

# Year: 6 (AP2)

## Topic: The Siege of Colchester

## Time Period: Post medieval

Learning outcomes:

- Retell the story of an historical event using accurate facts based on a small selection of evidence
- Express ideas about the past using reasoning based on historical evidence.
- Explain that a source may be one-sided, inaccurate or deliberately biased, e.g. propaganda.
- Use evidence to show how the school and local area has changed and offers reasons for the changes.
- describe similarities and differences between periods of history that they have studied.
- Describe the social, ethnic, cultural or religious diversity of a past society.
- Describe the characteristic features of the past, including ideas, beliefs, attitudes and experiences of men, women and children

Teacher notes

The **Siege of Colchester** occurred in the summer of 1648 when the [Second English Civil War](#) reignited in several areas of Britain. [Colchester](#) found itself in the thick of the unrest when a [Royalist](#) army on its way through [East Anglia](#) to raise support for the King, was attacked by Lord-General [Thomas Fairfax](#) at the head of a Parliamentary force. The Parliamentarians' initial attack forced the Royalist army to retreat behind the town's walls, but they were unable to bring about victory, so they settled down to a siege. Despite the horrors of the siege, the Royalists resisted for eleven weeks and only surrendered following the defeat of the Royalist army in the North of England at the [Battle of Preston in 1648](#)

On 12th June 1648 Royalist soldiers arrived in Colchester looking for food and shelter on their way to Norfolk to recruit new troops. However, Parliamentary soldiers arrived soon afterwards and surrounded the town walls, trapping everyone inside. The siege lasted 11 weeks, during which time there were many failed attempts to escape by both the Royalists and people of the town. The people living in Colchester were actually supporters of Parliament too, meaning they were trapped inside the town with their enemies. In August 1648, the Parliamentarians won an important victory at the battle of Preston. When news of this arrived at Colchester, the Royalists leaders surrendered and the siege ended.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtvIcg1RHiU> Patrick Denny – GOOD INFORMATION TO WATCH **PRIOR TO TEACHING**


<https://www.keeppowderdry.co.uk/2021/07/colchester.html>

## Lesson plan: Session 1

INTRODUCTION	VOCABULARY	ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
<p>Take the children to Town site and show them the Charles Debenham paintings. These are also here:  <a href="https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval">https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval</a></p> <p>Use these images, printed out and laid out on the tables if you are not visiting Town site.</p> <p>Use the 'Town Site Paintings Tour Guide' to allow the children to look at the paintings and discuss – answering the questions based on what they see in the images.</p> <p>Explain that the paintings depict the Siege of Colchester in 1648, <b>including a battle on St John's Green, near the Abbey,</b></p> <p>Explain that the paintings were by Charles Debenham who is a Colchester artist.</p>	<p>civil war</p> <p>roundhead</p> <p>cavalier</p> <p>parliament</p> <p>king</p> <p>government</p> <p>Power</p> <p>Democracy</p> <p>Symbolic</p> <p>Monarchy</p> <p>Royalists</p> <p>Parliamentarians</p>	<p>WALT: understand the causes of the English Civil War and place the civil war on a timeline</p> <p>Who should rule a country? Discuss</p> <p>How Is England ruled?</p> <p>Discuss rules of <b>democracy</b> and the government being an elected body that represents the wish of the people, making all decisions on how the country is run. We are a monarchy, but the King's job is symbolic, and he hasn't got overall power.</p> <p>In the past, this wasn't always true. And the divide between so-called "Royalists" (who believed the king had divine power, being chosen by God) and the "Parliamentarians" who believed in democracy and the power of the people caused civil war to break out.</p> <p>Watch these clips and make notes for each clips:  <a href="https://colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/siegeofcolchester/">https://colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/siegeofcolchester/</a>        (same as at top of this planning for teacher info)        (DON'T WATCH EPISODE 9)</p> <p><b><u>Create a timeline in their books, about the sequence of events for the Siege, in Colchester.</u></b></p> <p>Shared Read- what, when, where (Civil war)</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4csI2KTouqU&amp;list=PLXG68LoC6o33rCZQe0oM4qs6tWcNHQIxu&amp;index=8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4csI2KTouqU&amp;list=PLXG68LoC6o33rCZQe0oM4qs6tWcNHQIxu&amp;index=8</a>        King Charles II – the divine right of kings</p>	<p><b>Define</b> the term 'civil war'</p> <p><b>Describe</b> the two sides in the English civil war</p> <p><b>Explain</b> why there was a civil war</p> <p>.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval">https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval</a></p>


		<p>English civil war 1642-1651</p> <p>Actually 3 main 'wars' – stopped and started during this time</p> <p>1642-46 – Oliver Cromwell won for Parliament in 1645s Battle of Naseby</p> <p>1678-49 – Charles I made deals with the Scots and ended up being tried for treason and beheaded in 1649</p> <p>1649-51 – Charles II eventually defeated by Cromwell's army and was exiled to France</p>		
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## Lesson plan: Session 2

INTRODUCTION	VOCABULARY	ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF0kiCttQPU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF0kiCttQPU</a> (mention of women being stripped at 8.53 so maybe cut out this bit or end it before this)</p> <p>Background info:</p> <p>The Siege of Colchester took place in 1648.</p> <p>Royalist supporters led by Lucas and Lisle arrived in and occupied Colchester on 12<sup>th</sup> June, having fled battle in Kent.</p> <p>They were pursued by Parliamentarians who laid siege to the town.</p> <p>The siege lasted 73 days after which the Royalists surrendered on 28<sup>th</sup> August (after Battle of Preston was lost by Royalists they knew they had to give up and surrender) and their commanders, Lisle and Lucas were executed behind the castle.</p> <p>Main People:</p> <p>Sir Charles Lucas – son of Colchester barrister Thomas Lucas, Charles fought for the king. He led the Essex insurgents who joined up with Lisle and took up defensive positions in Colchester, starting the siege.</p> <p><a href="http://bcw-project.org/biography/sir-charles-lucas">http://bcw-project.org/biography/sir-charles-lucas</a></p>	<p>civil war</p> <p>roundhead</p> <p>cavalier</p> <p>parliament</p> <p>king</p> <p>government</p> <p>power</p> <p>musket</p> <p>artillery</p> <p>bombardment</p>	<p>WALT: understand who some of the key Historical figures in The Siege were</p> <p>Cut and stick the images of the 3 main leaders in the siege.</p> <p>Bullet points some facts about them</p>  <p>Lucas    Lisle    Fairfax</p> <p>Use the map of Colchester to describe how the siege happened in Colchester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roman walls kept out the parliamentarians</li> <li>- Parliamentarians set up camps in the fields around the town</li> <li>- Began bombardments. Attacking and destroying much of the town</li> <li>- Royalists were trapped and so were the citizens of Colchester</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://bcw-project.org/military/second-civil-war/kent-essex">http://bcw-project.org/military/second-civil-war/kent-essex</a></p> <p>Create a timeline of the events in the run up to and during the siege:</p>	<p><b>Name</b> the main leaders in the siege of Colchester</p> <p><b>Describe</b> how the Parliamentarians organised their attack</p> <p><b>Sequence</b> the events that led up to the siege of Colchester</p>	<p>Images of Lucas, Lisle and Fairfax</p>

<p>Sir George Lisle – a Royalist leader, he was defeated in Kent and led the survivors back to Essex where he met up with Lucas and took hold of Colchester</p> <p><a href="http://bcw-project.org/biography/sir-george-lisle">http://bcw-project.org/biography/sir-george-lisle</a></p> <p>Explain that Lucas and Lisle had their grave covers/stones at <b>St. Giles' Church</b> and that this church was St John's Green parish church. We can take the children here to visit.</p>		<p>3<sup>rd</sup> June 1648</p> <p>Battle of Maidstone, Parliamentarians win</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> June 1648</p> <p>Royalists retreat to Essex, led by Norwich</p> <p>12<sup>th</sup> June 1648</p> <p>Royalists take hold of Colchester and are attacked by the Parliamentarians. The attack is unsuccessful and Parliamentarians take up siege positions, creating forts around the town</p> <p>27<sup>th</sup> August</p> <p>Colchester is taken by the Parliamentarians.</p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> August</p> <p>Lucas and Lisle are executed by firing squad</p>		
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## Lesson plan: Session 3

INTRODUCTION	VOCABULARY	ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
<p><b>Walking Tour</b></p> <p>Info for buildings:</p> <p><a href="https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval">https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval</a></p> <p><a href="https://richardiiisocietymidanglia.wordpress.com/2019/06/21/the-siege-of-colchester-and-its-landmarks/">https://richardiiisocietymidanglia.wordpress.com/2019/06/21/the-siege-of-colchester-and-its-landmarks/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.englishcivilwar.org/2012/04/tracing-siege-of-colchester.html">https://www.englishcivilwar.org/2012/04/tracing-siege-of-colchester.html</a></p> <p>Use the leaflet – map and guide – to lead around the city centre to look for evidence of damage from the siege as well as finding the most significant buildings that still exist today.</p> <p>Children use iPads/cameras to take photographs of the Primary source evidence they find on their walk.</p> <p><a href="https://www.visitcolchester.com/whats-on/the-siege-of-colchester-guided-tour-p1494781">https://www.visitcolchester.com/whats-on/the-siege-of-colchester-guided-tour-p1494781</a></p>	<p>civil war</p> <p>roundhead</p> <p>cavalier</p> <p>parliament</p> <p>king</p> <p>government</p> <p>power</p> <p>musket</p> <p>artillery</p> <p>bombardment</p> <p><b>evidence</b></p>	<p>WALT: understand the impact of the siege on Colchester and where keys events took place.</p> <p>(local history walk)</p>  <p>Discussion questions upon return:</p> <p>Which part of the tour did you find the most interesting? Why?</p> <p>Why is it important to know about our town's history?</p> <p>How does The Siege fit into Colchester's History- is it significant? What makes you think that?</p> <p>Who suffered the most in The Siege? Explain your thinking.</p>	<p><b>Identify</b> places in Colchester which were significant in the Siege.</p> <p><b>Describe</b> how the Siege began</p> <p><b>Explain</b> what happened during the 11 weeks?</p> <p><b>Evaluate</b> the points of view of both the Royalists and the Parliamentarians.</p>	<p>Local History Walk of The Siege map</p>

## Lesson plan: Session 4

INTRODUCTION	VOCABULARY	ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
<p><a href="https://colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/siegeofcolchester/">https://colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/siegeofcolchester/</a></p> <p><b>REMIND THE CHILDREN:</b></p> <p>The Siege lasted 11 weeks, during which time there were many failed attempts to escape by both the royalists and people of the town. The people living in Colchester were actually supporters of parliament too, meaning they were trapped inside the town with their enemies. The town's citizens were caught up in the conflict between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians. They suffered starvation, economic disaster and heavy fines for their mostly involuntary involvement.</p> <p><a href="https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval">https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval</a></p>	<p>civil war</p> <p>roundhead</p> <p>cavalier</p> <p>parliament</p> <p>king</p> <p>government</p> <p>power</p> <p>musket</p> <p>artillery</p> <p>bombardment</p>	<p>WALT: understand the impact of The Siege on Colchester from both 'sides'.</p> <p><b>CLASS/YEAR GROUP DEBATE:</b></p> <p><b>Question: Who suffered more during The Siege, the citizens of the town or the Royalist troops?</b></p> <p>This should be in the form of a debate, where the class is split in half and each has to take a side.</p> <p>Children are allocated 'sides' and have the lesson to gather their points together, ready for a debate next session. Use prints outs (CT to find and print) <b>and/or iPads and laptops to research information.</b></p> <p>Children to make notes in their books, to use for their spoken debate next session.</p> <p>Give the children good examples of statements/sentence starters to support them, when giving their viewpoints:</p> <p><i>I agree ... because/due to the fact that... I know this is true as... I would like to support...because I also am of the opinion that.. Following on from ...'s point... You have persuaded me because... Building on to support ...'s argument...</i></p> <p><i>I can see your point, but... Whilst I understand what you're saying, I also</i></p>	<p><b>Recall</b> a few facts about the siege</p> <p><b>Describe</b> what life was like during the siege and how it affected people.</p> <p><b>Sequence</b> ideas to show how the siege affected people of the time.</p> <p><b>Create</b> an argument to show an understanding of both viewpoints</p>	<p>Sentence starters for oral debate</p> <p>iPads and laptops for research</p> <p>Any additional facts printed off by CT, about The Siege</p>

		<i>think... Have you considered the opinion... I feel that we should also consider... That's a valid point, but have you thought about... I know this is false as... I would like to challenge... Would you rather... I disagree with.. because ... Would you rather.. or ..?</i>		
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## Lesson plan: Session 5

INTRODUCTION	VOCABULARY	ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
<p>Debate lesson- children should have made notes in books to use, take photos for books.</p> <p>Books with information and notes for their argument</p> <p>Sentence starters for oral debate</p>				

## Lesson plan: Session 6

INTRODUCTION	VOCABULARY	ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
<p>Re-enactment of The Siege-can Walk to St. John's Green and use the Charles Debenham's painting (or images of) to re-create a scene/s.</p> <p><a href="https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval">https://www.onesquaremilecolchester.co.uk/period/post-medieval</a></p> <p>Whilst at St. John's Green- visit <b>St. Giles Church</b> (needs to be prearranged): <a href="http://www.stgilescentre.org.uk">www.stgilescentre.org.uk</a></p> <p>Can alternatively walk to St. Giles' Church near townsite.</p>				







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St John's Green Primary School  
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