

Stories from English history

Student card

1 Work with a partner. Look at the pictures and read the true story from history. Prepare to deliver a historical lecture about the story. Use any historical knowledge you have to expand the story.

2 Now invent a second untrue story based on the three pictures. Think about what happened, when it happened, and how it changed history or resulted in a major celebration today. Prepare to deliver a historical lecture about the story. Use your imagination to expand the story.

3 In your groups, take turns to deliver your historical lectures. Decide which lectures are true, and which are untrue.



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Stories

Story 1 – A major historical event

In 1642, the English Parliament rebelled against King Charles I. This resulted in the English Civil War between Royalists and Parliamentarians. After many battles, King Charles was tried and executed, and England became a Republic under the rule of Oliver Cromwell, known as the Lord Protector, until 1660, when the monarchy was restored.



Story 2 – An invention that changed the world

The spinning jenny was invented in 1764 by James Hargreaves in Lancashire, England. It changed the way cotton yarn (the material used to make clothes) was produced, and resulted in mass production in factories. In turn, this resulted in the industrial age, the growth of the nineteenth century British Empire, and the modern clothes and fashion industry.



Story 3 – A major celebration

In Britain, the 26th of December is known as Boxing Day. This is because, historically, it was the day when the poor box on the walls of churches was opened so that money could be given to poor people. Even today, the tradition survives, as people often give a tip to their employees or to delivery people (e.g. paper boys) on the 26th.