**Social Studies 9: The Glorious Revolution**

Why was it a problem when Charles II died without an heir?

**A New Catholic Monarch**

When Charles II died in 1685 it was a real problem for parliament. Charles had died without any legitimate children of his own, and so his successor was his brother James II, a Catholic.

At this time, England was a very anti-Catholic country.

This was partly because in 1678, a man by the name of Titus Oates caused a panic by saying that there was a Catholic plot to take over the nation.

James II made parliament mad from the very beginning, because from the start of his reign he gave high offices to people who were Catholic.

Why is that a problem?

**Go Away Catholic King!**

This was a problem because according to the Test Act Catholics were not allowed to hold high office.

It was becoming clear to everyone that James II wanted to return England to the Catholic fold.

James soon made it obvious that he believed in the Divine Right of Kings and that he wanted to take away the power from parliament.

What is the Divine Rights of Kings again?

**The Support Fades**

Quickly all support for James disappeared and rebellions soon broke out.

In one particular rebellion, people tried to put Charles’s illegitimate son (the Duke of Monmouth) onto the throne.

Why couldn’t the illegitimate son be king?

In response to this rebellion, James instituted a reign of terror.

He had a man named Judge Jeffries conduct a series of courts for those suspected of being rebels. These courts ordered the execution of so many suspected rebels that people called them the ‘Bloody Assizes.’

**Glorious Revolution**

Understandably, this distressed the leaders in parliament.

In 1688, they invited James’s protestant daughter, Mary, and her husband, William of Orange, to become king and queen of England. They agreed.

Until 1688, James had had no male heirs and many people had been content to just wait for him to die. When he finally had a son in 1688, opposition became slightly more fierce.

James’s supporters began to flee the country and finally James also left England, abdicating his throne.

This became known as the Glorious Revolution and it was the first time that parliament had chosen its ruler not hereditary right.

Mary and William agreed to a Bill of Rights that basically said parliament was the real government of England.

**Writing Break**

Write down one thing you learned and one thing you already knew.