

# Debate - Should Charles be Beheaded?

## British Civil War - The facts! (Make notes to support your view)



- Charles I became King in 1625.
- He was very arrogant and selfish and believed in the 'Divine Right of Kings' which meant that he should not have to answer to anyone and that he could rule however he liked. He believed that God had made him King and that God could not be wrong so neither could he.
- He did not like Parliament and thought that they were trying to take away his power. He argued with them a lot.
- For 11 years he did not let them meet and even locked the Houses of Parliament.
- To raise money, he taxed everyone a lot.
- In 1635, he ordered that everyone in the country should pay Ship Money. This made people really angry as this was normally just for people who lived on the coast.
- The King taxed people without Parliament's permission to pay for a war with Scotland. Most Englishmen didn't want to be involved in this war.
- When he went to war he called a meeting with Parliament to help him pay for the war as he didn't have enough money.
- In 1642, he marched into Parliament with 300 soldiers to arrest 5 people who he thought were against him, but they were told about this just before and so escaped.
- Charles then went to war with Parliament and this was called the Civil War because it was people fighting against one another in the same country.
- Parliament told people that Charles wanted to bring Catholicism back again to get them to fight for them.
- The Civil War broke up many families as many fought for opposite sides.
- Charles lost the war and was arrested for treason against England.
- In court Cromwell (who was the leader of the Cavaliers and against Charles) didn't allow MPs who he thought would support Charles into court and soldiers even kept them out.
- He was supposed to be tried by 135 judges, but only 68 turned up as they did not want to be involved with the trial of a King.
- No King had ever been beheaded before.