1642 Charles I marched into Parliament with an armed guard to arrest the five MPs who were his biggest critics. The five MPs were warned and ran away. When Charles marched into Parliament (which he was not allowed to do) he said '**my birds have flown**'.

In 1628 MPs gave Charles the **Petition of Right**, which was a list of all the things the king couldn't do. They said they wouldn't give Charles permission to collect new taxes unless he promised to obey the Petition of Right. Charles refuses to and carried on collecting taxes without Parliament's permission.

On 31 January 1641 MPs in Parliament had **Thomas Wentworth** arrested. Charles I had put Wentworth in charge of ruling Ireland for him but MPs thought he was doing a bad job. Parliament put Wentworth on trial and found him guilty of treason - he was executed on 12 May 1641.

From 1629 to 1640 Charles didn't allow Parliament to meet. Historians call this his **Personal Rule**. During this time Charles tried many things to raise more money, including bringing back old taxes that did not have to be approved by Parliament. This included **Ship Money**, a tax from medieval times that said people had to pay the king money to buy ships for his navy.