

Name _____

Date _____

Oliver Cromwell

Oliver Cromwell was born in Huntingdon, England on April 25, 1599. His parents were Robert and Elizabeth. At the age of 17, he entered Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge. However, Oliver left without receiving a degree after his father suddenly passed away.

He owned land and farmed. In 1620, Oliver married Elizabeth Bourchier. They had nine children. Around the year 1638, Oliver had a conversion to the Christian faith which changed his life forever.

Oliver was elected Member of the Parliament for Huntingdon in 1628. But after a year in Parliament, King Charles I got rid of Parliament and ruled without it for the next eleven years. However, a rebellion by the Scottish caused King Charles I to recall Parliament in 1640. Again, Oliver was elected to Parliament. Disagreements brought an armed clash between Parliament and King Charles I.

Though Oliver had real no military training, he formed a cavalry and fought at the Battle of Edgehill in October 1642. Demonstrating courage and strength, Oliver led his troops to various victories, which helped him gain popularity amongst the troops and people.

In 1647, members of Parliament fought over whether or not they should have a king ruling over them. Oliver desired a balanced set of powers instead of letting one man rule over an entire nation. Failure to reach an agreement between Parliament and the King brought upon the Second English War in 1648. Oliver went to battle again, successfully leading his troops to more victories.

A demand for a trial and an execution of King Charles I took place. Oliver believed this was the only way that the civil wars raging England would stop. Eventually, a death warrant was signed and King Charles I was executed on January 30, 1649.

After the execution of the King, a new government was established called the Commonwealth of England. Rather than have one man, the King, rule over the nation, the Commonwealth of England was a republic with a balance of power.

Oliver continued to lead on the battlefield he led invasions in Ireland and Scotland. After returning from war, Oliver was named Lord Protector in 1653. In his new position, Oliver took on the task of helping his country rebuild and reestablish itself after years of war. He worked for the reform of morals and religious toleration. After battling several health ailments, Oliver died on September 3, 1658.

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Oliver Cromwell Questions

1. In what country was Oliver born? _____
2. What college did he attend? _____
3. Why did he leave college early? _____
4. How many children did Oliver have with his wife Elizabeth? _____
5. What happened to Oliver in 1638? _____
6. Who was King of England when Oliver was in Parliament? _____
7. What happened between the King and Parliament? _____
8. Why did Oliver oppose the King? _____
9. In what year was the Second English War? _____
10. What eventually happened to the King of England? _____
11. What two countries did Oliver invade? _____
12. What was the new government of England called? _____
13. What position was Oliver given? _____
14. In what year did Oliver die? _____

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Oliver Cromwell Answers

1. In what country was Oliver born? **England**
2. What college did he attend? **Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge**
3. Why did he leave college early? **His father unexpectedly passed away**
4. How many children did Oliver have with his wife Elizabeth? **9**
5. What happened to Oliver in 1638? **Converted to the Christian faith**
6. Who was King of England when Oliver was in Parliament? **Charles I**
7. What happened between the King and Parliament? **Disagreed over powers and went to war**
8. Why did Oliver oppose the King? **Believed there should be a balance of powers in government**
9. In what year was the Second English War? **1648**
10. What eventually happened to the King of England? **He was executed**
11. What two countries did Oliver invade? **Ireland and Scotland**
12. What was the new government of England called? **Commonwealth of England**
13. What position was Oliver given? **Lord Protector**
14. In what year did Oliver die? **1658**