

Year 7 HT 6 – The Stuarts

The time period of the Stuarts in England covers the reigns of two monarchs, James I and Charles I, from 1603 to 1649. This era of history was marked by political, economic, and religious turmoil in England and around the world. The Stuart period in England lasted from 1603 to 1714, and it was a time of significant political and social changes. The Stuart dynasty began with James I and ended with Queen Anne. This era was marked by conflicts and struggles for power, including the English Civil War, which resulted in the execution of King Charles I. The Stuarts faced challenges regarding the relationship between the monarchy and Parliament. One of the most important events during this period was the Glorious Revolution, when William of Orange and Mary Stuart took the throne and established a constitutional monarchy. The Stuart period also witnessed scientific advancements, with figures like Isaac Newton making groundbreaking discoveries. Religious tensions persisted, particularly between Protestants and Catholics.

Concurrent historical events in the UK during the Stuart period included:

1. The Gunpowder Plot (1605): A failed plot by a group of Catholic conspirators to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill the Protestant King James I.
2. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648): A conflict in Europe involving Protestant and Catholic states over religious and territorial issues. King James' attempts to broker peace failed and his son, Charles I, later supported the Catholic side in the conflict, adding fuel to the unrest in England.
3. The English Civil War (1642-1651): A conflict between the forces of King Charles I, who sought to maintain absolute power, and those who championed parliamentary sovereignty. The war resulted in the execution of Charles I and the formation of a republican government under Oliver Cromwell.

Key historical events happening around the world during the Stuart period included:

1. The establishment of the Virginia Colony (1607): The first permanent English settlement in North America.
2. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648): A conflict in Europe involving Protestant and Catholic states over religious and territorial issues.
3. The Salem witch trials (1692): A series of hearings and prosecutions of people accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts.
4. The Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1868): A period of Japanese history marked by centralized government and the establishment of a class system based on social status.

By learning about these events, students can understand the significance of the Stuart period in relation to the broader historical context of England and the world. This understanding also helps them to appreciate how historical events intersect and influence one another, promoting a comprehensive comprehension of chronology.

Further reading:

Fiction:

"The Silver Blade" by Sally Gardner. A historical fiction novel set during the time of the English Civil War which tells the story of a young boy named Tom who helps a group of rebels.

Non fiction:

"The English Civil War" by John Malam. A non-fiction book exploring the various causes of the English Civil War and the aftermath.