

Wellesley Park Primary School – History

Topic: Battle of Taunton (Civil War)

Year: 5

Strand: Local History

What Should I Already Know?

- That there have been many wars within history and that these wars have shaped and changed our lives
- How to research a topic
- That I should question a news source and consider its authenticity and bias
- How to use and create an effective timeline

Historical Skills and Enquiry

Chronological understanding:

- Order significant events/movements on a timeline
- ### Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past:
- Choose reliable sources of information
 - Know how historical events studied affect/influence life today

Historical enquiry:

- Use a range of mediums to research evidence
- visit museums / galleries / sites of special interest
- Know that there is often not one, single answer to many historical questions
- Investigate own lines of enquiry by posing questions to answer

Historical Interpretation:

- Give reasons why there may be different accounts of history
- Evaluate evidence to choose the most reliable forms

Important Facts

- The English Civil War was a series of battles fought between 1642 and 1651. On one side were supporters of the king (Charles I) and on the other were supporters of Parliament (led by Oliver Cromwell). The Civil War resulted in the execution of Charles followed by 11 years of a commonwealth, when England had no monarch.
- The [Siege](#) of Taunton occurred during the [English Civil War](#). In [1645](#) Parliamentary forces commanded by Colonel [Robert Blake](#) were besieged in [Taunton](#), the only Parliamentary [enclave](#) in the South West of the country. A relief column under [Colonel Ralph Weldon](#) made it to Taunton on [May 11](#), but the combined forces were still besieged. The two generals held out until help arrived on [June 14](#) after the troops could be spared from the [Battle of Naseby](#).
- Blake famously declared that he had four pairs of boots and would eat three pairs before he would surrender.

Vocabulary

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| siege | a military operation in which enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of compelling those inside to surrender. |
| besieged | a place surrounded by armed forces aiming to capture it or force surrender. |
| commonwealth | an independent country or community |
| execution | carrying out a death sentence |



Robert Blake commanded the Parliamentarian defence of Taunton during the sieges.

Timeline

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1642 | September | Early | July | 1651 |
| English | 1644 | 1645 | 1645 | |
| Civil | First Siege | Second | Third | Civil War |
| War begins | | Siege | siege | Ends |