

Background to the British Civil Wars

Card Sorting Activity

Fairies, Witches and Bad Smells: What did people believe in the 1600s?

We know that people dressed differently from us in the 1600s but did they think differently too?

Fashions in clothing change over time and beliefs and ideas change as well.

It doesn't mean that everyone believed the same things, just that there were popular beliefs that determined many aspects of how people lived.

Can you decide which of these ideas or beliefs were widely held, which caused arguments, and which weren't really believed by anyone?

Instructions

Cut out the headings and statements on the next page.

For each statement, decide whether you think that in the 1600s it was:

- Widely believed (nearly everyone believed this)
- Rarely believed (hardly anyone believed this)
- Argued about (some people believe this, but others didn't)

Place the statement under the correct heading.

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| Widely believed | Rarely believed |
|--|---|
| Argued about | |
| Metal can be turned into gold | Smoking is good for you |
| Fairies exist and they are evil | Husbands should be in control of their wives |
| There are four liquids in your body, blood, phlegm, black bile and yellow bile. These are called humours. To stay healthy these must be balanced | The King has been placed on the throne by God |
| The earth is flat | Catholics should have equal rights |
| There is no need to teach women to read and write | Witches have magical powers |
| Bad smells carry diseases | God speaks to us in dreams |
| The King should be able to do whatever he likes | Women are as clever as men |
| Children must be regularly beaten | God makes good and bad things happen |
| Illnesses can be cured with herbs | Animals should be treated kindly |
| Everyone should have the right to vote | The church should look after poor people |
| We need priests to talk to God for us | The earth moves around the sun |

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