



Subject: History

Summer 1 & 2

Overarching Topic: The Battle for the Nation			
Why is this topic being studied at this time? How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?	Step into one of the most dramatic centuries in British history, where kings and Parliament fought for power, a nation was torn apart by civil war, and ordinary people faced extraordinary change. In The Battle for the Nation, pupils will investigate how England transformed from a kingdom ruled by powerful monarchs to a country where Parliament played a decisive role in government. Through the stories of the Stuarts, the Gunpowder Plot, the English Civil Wars, the execution of Charles I, Oliver Cromwell's rule, the Restoration, and the Glorious Revolution, students will explore why people disagreed so fiercely about who should govern the nation. They will examine the experiences of soldiers, politicians, religious groups, and ordinary citizens caught up in a century of conflict and uncertainty. Using historical sources, debates, and enquiries, pupils will grapple with big questions: Should a king have absolute power? Why do civil wars happen? How far should people go to defend their beliefs? By the end of the unit, they will understand how the struggles of the seventeenth century helped shape the democratic freedoms and political institutions we know today. A century of plots, battles, revolutions, and powerful personalities—this is the story of England's fight to decide who should rule the nation.		
	Essential	Core	Ambitious
The Big Questions (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)	Who was Mary, Queen of Scots? Who was James VI & I? What kind of a man was Charles I? What was the 'Divine Right of Kings'? Why was Oliver Cromwell so important to Parliament? What changes did Oliver Cromwell make? What was the Restoration? What was the Glorious Revolution?	Why was James VI & I so obsessed with witches? Why & how did Charles I alienate Parliament? Why was Parliament victorious in the Civil Wars? Did Charles I deserve to die? To what extent did Oliver Cromwell make England a Puritan country? Why does Cromwell have the reputation of the Butcher of Drogheda in Ireland? Why did the English invite Charles II to be king? What crises did Charles II face? Why did the Glorious Revolution overthrow James II?	What does the witch craze of James's reign tell us about ordinary people's beliefs? Why was the Divine Right of Kings such a bad idea to so many English people? Was Cromwell a theocrat? What impact did the Restoration have?

The Key Skills/ Techniques	The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the critical, core and pinnacle knowledge.	
	Skill/Technique	How will this skill be developed?
	Causation	• Categorisation • Explanative phrases
	Significance	• Assessment of short-term and long-term significance
	Source analysis	• PANDA / NOP
	Key words	• Archbishop – a very important leader in the Church • Authority – the power to make decisions • Barons – powerful landowners in medieval England • Battle – a fight between armies • Bishop – a Church leader in charge of a large area • Black Death – a deadly disease that killed many people • Catholic – a Christian who follows the Pope • Christianity – a religion based on the teachings of Jesus • Civil war – a war between people in the same country • Clergy – people who work for the Church • Colonies – places controlled by another country • Conquest – taking control of another land • Crusades – wars where Europeans fought in the Middle East • Democracy – when people have a say in how a country is run • Despot – a ruler who has total power • Empire – many countries ruled by one power • Feudal system – how land and power were shared in medieval England • Guilt – being responsible for a crime • Heresy – having beliefs the Church says are wrong Heretic – someone accused of heresy • Immigrant – a person who moves to another country

		• Indigenous – people who lived in a place first • Infer – to work something out from clues • Invasion – entering a place by force • Kingdom – a country ruled by a king or queen • Knight – a soldier who served a lord • Magna Carta – a list of rules the king had to follow • Migration – people moving from place to place • Monastery – a place where monks live and work • MP – someone elected to speak in Parliament • Nobles – rich and powerful families • Parliament – a group that helps run the country • Peasant – a poor farmer in medieval times • Pilgrimage – a journey to a holy place • Pope – the leader of the Catholic Church • Protestant – a Christian who is not Catholic • Provenance – where a source comes from • Rebellion – fighting against a ruler • Reform – changing something to make it better • Reformation – when parts of the Church changed in the 1500s • Regicide – killing a king • Religion – a set of beliefs about God • Revolt – a fight against authority • Revolution – big changes to how a country is run • Significance – why something is important • Source – something that gives information about the past • Treason – working against your ruler or country • Tyranny – cruel and unfair rule • Utility – how useful a source is
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