



The Bear
Educational Theatre

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Teaching Materials to the show




Theatre helping your students
to learn English

The History of England - Part 2

An interactive show
for students of English



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 Winner of EU LABEL prize 2004

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EXERCISE 1

Some important dates

1815 1783 1914 1861 1603

In 1783 America became independent from Britain.

In 1861 Queen Victoria's husband Albert died,

In 1603 Queen Elizabeth I died and James I became king of England.

In 1815 Admiral Wellington beat Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

In 1914 the first world war started.

EXERCISE 2

Fill these words into the gaps in the article below.

***unfair manouevres statue trial cruel inhumanity equipment
tactics neighbours roundheads parliament battles***

The English Civil War (1642–1651) was a series of **battles** between the Cavaliers, who supported the king, and the **Roundheads** who supported **Parliament**. King Charles had made many people in England angry by treating them harshly and making them pay **unfair** taxes. In the end Parliament refused to support Charles any longer and war broke out.

The Civil War divided the country. In some towns **neighbours** were fighting against each other. One man in particular though, fighting on the side of Parliament, turned out to be a great army general. His name was Oliver Cromwell. He won many battles because of his clever **tactics** and he was also famous for modernizing his army. He

gave them new **equipment** and trained them in army **manoeuvres**. They were called the New Model Army and in the end they beat the king's army.

Cromwell took King Charles to **trial** in London. However Charles refused to answer any questions and he was executed in 1649. Oliver Cromwell was a great leader, but he wasn't universally popular. He has been criticised for his **inhumanity**, killing prisoners during war, especially in Ireland, where his actions were especially **cruel**. He will be remembered though as the man who did the most to move power away from the king and towards the people. His **statue** stands outside the Houses of Parliament in London.

EXERCISE 3

Famous British scientists and inventors

Try to guess (or find out) what these men are famous for,

Charles Macintosh, Christopher Wren, John Baird, Isambard Brunel, Charles Darwin, Charles Babbage, Isaac Newton, Alexander Bell, Robert Peel.

Christopher Wren was a great architect. He built St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Isambard Brunel was a great engineer. He built many bridges and the first railway in Britain.

Robert Peel was prime-minister of Britain. He introduced the first police force.

Charles Macintosh invented waterproof cloth for making raincoats.

Charles Darwin developed the theory of evolution.

Isaac Newton developed the theory of gravity and the laws of mechanics.

John Baird invented the television.

Alexander Bell *invented the telephone.*

Charles Babbage *invented the first computer.*

Alexander Bell, John Baird, and Charles Macintosh *are Scottish.*

EXERCISE 4

Describing Churchill

Here are some words that have been used to describe Winston Churchill. Match the words to the explanations below.

decisive, verbose, stubborn, warmongering, fearless, manipulative, visionary, self-sacrificing

Somebody who can see ahead what is going to happen is **visionary**.

Somebody who tries to make other people do what they want is **manipulative**.

Somebody who does things not for themselves but for other people is **self-sacrificing**.

Somebody who is hard-headed and never changes their mind is **stubborn**.

Somebody who can make quick decisions is **decisive**.

Somebody who talks a lot is **verbose**.

Somebody who doesn't avoid dangerous situations is **fearless**.

Somebody who tries to make international conflicts happen is **warmongering**.

EXERCISE 5

Famous Churchill quotations

Look at these famous quotations that Winston Churchill made during the Second World War. Did each one come near the beginning, the middle or the end of the war?

- Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning. **(Near the middle – 1942.)**
- Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few. **(Near the end – after the Battle of Britain.)**
- we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender. **(Near the start.)**