

# How Should Britain Be Governed?

Charles I was dead and the monarchy and House of Lords had been abolished. Many people could not believe what had happened. For as long as they could remember, Britain had had a King or a Queen. Every other powerful European country had a monarch. How should Britain be governed?

## NEW WORDS!!

Diggers  
Levellers  
Royalists  
Republicans  
Monarchy

## THE REPUBLICANS

They wanted an end to the monarchy and led by Oliver Cromwell and his army. In 1641, the Republicans were not sure how Britain should be governed. Oliver Cromwell said:

*"I can tell you, sirs, what government I would not have, though I cannot tell you what I would have."*

Many Republican supporters were small landowners, merchants and Puritans.



## THE ROYALISTS.

They wanted to bring back Charles I's eldest son from exile in France and make him king. Most of the Royalists were landowners.



People had different ideas about how the country should be run and who was to run it.

The Republicans, The Royalists, The Diggers and The Levellers all had different and sometimes opposing views on how Britain should be governed.

## The Choices

## THE DIGGERS

They wanted everyone to be equal. They thought that this could only happen if the land was owned by everyone. They tried to farm on common land, but were often chased off by mobs hired by landowners.

## THE LEVELLERS

John Lilbourne, one of the leaders of the Levellers said:

*"No man was born marked by God above another, therefore the poorest has a right to vote as the richest and the greatest"*

The Levellers wanted to give every man the vote and freedom of worship. Many of their supporters were in the army.

Question:

Which of the four groups would have disagreed with each other? Think about who their supporters were.