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| Subject: History | Year Group: 4 | Unit: A Local Study – The Battle of Edgehill and the English Civil War |
| Key Question: What happened at the Battle of Edgehill? | | |
| First- hand experience: A visit to the battle site at Edgehill | | |

| NC Objectives to be addressed: | | | | Prior Learning and Future Learning related to this unit of work | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local history study – The Battle of Edgehill • The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national achievements – Charles I and Oliver Cromwell • Further develop chronological knowledge • Significant historical events, people and places in their own locality • Ask and answer questions • Use a variety of sources to show understanding of key events • Understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and different ways it is represented. | | | | Year 1 – term 1 – a local history study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant historical events, people and places in their own locality | |
| Local | Regional | National | International | | |

| Key Vocabulary: | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Oliver Cromwell | A English soldier and statesman who led parliament during the English Civil War | Parliament | A body of government that makes laws – it comes from the French word ‘parler’ which means ‘talk’ |
| King Charles I | King of Great Britain and Ireland between 1625 and 1649 | Monarchy | The royal family of a country |
| Roundheads | A parliament supporter during the English Civil War | Puritans | Group of protestors in the 16 th and 17 th Century – supporters of Oliver Cromwell |
| Cavaliers | A supporter of the Monarchy and King Charles I during the English Civil War | Royalists | Supporters of monarchy, commonly known as supporters King Charles I |

Sequence of learning:

Knowledge to be taught (Declarative):

1.

- The English Civil War was a series of battles fought between 1642 and 1651.
- In 1641 Parliament insisted that the king make religious reforms and replace his ministers. Charles refused. In 1642 he forced his way into the House of Commons, attempting to arrest five members of Parliament. However, the men had already fled. Charles realised that his actions would provoke a war. He left London and both sides began to gather their armies.
- On one side were supporters of the king, known as Cavaliers/Royalists (Charles I) and on the other were supporters of Parliament, known as Roundheads/Puritans (led by Oliver Cromwell).
- The supporters of the King were called Cavaliers because many of them fought on horseback. The term comes from the French 'chevalier' meaning 'horse'. Cavaliers had long hair and wore fancy clothes.
- Roundheads, derisive name for the supporters of Parliament during the English civil war. The name, which originated c. 1641, referred to the short haircuts worn by some of the Puritans in contrast to the fashionable long-haired wigs worn by many of the supporters of King Charles I, who were called Cavaliers

2.

- Charles I came to the British throne in 1625. Like his father, James I, he believed in the “divine right of kings.” This meant that kings were chosen by God, so their authority could not be challenged by anyone on Earth. When Parliament refused to grant many of Charles’s demands for money, the king was furious.
- From 1629 to 1640 Charles I ruled without calling Parliament at all. During this period, he made his subjects pay heavy taxes, which made them support Parliament even more.
- Some of the nobles began to worry that Charles had found a way to run the country the way kings did in France and Spain at that time—with total power and without being bound by any laws. Charles even had his own court called the Star Chamber, which was run by men who did everything the king said. This court arrested and punished people without giving them a proper trial. In 1640 Charles called Parliament back into session, but the conflict between the two continued.
- It was thought that the English Civil War was only fought by white British men however Lord Bryon (1606-1679 supporting of King Charles I during the war) was reported to say that ‘ethnicity should be no bar to serving in the King's army’. Many men from ethnic backgrounds fought at the side of King Charles I. This is significant because many thought of people from ethnic backgrounds (at that time) as slaves only who and were owned by the white privileged.

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- In England at this time was a group of strict Protestants known as Puritans. Although they were a minority, they had a great deal of influence and were becoming quite powerful. Most Puritans were well-educated and successful in business. They believed that God was on their side, and they openly criticized the king’s policies. Many members of Parliament were Puritans.
- King Charles I wanted the Church of England to become more powerful and they adopted a more musical and ceremonial approach to worship (prior to this Churches had been undecorated and plain). Along with this the fact that the king’s wife was Catholic, made the Puritans suspicious that Charles was becoming too fond of the Catholic faith. The country began to divide into Royalists, who supported Charles, and Parliamentarians, who supported the Puritan members of Parliament.
- Generally, the nobles and landowners supported the king. The people living in towns and cities were on the side of Parliament.

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- Charles had been forced to flee London back in early January 1642. As his army marched towards the capital, a Parliamentary army intercepted them near Banbury in Oxfordshire.
- The Battle of Edgehill took place on 23rd October 1642 and was the first battle of the English Civil War
- In 1642, after considerable constitutional disagreements between the government and King Charles I, the king finally raised his standard and led his troops against the Parliamentary army.
- Under the command of Prince Rupert of the Rhine, the Royalist troops were marching from Shrewsbury towards London in support of the King, when they were intercepted by the Parliamentary (Roundhead) forces under the command of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, at Edgehill, midway between Banbury and Warwick
- Charles had around 13,000 troops compared to Essex's 15,000. Nevertheless, he positioned his army in a strong position on Edge Hill and was confident of victory
- At the time, much of the country remained neutral, but it was not long before the war involved everyone in Britain.
- The Reindeer Inn in Banbury was said to be the operational base of Oliver Cromwell and where he planned the attack on Edgehill

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- Almost 30,000 soldiers clashed in a battle that was hard fought and bloody, yet inconclusive.
- Both armies suffered heavy losses during the three hours of fighting: the bodies were looted for clothes and money, and the dead and dying were left where they lay
- As dusk was approaching, the Parliamentarians withdrew to Warwick leaving the way clear to London. But Charles' army only reached Reading before Essex's troops regrouped, so the battle has always been regarded as a draw with no one side victorious.
- To this day, haunting sounds and apparitions have been witnessed at the site of the battle. Sightings of the phantom armies seem to have decreased, but the eerie screams, canon, thunder of hooves and battle cries are still sometimes heard at night, particularly around the anniversary of the battle
- The Children will have learnt in Year 1 about Banbury or Brackley Castle. Link their learning here: [Banbury Castle](#) (was in Castle Street – originally built in 1135) hosted one of the biggest battles – It was the Kings castle and therefore defended by the Cavaliers. The castle was besieged by Oliver Cromwell and the castle dismantled in 1648 (there are no remains – the stone was used to build houses in the town).

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- In 1644 the Scots joined the Roundheads and heavily defeated the Cavaliers at the Battle of Marston Moor. This gave them control of the north of England.
- The following year, Cromwell's New Model Army—a group of professional soldiers—defeated the Cavaliers at the Battle of Naseby.
- The king's forces were led by nobles who were not always experienced in warfare.
- Cromwell's forces were stronger and better organized. By 1646 Charles realized that he was in danger. Rather than surrendering to Parliament, however, he went to the Scots, hoping to make a deal with them.
- Charles misjudged the Scots. In January 1647 they handed the king over to Parliament.
- Charles was tried and found guilty of waging war on his own people. He was executed in 1649, leaving England a commonwealth with Parliament ruling the land.
- In 1653 Cromwell was appointed Lord Protector, ruling England in place of a king. Cromwell attempted to bring in military rule and imposed strict Puritan ideals on the British people. Many people were not happy with his rule. Two years after he died in 1658 the monarchy was restored.

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| Exploration | Invasion | Cultural Change | Rebellion | Empire | Technological Advancement | Crime and Punishment |
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Resources and teacher subject knowledge

[Oliver Cromwell | Biography, Accomplishments, Religion, Death, Ireland, & Facts | Britannica](#)

[10 Facts About the Battle of Edgehill | History Hit](#)

[English Civil War - Kids | Britannica Kids | Homework Help](#)

English Civil War (between 1642-1651) The king at that time was Charles I who ruled over England, Scotland and Wales

There were two main sides who fought in the war – The Cavaliers (who supported the King) and the Roundheads (who supported Oliver Cromwell)

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Oliver Cromwell was a member of the Kings Parliament who disagreed with the King. Born 1599, he became interested in politics whilst at university in Cambridge.

King Charles I was an arrogant man who believed the King had the final say and disagreed with parliament – this led to the English Civil War.

Banbury Castle (was in Castle Street – originally built in 1135 and later hosted by William Fiennes) hosted one of the biggest battles – It was the Kings castle and therefore defended by the Cavaliers. The castle was besieged by Oliver Cromwell and the castle destroyed in 1648 (there are no remains – the stone was used to build houses in the town).

Further battles were fought locally – the Battle of Cropredy Bridge was in 1644 – the battle was won by the Kings Arm (The Cavaliers)

There was no battle at Broughton Castle, but the castle was and still is owned by the Fiennes family. The Fiennes family were supporters of the King (Cavaliers).

However, in 1406 the castle received a licence to ‘crenulate and embattle’ this added the battlemented wall to the gatehouse, thus giving the medieval house a military appearance – these changes allowed the manor house to be called a castle.

The English civil war was won by the Round heads and King Charles I was overthrown by Oliver Cromwell.