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WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR STUDY OF OLIVER CROMWELL?

The full story – monarchy and Parliament since 1066

Royal power

1066



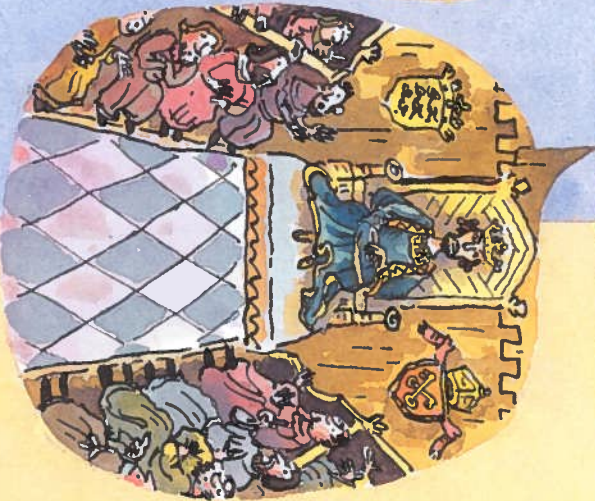
1066
Norman Conquest

1215



1215
Magna Carta – the barons forced King John to agree rules about how he ran the country but John broke the agreement.

1280s



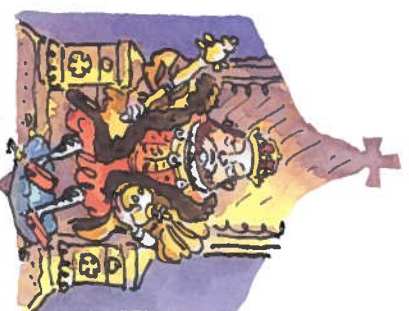
1272-1307

Edward I was the first king to call frequent Parliaments because he needed money for his wars in Wales, Scotland and France. Even then, Parliament only met for a few weeks and ended when the King told it to end. There was often no Parliament for four or five years.



Monarchy and Parliament to 1500

The power of the monarchy stayed high in the Middle Ages. This was because people believed that kings were chosen by God and that there was no alternative to monarchy.



1530s

1530s
Henry VIII used Parliament to pass laws creating the Church of England and make him Head of the Church. This increased the monarchy's power in the short term but also gave some people a reason to rebel if they disagreed with the monarch's religion. Henry's religious laws also made Parliament more important.

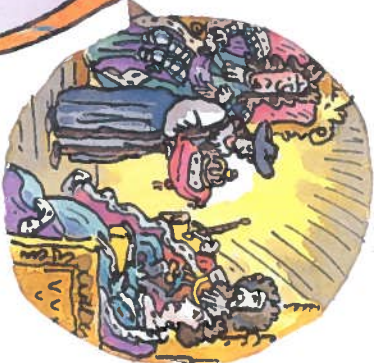
1642-49

1642-49
Civil War – Parliament went to war with Charles I because he tried to rule without the help and agreement of Parliament. Charles was executed in 1649.



1688

1688
James II was deposed by Parliament because people thought he was going to force everyone to become Catholic. The new King and Queen were Protestants chosen by Parliament.



Monarchy and Parliament after 1500

After Henry VIII's reign, there was more than one religion. Some people thought it was more important to be loyal to their religion than to the monarch. This led to civil war in the 1640s.

The power of the monarchy began to get weaker in the 1600s. Monarch and Parliament shared power after 1688 but Parliament became much more powerful than the monarchy between 1790 and 1830. In the 1700s the Prime Minister became an alternative leader and government also became more complicated as towns grew and the population increased. It was important not to depend on one person to rule the country. Kings no longer led their armies into battle.

1720s

1720s
Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister. Now monarch and Parliament shared power between them. A monarch could still stop a politician becoming Prime Minister if he or she did not like him.



1820-30
Parliament had become far more powerful than the monarch by the time of George IV.



Late 1800s
Gladstone became Prime Minister four times, even though Queen Victoria did not like him.



What about us – the ordinary people? We Levellers wanted every man to have the vote but you haven't said what happened about that. Parliament may have got more power than the King by 1800 but Parliament was still full of lords and rich landowners. I want to know when ordinary people got the vote and a say in government. Don't forget we died for the vote!

- #### ACTIVITY
- 1 Which event do you think was the most important turning point in the history of the monarchy? Explain your choice.
 - 2 What part does the monarch play in government today?