

# Year 8 Unit 1: How did religious change affect the 17<sup>th</sup> century?

## Tudor England (1500-1600)

There was no police but violent and cruel punishments were used. People believed this would act as a **deterrent** to stop others doing it.

There were huge religious changes in this period. Major changes in religion led to more people being convicted of **treason**

## The English Civil war 1642-49

King and parliament went to war over Charles' I marriage, religious changes and his belief in the **divine right of kings**.

Charles' army (the Cavaliers) were defeated and Charles was executed in 1649.

## Witches – 17<sup>th</sup> Century

In the Middle Ages witchcraft was seen as a minor crime. After 1542 it became punishable by death. Accused women tended to be old, live alone, have a pet and have a mark or a mole.

People believed in witches because they had no scientific explanation for bad things and there had been a civil war in England which divided the country. Everyone believed in God and the Devil. The Reformation had led to a suspicion of anything 'magical'

Accused witches could be 'swum' in a pond. Matthew Hopkins was a 'witchfinder' that was employed to find witches in towns and villages – for a fee.

## The Gunpowder Plot 1605

The Gunpowder plotters wanted to blow up James I because he was a Protestant and he wanted to make life difficult for the Catholics. Robert Catesby led the plot but it was Guy Fawkes who was caught under the Houses of Parliament and was hung, drawn and quartered.

There is some evidence that Guy Fawkes and the plotters were set up by Robert Cecil, Chief Minister to James I.

## Key words

Deterrent	To stop people from doing something again
Treason	To go against the king or queen
Divine Right of Kings	belief that the King or queen is chosen by God
Civil War	A war within a country
Reformation	Change in religion in the 1530s from Catholic to Church of England