

ABOUT : your timeline

- 1603 - James I came to the throne, son of Mary Queen of Scots, who had been executed by Elizabeth I. He was already King of Scotland and his accession to the English throne united the people of Scotland and England for the first time. The three crowns on the sword in the picture, represent the crowns of England Ireland and Scotland.
- 1605 - A group of disgruntled Catholics led by Robert Catesby, planted barrels of gun powder under the Houses of Parliament, in an attempt to blow them up along with the King. One of the collaborators was caught, Guy Fawkes and the plot foiled. This is why 'guys' are burned and why bonfire night is celebrated.
- 1649 - Charles I is executed, having lost the civil war. A war which resulted from his unwillingness to involve Parliament in state matters, which divided the loyalties of the people.
- 1653 - Oliver Cromwell, who was the head of the army that had defeated Charles I, became 'Lord Protector', a position established as a result of disunity within Parliament. He did much to improve the country, though he was a kind of dictator.
- 1665 -1665 The Great Plague or bubonic plague, claimed the lives of 100,000 Londoners alone (A fifth of the population) and was said to be spread by biting fleas from rats. The Fire of London, believed to have started in a bakery on Pudding Lane, destroyed much of medieval London. More than 80 churches, including St. Paul's Cathedral, as well as 13,000 homes, went up in flames.
- 1707 - It was only at the end of the Stuart period, during the reign of Queen Anne, that Parliament created The Act of Union, officially uniting the parliaments of Scotland and England for the first time.

THE STUARTS - *more information...*

ABOUT : the Stuart period

The different regions of the country were united under the Stuarts for the first time. The Union Jack flag was devised reflecting this fact. James I had a version of the bible translated into English, which became known as the King James Bible. The civil war between 1642-51, saw Roundheads (supporters of parliament) and Cavaliers (supporters of the King) battle for control. Having executed King Charles I and briefly become a republic, the country then reinstated the position of King with Charles II and has kept it so ever since.

Further information :

<http://www.great-britain.co.uk/history/cromwell.htm>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/monarchy/stuarts.html#1>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stuart_period

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