Who Holds Power?

Trace causes, consequences, and an unresolved struggle over royal authority.

9-12.WC.41 "Analyze the causes and consequences of the English Civil War and the Glorious Revolution."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline causes of each conflict, circle consequences, and place a star beside the unresolved question that connects the two.

Two Upheavals, One Question

1. In 1642, King Charles I raised his standard against Parliament, turning a struggle over authority into war. For years he had governed without Parliament and collected money through unpopular measures, including ship money. Many members of Parliament argued that taxes required their consent. Charles also tried to impose religious changes on Scotland, provoking resistance. Fighting with Scotland and a rebellion in Ireland made him seek funds for an army. Parliament would not provide that support without limits on royal power. Both sides recruited soldiers, but the deeper issue was whether a king could rule and raise money without Parliament's approval.

2. Parliament's forces won the English Civil War, and Charles was tried and executed in 1649. His death ended the monarchy for a time, but it did not produce lasting rule by an elected Parliament. England became a republic, and Oliver Cromwell later ruled as lord protector with military backing. After his death, political instability helped bring back the monarchy in 1660. Charles II took the throne, followed by his brother James II in 1685. The restoration left a question unsettled: how could Parliament restrain a king who believed he could act without its consent?

3. James II, a Catholic king, appointed Catholics to important posts and tried to set aside laws that restricted them. Many Protestant leaders feared he would rule without Parliament and make Catholicism dominant. When his son was born in 1688, they feared a lasting Catholic dynasty. Leading English figures invited William of Orange and James's daughter Mary to take the throne; James fled. In 1689, William and Mary accepted the English Bill of Rights, which barred monarchs from suspending laws or taxing without Parliament's consent. This Glorious Revolution strengthened Parliament, but political power remained limited to a minority, and Catholics still faced legal restrictions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Charles I's need for army funds turn conflicts in Scotland and Ireland into a dispute with Parliament?

2. Why did Charles I's execution not settle the dispute over who would govern England?

3. How did James II's actions and the birth of his son combine to prompt the invitation to William and Mary?

4. How did the Glorious Revolution's result for the monarchy differ from the Civil War's result, and what rule made that difference concrete?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word museum label titled “Power After Two Upheavals.” Explain how an issue left unsettled after the Civil War resurfaced in 1688, compare what happened to the monarchy after each event, and judge whether the 1689 settlement fully resolved the struggle, using a detail about who remained excluded.

ANSWER KEY

Who Holds Power?

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.WC.41

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline causes of each conflict, circle consequences, and place a star beside the unresolved question that connects the two. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Charles I's need for army funds turn conflicts in Scotland and Ireland into a dispute with Parliament?	**The conflicts made Charles seek funds for an army, but Parliament would not provide support without limits on his power. Its members argued that taxes required their consent.**
2	Why did Charles I's execution not settle the dispute over who would govern England?	**Although the monarchy ended for a time, Cromwell later ruled with military backing, and political instability helped bring back the monarchy in 1660.**
3	How did James II's actions and the birth of his son combine to prompt the invitation to William and Mary?	**James's appointments and attempts to set aside laws raised fears of unchecked rule and Catholic dominance. His son's birth raised fears that a Catholic dynasty would continue.**
4	How did the Glorious Revolution's result for the monarchy differ from the Civil War's result, and what rule made that difference concrete?	**The Civil War ended the monarchy for a time, while the Glorious Revolution kept monarchs on the throne but limited their power. The Bill of Rights barred them from suspending laws or taxing without Parliament's consent.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Power After Two Upheavals

The Civil War challenged kings who claimed authority without Parliament, but Charles I's execution did not end that dispute: the monarchy returned in 1660. In 1688, James II's efforts to set aside laws revived fears of unchecked royal power. Unlike the earlier war, the Glorious Revolution kept a monarchy while the 1689 Bill of Rights barred rulers from suspending laws or taxing without Parliament's consent. This settlement curbed royal power, but it did not create equal political freedom. Catholics still faced legal restrictions, and most people lacked political power.

Accept supported explanations that connect demands for parliamentary consent across the two events. Museum labels should distinguish ending the monarchy temporarily from limiting a restored monarchy, and should identify a limit on political inclusion.