

KS3 History

Lesson 5 of an enquiry of 6 lessons

# **How did Edward I restore royal power?**

Enquiry: Why did Kings struggle to rule England?

Mr Madeley



# Background to Edward I's reign

When Edward became king he already had a lot of experience helping his father. He had proven himself to be a great warrior by defeating Simon de Montfort. The most important thing, though, was that Edward had learnt from the mistakes made by his father and grandfather. England was now a different country to the one ruled by John. If Edward was to be a good ruler then he would need the support of the people.



# Ruling with Parliament

Edward understood that in order to rule England he needed to show he was using and following fair laws. He also knew that he needed to use Parliament so that the people would support him. So, he used Parliament to pass **statutes**. These were the most important laws in the land. This showed that Edward was getting the **consent** from the people to pass these laws. Edward used Parliament to give more power to royal courts and this allowed for a fairer justice system to be created. He also made sure that he asked Parliament's permission to increase or create new taxes when he needed to raise money to fight.



# Ruling without Parliament

Edward did not always use Parliament to raise money. There was a small number of Jewish people that lived in England during Edward's reign. Because they were not Christian, Jewish people did not pay the same taxes as other people in England. As a result, Edward taxed them directly without parliament's agreement. However, by 1290, Edward had taken so much money from England's Jewish population that they could not afford new taxes. So Edward made the shocking decision to **expel** all the Jewish people from England. After this Edward had to rely on raising all new taxes through parliament.



# Wales

Edward knew that he had to rule with Parliament. However, he also believed as a king people should show him loyalty. One way people showed loyalty to kings was called paying **homage**. A Welsh prince called Llewelyn kept on refusing Edward's requests to pay homage. This was a humiliation for Edward. As a result, Edward lost patience and decided to invade Wales.

Eventually, Edward decided he could not trust the Welsh princes so decided to rule Wales himself. He gave his son the title 'Prince of Wales'. This stopped any Welsh person ever having the title again. Today, the title 'Prince of Wales' is still given to the eldest son of the English monarch.



# Scotland

The death of the King of Scotland caused Edward problems. Edward was asked to choose the new King of Scotland. But Edward wanted the next Scottish king to promise to be loyal to him. Unfortunately, Edward's choice decided to make an **alliance** with France against Edward. This forced Edward to invade to try to rule Scotland himself.

Edward's rule of Scotland was not very popular. In England, Edward was popular because he ruled with parliament. But in Scotland, Edward had to use force. Eventually Edward died on his way to attack Scotland.



# Did Edward struggle to rule England?

Edward made sure that he learnt from the mistakes made by his father and grandfather. He ensured that he used Parliament to pass important laws and taxation. This meant that the people of England felt like they had a say in how they were ruled. Edward was also a skilled warrior and he defeated the Welsh and Scots. After deciding to rule Wales, he was able to offer his barons more land as a reward. However, Edward's rule over Scotland was destined to fail as he did not have the support of their barons or people.

Overall, Edward was able to restore royal power and show how England could be ruled without causing rebellions.



# Glossary

**Statutes** - Acts of law passed by Parliament.

**Consent** - When someone is allowed to do something.

**Expelled** - When someone is removed from an area.

**Homage** - The service where someone promises to be loyal to another person.

**Alliance** - When one country agrees to be friends with another. They will often help each other out if one is attacked.



# Comprehension Questions

1. What did Edward use Parliament to pass?
2. How did Edward try to raise money without Parliament?
3. What caused Edward to attack Wales?
4. What caused Edward to attack Scotland?
5. Why was Edward successful in ruling England?

Starter sentence - Edward was successful in ruling England because...

## Extension:

What lessons did Edward learn from his father and grandfather?

