

Card 1

After the religious changes in the 1500s under the Tudors some people put their loyalty to religion before their loyalty to their monarch. Many people did not believe any more that monarchs were chosen by God to rule over them.

Card 2

By the 1800s, wars (like the war against Napoleon's France) were lasting for many years and needed careful planning by many generals and government officials. Wars weren't won any longer by a king charging heroically at the front of his army. Just as well – there had only been a couple of monarchs since 1500 who could fight! Some were too old and fat, some were women, some just weren't interested in war.

Card 3

The personalities and abilities of individual kings had an impact on royal power. From the 1780s George III was sometimes sick and then went mad, so he could not play a central part in government. George IV (1820-1830) was more interested in building palaces and having a good time than governing the country. In 1827, when George IV should have chosen the next Prime Minister, he asked the politicians to decide. The failures of these two kings really speeded up the fall in royal power because Prime Ministers had to be right at the centre of government.

Card 4

Even after the Civil War in the 1640s and the execution of Charles I, there was no real alternative to a king. That was why Cromwell was offered the crown and then the monarchy was restored in 1660. But by the early 1800s the Prime Minister led the government and made the important decisions. The Prime Minister also needed Parliament's support. Parliament has been chosen the monarch since 1688 and said that the monarch has to be a Protestant, not a Catholic.

Card 5

Life in Britain was changing very quickly by the late 1700s – new machines, new jobs in industry everywhere. Towns were growing really quickly, especially in the north. There was far more for the government to do. One man or woman couldn't govern the country any more. It needed a team of people - and many ordinary people wanted to vote in elections to choose their government.