

Civil War – A-level

Teacher notes

Session Overview

Charles I's reign ushered in a long and bloody civil war between the King and Parliament. Once again, the Tower was on the King's most important assets. Londoners feared he would use it to dominate them but, in the end, the Tower was won by the Parliamentarians and it remained in their hands for the entire Civil War. Students will examine both the buildings and documentary evidence to answer the question 'What part did the Tower of London play in the English Civil War of 1642-1653?'

Key individuals and events:

- Charles I
- Sir John Byron
- Sir John Conyers
- Royal Mint
- Archbishop Laud
- Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford
- Oliver Cromwell
- Charles II

Schedule

Your 90 minute session will consist of the following:

- 5 minute introduction to the history of the Tower and your period of study;
- 75 minute subject specific tour, engaging students through investigation of the built environment and analysis of documentary sources;
- 10 minute plenary.

Exam board links

This session has been designed to complement any students studying the Civil War, and particularly those doing exam boards:

- **AQA - 1D** Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603–1702 and **2E** The English Revolution, 1625–1660
- **Edexcel: Paper 1, Option 1C:** Britain, 1625–1701: conflict, revolution and settlement
- **OCR - Unit Y108:** The Early Stuarts and the Origins of the Civil War 1603–1660 British Period Study: The Early Stuarts 1603–1646
- **WJEC - Unit 2 - Option 2-** Royalty, rebellion and republic c.1625-1660 and **Unit 3 - Option 4 -** Royalty, revolution and restoration in Wales and England c.1603-1715

Session Objectives

- To explore, analyse, interpret and cross-reference different types of primary evidence (portraits/ buildings/ written evidence); evaluating the difficulties/limitations of available evidence.
- To contextualise written contemporary evidence in light of the events that happened at The Tower of London during the English Civil War period.
- To be able to explain the role of the Tower of London and its connections with the English Civil War.

Meeting Points

- Your presenter will meet you in the Learning Centre, Jewel House.
- Please refer to the map on the next page for details.



Directions to the Learning Centre in the Waterloo Block

Allow 15 minutes from the Welcome Centre to the Learning Centre.

1. Collect your admission wristbands from the [Welcome Centre](#).
2. Enter the Tower of London via [Middle Drawbridge \(Groups Entrance\)](#). After you have shown your wristband and had your bags checked, make your way to the Jewel House.
3. From the [Middle Drawbridge](#) turn right and walk towards then past the toilet block (on your right) and turn left through the [Queen Elizabeth Arch](#).
4. Keep walking straight ahead past the New Armouries restaurant (on your right) and the White Tower on your left towards the [Jewel House](#).
5. To access the [Learning Centre](#) you will need to go around the back of the Jewel House. Please do this using the path between the [Fusiliers Museum](#) and the [Jewel House](#).
6. Once around the back of the building you will come across a sign saying ***“No entry, except for booked school parties”***. Pass by this and the entrance to the [Learning Centre](#) will be on your left.
7. Your session presenter should be waiting here for you, but if not please use the buzzer on the wall to contact the [Learning Centre](#).



Please make your way to the entrance to the [Learning Centre](#) behind the [Jewel House](#)

