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# English Civil Wars Learning Resource Teacher Notes KS3 & KS4



## Overview

The Royal Armouries learning resources are perfect for your pupils studying **the development of Church, state and society in Britain 1509-1745**, and they also support **OCR** and **Edexcel** GCSEs. Our resources have been created for you to use in your classroom or for your pupils to access from home. They have been designed to engage and inspire pupils to use sources and create their own opinions of history, whilst also learning critical historical knowledge and other cross-curricular information. This document gives additional information you may find useful to support the resources we have created.

## The Littlecote House collection



Portrait of Colonel Alexander Popham in full cuirassier armour. (1631-1670)

The Royal Armouries Museum houses the largest collection of English Civil Wars arms and armour in the world. The Littlecote House Collection was brought to the Royal Armouries in 1985 and shows the range of weapons and armour that changed the course of a nation in the mid 1600s.

Colonel Alexander Popham was the original owner of this incredible collection. A Parliamentarian commander, Popham led the army that chased the future King Charles II from England in 1645 and commanded

troops at the Battle of Roundway Down in 1643. As a Colonel, he was expected to source and distribute weapons and armour to his foot and cavalry soldiers. This is the beginning of the Littlecote House Collection.

By 1660 Popham supported the restoration of the monarchy. It was not uncommon for Parliamentarians to support the restoration, and in 1663 King Charles II would be hosted at Littlecote House by Colonel Popham. Possibly with armour on the walls around him that protected Roundhead soldiers.

Images in the **Photo Bank** are largely from this collection; with the Harquebusier armour possibly being that used by Popham himself. The Littlecote House Collection can be found on our [collections website](#).

## The English Civil Wars debate

### Video

A fictional debate that is designed to demonstrate the major points of contention between the Royalists and Parliamentarians at the height of the Civil Wars. Religion, politics, personal opinion and war are all addressed in this heated discussion. The characters are based on contemporary sources to give as close a representation of the opposing sides as possible. This video is a great introduction to the topic and also shows how the key issues are linked to each other.

## Cannons are roaring battle song

### Audio File

Take your pupils back to the English Civil Wars via sound with 'Cannons are roaring'. The lyrics date back to 1637 and describe open-field battle as well as siege warfare. Women are mentioned in various roles; an excellent talking point about how involved your pupils think women may have been in warfare at the time. Please see the lyrics below to assist further in using this resource.

Soldiers with swords in hands, to the walls coming  
Horsemen about the streets, riding and running  
Sentinels on the walls, arm, arm, a-crying  
Petards<sup>1</sup> against the ports, wildfire a-flying

When cannons are roaring  
and bullets are flying

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<sup>1</sup> A petard is a small bomb designed to blow a hole in a door or gate.

He that would honour win  
must not fear dying!

Trumpets on turrets high, these are a-sounding  
Drums beating out aloud, echoes resounding  
Alarm bells in each place, they are a-ringing  
Women with stones in laps, to the walls bringing.

When cannons are roaring &c.

Captains in open fields, on their foes rushing  
Gentlemen second them, with their pikes pushing  
Engineers in the trench, earth, earth uprearing  
Gunpowder in the mines, pagans up-blowing

When cannons are roaring &c.

Portcullises in the ports, they are down-letting  
Burghers<sup>2</sup> come flocking by, to their hands setting  
Ladders against the walls, they are uprearing  
Women great timber logs, to the walls bearing

When Cannons are roaring &c.

## Photo bank

The photo bank has been compiled to assist your lessons in any way that you see fit. They are all original photographs or images of items in our collection. Please download them for educational use only. They would be great for increasing historical knowledge, building evidentially supported enquiries and historical source work.

Images will be added and updated on a regular basis.

We have added notes to each image; collections items are hyperlinked in the descriptions to our Collections Online, where you can get more images and technical information; and the asset numbers for our Image Library are given where relevant. If you would like any more information about any image, please contact [educate.leeds@armouries.org.uk](mailto:educate.leeds@armouries.org.uk) and we would be happy to assist.

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<sup>2</sup> A burgher is an archaic work for a male townsman.