

THE STUARTS

Max the mouse sets out on another time-travelling adventure through British history...

Welcome, readers, to the diabolical world of **THE STUARTS!**

Life isn't all bad... look, I'm making buns!

Careful with those hot cinders, Max!

When Elizabeth I died in 1603, her closest relative James Stuart was crowned James I. He was an odd chap who picked his nose, never washed and was very scruffy!

Pick! Pick! What's not to like?

Eurgh!

He also believed in the 'Divine Right' of monarchs. i.e. God favoured royals above all others!

Not popular with Catholics, Protestant James I was the target of the infamous Gunpowder Plot on 5 Nov 1605. Guy Fawkes and his pals wanted to get rid of James and put a Catholic king on the throne. But their plans were easily thwarted!

Gotcha! you gunpowder clot!

Yikes!

James's son, Charles I, proved to be even MORE unpopular! He too believed in his Godly rights and spent loads of money on paintings (including lots of portraits of himself!)

I am head and shoulders above you all!

He often clashed with Parliament and even fought against them in the English Civil War!

Charles eventually lost his Civil War against Parliament and in 1649 he was dramatically executed!

I would hardly call this 'civil'.

England was now a Republic for the first time.

Instead of a monarch, England now had a 'Lord Protector' - Oliver Cromwell. Oliver hated fun and banned dancing and singing, shut down theatres and frowned upon Christmas celebrations.

Merry Christmas!

Shh!

Festive potato

When Cromwell died in 1658, Charles I's son, Charles II, was welcomed with open arms as King! Known as the 'Merry Monarch', Charles loved theatre and games!

Hooray!

Yippee!

YAY! Party time!

But celebrations didn't last long. In 1665, a great plague swept through London, killing around 100,000 people. If you had the disease, you were locked up in your own house and a red cross was painted on your door to warn others.

We now know that fleas on rodents carried the plague!

Rats!

Then, in 1666, the Great Fire of London destroyed much of the capital. A careless baker was said to be to blame.

I told you to watch those cinders!

Yikes!

It wasn't all death and horror in Stuart times, though. It was also a period of scientific advancement, including the work of Isaac Newton and his studies of light and gravity.

Just helping things along!

Oi!

In fact, by the time Queen Anne came to the throne in 1702, England was at the height of its powers!

Too bad Anne was so heavy, she had to be hoisted onto her throne!

Oi! I heard that! Cheeky mouse!

See ya next month!