



Somerset Bridge Primary School  
Aspire - Brave - Care - Collaborate

# History

## Autumn Term: Year 3

### Key Vocabulary

|            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| Battle     | a sustained fight between large organized armed forces.   | ✓ |
| Rebellion  | an act of armed resistance to establish government of leader.                                     |   |
| Royalist   | a person who supports the principle of monarchy.  |   |
| Peasants   | a poor smallholder or agricultural labourer of low social status.                                 |   |
| Rebels     | a person who rises in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader. |   |
| Casualties | a person who is hurt or killed during an accident, war.   |   |
| Executed   | carry out a sentence of death.  |   |
| Captured   | taken or seized by the opposing side in a battle.   |   |
| James II   | Duke of Monmouth's uncle.   |   |

### Key Figures

James II  King of England, Scotland and Ireland 1685 - 1688

Duke of Monmouth  led an unsuccessful rebellion against King James II in 1685

Royalist Soldiers  Well equipped professional soldiers

Rebellion Soldiers  Known as the pitchfork rebellion

Peasant  A farm labourer who doesn't own land.

### The Battle of Sedgemoor

The **Battle of Sedgemoor** took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1685.

It took place in **Westonzoyland**, near Bridgwater in Somerset.

It was the last major **battle** on English soil when Englishmen took up arms against fellow Englishmen.

The **battle** was a climax of a **rebellion** led by the Protestant Duke of Monmouth attempting to overthrow James II the Catholic King of England.

Monmouth recruited a **rebel** army of almost 10,000 men.

The consequences were far reaching, in many ways shaping English politics up to the present day.

### What caused the battle?

King Charles II had kept the political and religious tensions of his court and country under control but when James, his autocratic brother, succeeded him in February 1685 suspicion was rife. Monmouth was Charles' eldest, but illegitimate, son and had been brought up at court by his father's side. He was a charismatic and courageous man who had earned great honours on the battlefield and became a natural focus for all who opposed James. He was living in exile in Holland when his father died but was soon encouraged to return and lead a rebellion against King James.

June 11 1685 – Duke of Monmouth lands at Lyme Regis Dorset

He is proclaimed King of Taunton.

He fails to take Bristol and is forced back to Bridgwater.

His path is blocked by the royal army encamped at Sedgemoor.

Duke of Monmouth decides on a hazardous night attack.

He very nearly succeeded, but his small force of cavalry fled.

His foot soldiers failed to cross the ditch separating them from the royal forces.

The element of surprise was lost and his forces lost the battle.