



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

DAY

25 AUGUST

#NottsDay

*A county to
be proud of*

CIVIL WAR PACK:

This pack includes:

- **Parliament's Demands debate**
- **Design a Standard**
- **Write a BFF poem**
- **Design a Castle**
- **Create your own Queen's Sconce**
- **Write a coded spy message**
- **Create a secret badge of support**
- **Civil War refugees activity**

Key questions:

When was the civil war?

How did the war start?

What made people choose sides?

How did people find out what was happening?

What happened in Nottinghamshire?

National Curriculum History Objectives:

In this pack, we begin to explore these areas:

- The changing power of monarchs
- A significant turning point in British history
- A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality
- Change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance
- Methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discerning how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed
- Use of abstract historical terms such as 'parliament'.

Do you want more?

We recommend a visit to the National Civil War Centre mid-way through this topic, where you can bring to life the battles, sieges and strategies experienced by real people during the civil wars

www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com

**NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
CENTRE**
NEWARK MUSEUM

What caused the British Civil Wars:

During James I's reign, **Parliament** were starting to get pretty annoyed about their lack of power and the king's habit of making decisions without their permission. This got even worse after his son, Charles I, became king in 1625...

First, he married a French princess.

Then he wanted to go to war with Spain, which was very expensive.

He found out about some really old laws which no-one used any more. These laws allowed him to change things without consulting Parliament.

He spent lots of money on art, architecture and other beautiful things. Parliament was angry that he was wasting money.

When there was a job to be done, he gave it to one of his friends. Even if they were not the right person for the job.

Some Members of Parliament worried that the king might secretly be Catholic.

Debate activity:

Split into three groups: the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the King's supporters. Cut out the role cards and follow the instructions, keeping the Game Over card a secret until the end.



You are the **House of Commons**. You are a group of MPs with strong opinions. Imagine that the House of Commons wants to improve school life for children.

These are your demands:

- 1. We want teachers to stop telling us what to do all the time.**
- 2. We want to be able to choose the food we eat for school dinners.**
- 3. We want to stop music and art lessons and spend more time on RE and grammar.**

You have a few minutes to prepare your arguments.

What are your reasons for these demands?

How could they make school life or education better?

You are the **House of Lords**. You are a group of Lords and Bishops with sympathy for the king. Your family is rich and powerful because you have always been on the side of royalty.

These are the demands from the House of Commons:

- 1. We want teachers to stop telling us what to do all the time.**
- 2. We want to be able to choose the food we eat for school dinners.**
- 3. We want to stop music and art lessons and spend more time on RE and grammar.**

You have a few minutes to prepare your arguments.

Do you think you should agree with the Commons or with the king?

You are **King Charles and his advisers**. You believe that only God can tell you what to do. You think that the House of Commons is getting too much power and you want to stop them.

These are the demands from the House of Commons:

- 1. We want teachers to stop telling us what to do all the time.**
- 2. We want to be able to choose the food we eat for school dinners.**
- 3. We want to stop music and art lessons and spend more time on RE and grammar.**

You have a few minutes to prepare your arguments. Why do you disagree with the House of Commons?

Remember: you are in charge; God says so.

If you want to spend people's taxes on beautiful art, why shouldn't you?

Game Over card (only to be used at the end of the debate)

King Charles, stand up and read this out to the group in an angry king voice:

"That's it! I've had enough of this discussion! It's not up to you how I run this country. God has made me king and I say what happens. If you won't give me what I want, I'm shutting Parliament and there's nothing you can do to stop me! See you never!"

(This really happened. Charles I kept shutting down Parliament when they disagreed with him.)

Nottinghamshire Day competition

Design your own Standard

Charles I tried to arrest some of his enemies in Parliament, but he failed. He left London and travelled north. Charles I raised the Royal Standard at Nottingham castle on the 22nd August 1642. This was to gather supporters, however no one rushed to support him! Charles raised the standard again on the 25th August and the Civil War began, which is why we celebrate Nottinghamshire Day on the 25th August.

Every regiment in the British Civil Wars had a flag called a standard. These were large, brightly coloured silk squares with shapes on. Sometimes they had pictures, words or cartoons painted on them, with a fringe around the edge. Sometimes they included an inspiring motto like 'For God and The King'.

Flags helped soldiers to feel proud of their regiment and to remind them that they belonged together. That is why King Charles used his flag to begin the war.

This is the Royal Standard. **Discuss why you think those images were chosen for the standard and then design your own using the tips on the next page.**

Please submit your designs to **notts.day@nottsc.gov.uk** before the **15th July** to enter our competition and have the chance to be displayed at Nottinghamshire Day and much more!



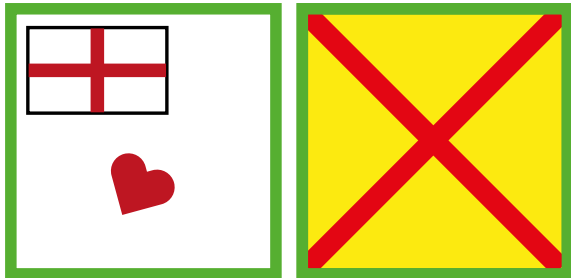
The National Civil War Centre in Newark has a replica of what Charles I's standard is thought to have looked like when it was raised at Nottingham Castle.



Nottinghamshire Day competition:

Design your own Standard

Most English standards included the St George cross in the top left corner. Most Scottish flags had a large St Andrew cross across the middle.



Standards had one of these plain background colours:

Red, green, blue, purple, black, orange, white

The symbols were usually painted in yellow or white.

Try using one of these symbols in your design:

Piles



Stream Blazant



Stars



Discs



Diamonds



Crosses



Rectangle



Crescents



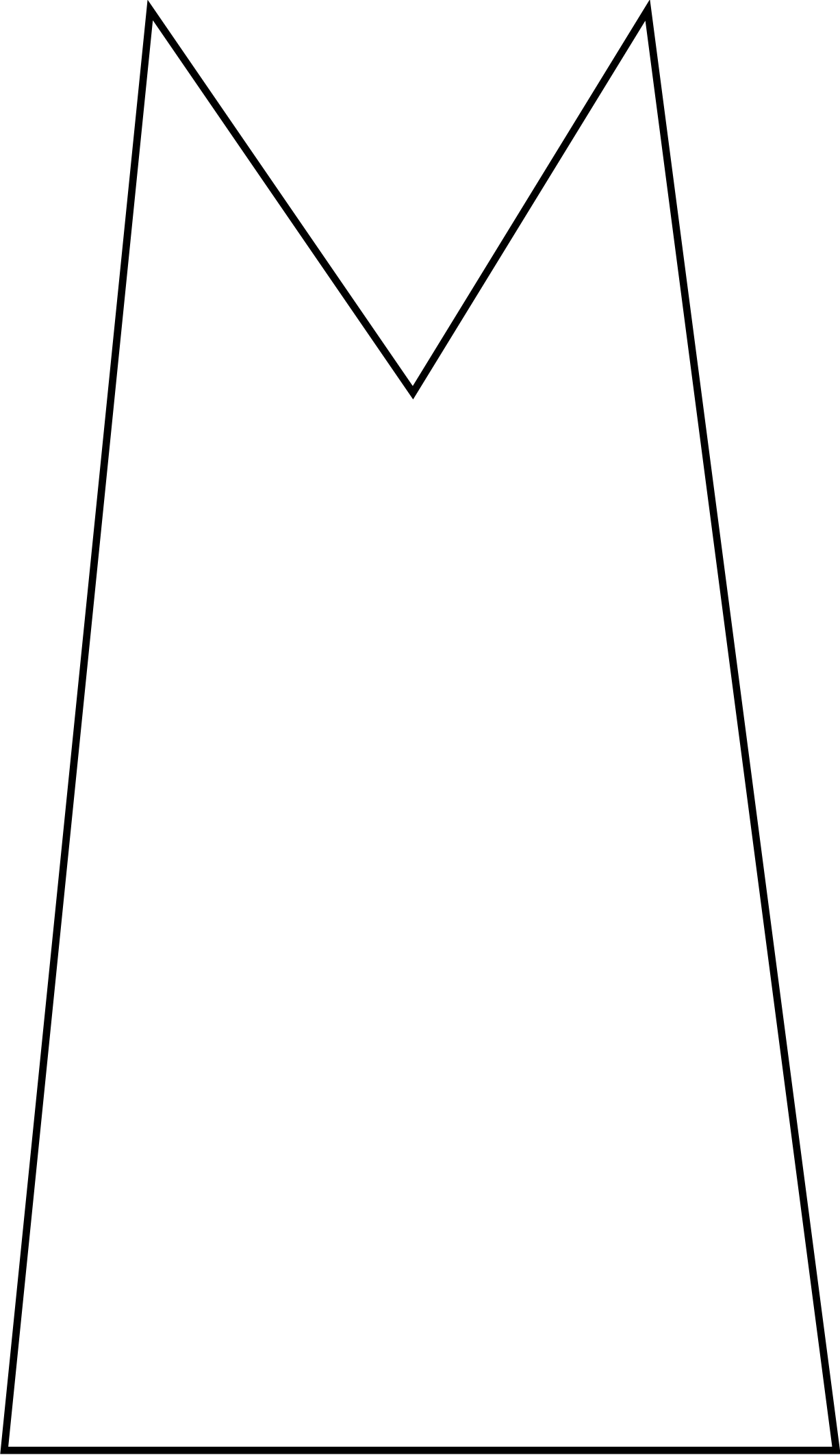
Arrowheads



Make it!

Paint or draw your flag, or you could make one out of Hama beads or Lego! Make a collage from magazines or scrap paper, or how about standard-shaped biscuits?





Best Friends Forever

This Nottinghamshire Day we are celebrating time that people have come together in Nottinghamshire history. At the National Civil War Centre, Newark Museum, there are some poesy rings on display. Poesy rings were given as a gift to a friend or loved one, with a special message. This one has a message written inside: "Let no calamitie separat amitie". Find out what calamity and amity mean. **What is the message saying?**



Poesy means poetry. Here are some examples of words found on poesy rings:

Never to change

Forget me not

A true friends gift

Imagine you are a Royalist and your best friend is a Parliamentarian. You are enemies but you still want to be friends when the war is over.

Write a poem or a letter to your friend explaining how you feel. When will you meet again? Will you see each other in secret or send hidden coded messages?

Nottinghamshire Day competition:

Design a castle

Newark was an important Royalist town in the Civil War. Many people loved the king, who had stayed in Newark a few times. His wife, Queen Henrietta Maria, owned Newark Castle. The town and castle were built in a great strategic position, where two major roads and the River Trent met. Both **Royalists** and **Parliamentarians** wanted to hold Newark.

Parliament surrounded Newark in three **sieges**, but they never managed to beat the Royalist forces. Find out about the sieges in this podcast for children: <https://youtu.be/lHMTAKh5haA>

These pictures show Newark Castle today. **Can you recognise the main defensive features of a castle? Now design your own castle.**

Please submit your designs to **notts.day@nottsc.gov.uk** before the **15th July** to enter our competition and have the chance to be displayed at Nottinghamshire Day and much more!

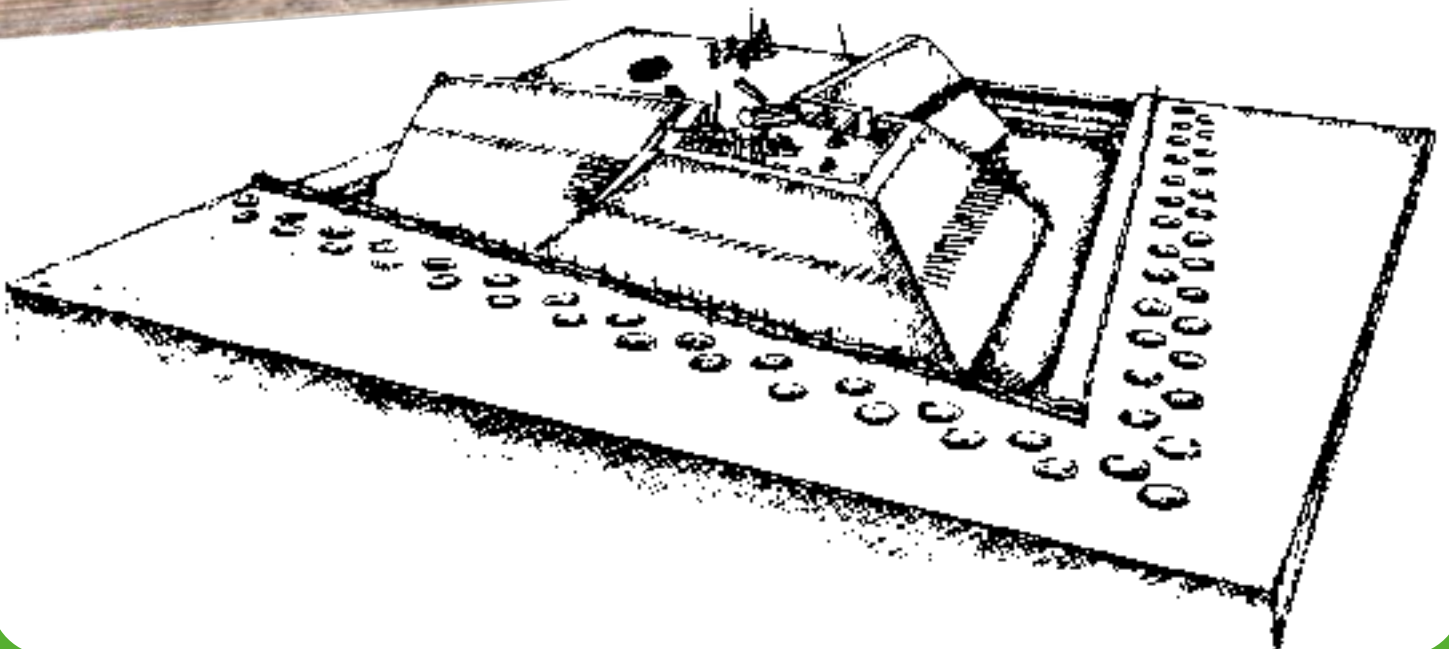


Nottinghamshire Day competition:

Design a castle

The Queens Sconce

After the first and second **siege** of Newark, the town realised they needed new defences. The King's engineer built defensive walls in a ring around the town, with **sconces** near the corners. Built from the earth and topped with turf from the surrounding land, these structures were good at absorbing the impact from cannon balls. The Queen's Sconce is still in Newark today. **Try creating your own sconce out of arts and crafts materials - and keep the star shape for defence!**



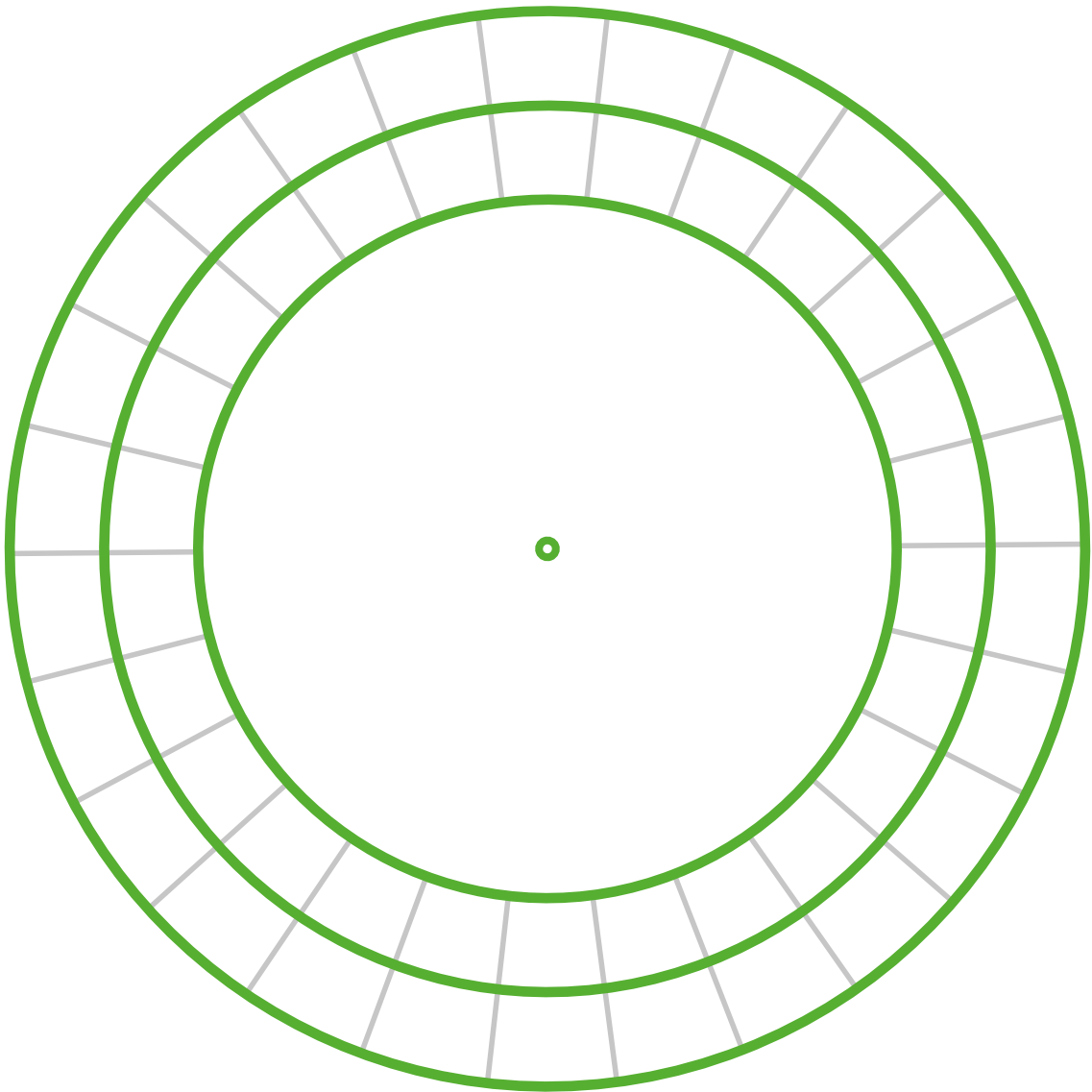
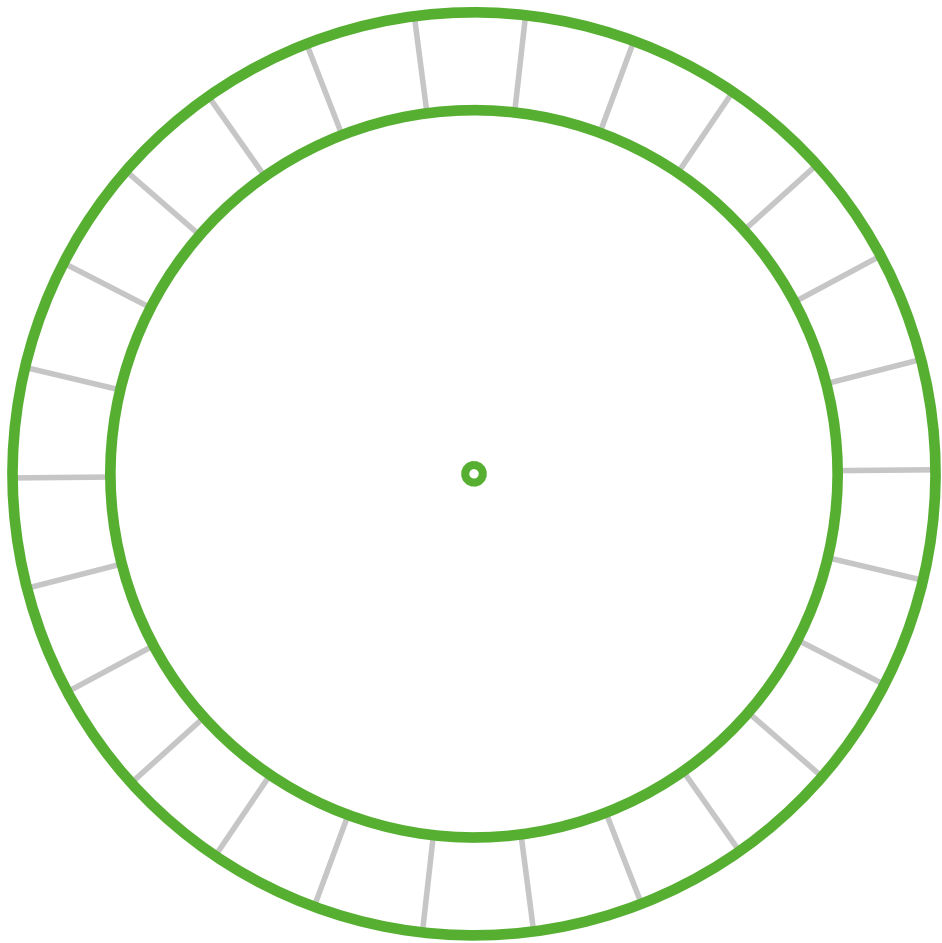
News travelled fast

Not everyone in the 1640s could read and write, but everyone wanted to know what was in the news. They gathered together in groups to hear friends read aloud from news reports. Newsbook sellers and spies travelled all around the country passing stories and messages for either the Royalists or the Parliamentarians.

Spies hid messages in their gloves, in their hair, their shoes, even in barrels full of dirty laundry.

Here's how to create your own cipher wheel to make secret coded messages.

1. Write the letters of the alphabet in the outside spaces of the large wheel.
2. Write the numbers 1 to 26 in the spaces of the small wheel.
3. Attach the small wheel to the front of the large one with a split pin in the centre.
4. To decide your key, line up a letter with any number. This is your secret combination. For instance A always = 13. When you and your spy friends know this key, you can read each other's secret messages. Keep your wheels lined up with this key.
5. Now write your secret message (don't move the wheels). Take each letter from your message and find it on the large wheel. Look below it on the small wheel and write this code number on your message. Keep doing this until you have written your message in code.
6. Send a coded letter. Find a secret way to tell your friend the key, then write them a message. Can you decode each other's letters?



The Civil War and Refugees:

The Civil War created a refugee crisis across Britain and Ireland. The war destroyed many people's homes and farms, leaving those made homeless by the fighting to search the countryside for shelter.

Think about how you could welcome a refugee in Nottinghamshire and make a poster welcoming them.

Glossary:

Parliament: Highest administration in the UK made of The Sovereign, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons.

Parliamentarians: Those who supported Parliament in the Civil War. They had the nickname Roundheads because of a fashion among young London men for very short hair.

Royalists: Those who supported Charles I in the Civil War. They had the nickname Cavaliers because their enemies said that they liked partying too much. Their clothing was often more colourful.

Royal Standard: A banner bearing the royal coat of arms, flown in the presence of royalty

Sconce: A Dutch-designed small protective fortification, such as an earthwork, often placed on a mound as a defensive work for artillery.

Siege: A military blockade of a city, or fortress

Resources for teachers:

Learn more about the British Civil Wars from the National Civil War Centre and find out about visiting with your class

<http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/learn/resources/>

<http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/museum/learningfromhome/>

and browse the National Civil War Centre's YouTube channel and TES shop

This website is designed for KS3 students but may suit KS2 classes too:

<https://britishcivilwars.ncl.ac.uk/>

The definitive guide to help you brush up your knowledge before teaching the Civil Wars:

<http://bcw-project.org/>

[**A summary of Charles I, Civil War and the Restoration - Charles I, Civil War and the Restoration - KS3 History Revision - BBC Bitesize**](#)

[**Horrible Histories - English Civil War Report With Bob Hale - YouTube**](#)

Historical context: Civil War summary

- Charles I becomes king in 1625, but his marriage to a Catholic princess, Henrietta Maria of France fuelled suspicions that the King would introduce Catholicism back in England.
- Charles also believed strongly in his divine right to rule, and in 1629 he dismissed Parliament altogether; he would not recall it for the next 11 years.
- In the late 1630s, Charles made efforts to establish a more English-like religious practice in Scotland, generating fierce resistance among that country's Presbyterian majority.
- A Scottish army defeated Charles' forces and invaded England, forcing Charles to recall Parliament in 1640 to generate the money to pay his own troops and settle the conflict.
- Instead, Parliament acted quickly to restrict the king's powers, even ordering the trial and execution of one of his chief ministers, Lord Strafford.
- In January 1642, the king tried and failed to arrest five members of Parliament who opposed him. Fearing for his own safety, Charles fled London for northern England, where he called on his supporters to prepare for war.
- Royalist forces (known as Cavaliers) controlled northern and western England, while Parliamentarians (or Roundheads) dominated in the southern and eastern regions of the country.
- In 1645, Parliament created a permanent, professional, trained army of 22,000 men. This New Model Army, commanded by Sir Thomas Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell, scored a decisive victory in June 1645 in the Battle of Naseby, effectively dooming the Royalist cause.
- Concluding that peace could not be reached while Charles was still alive, they set up a high court and put the king on trial for treason. Charles was found guilty and executed by beheading on January 30, 1649 at Whitehall.
- A republican regime was established in England